



**Hammersmith & Fulham**

# **Local Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report**

**April 2021 – December 2022**

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## Introduction

As the Independent Chair of the Partnership, I am pleased to present our first annual report which covers an extended period from its formation on 1 April 2021 to 31 October 2022.

Formerly, Hammersmith & Fulham, joined together with Kensington & Chelsea, and Westminster to create the tri-borough Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB); becoming the three borough Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) in 2019.

The three borough LSCP arrangement ended on 31 March 2021. A new sovereign Local Safeguarding Children Partnership was formed on 1 April 2021 by Hammersmith & Fulham Council. A sovereign partnership means better collaborative working and focus on local issues, enabling the best outcomes for our children and young people.

At this time, the impact of Covid was still widespread; the Government introduced its latest lockdown on 4 January 2021 with all restrictions being finally lifted in July 2021.

So, the Partnership was initially constrained by the requirements of member agencies to cope with the continuing Covid demands as well as creating new governance arrangements to deliver our objectives for local children.

The first few months of our existence focussed on establishing effective organisational structures, recognising our legal responsibilities under s11 of the Care Act (local organisations and agencies have a duty to ensure that they consider the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children when carrying out their functions). The other relevant legislation is the Children and Social Work Act in 2017 and statutory guidance in Working Together 2018.

The responsibility for the strategic oversight of these arrangements locally rests with the three safeguarding partners (the Local Authority, the Integrated Care Board, and the Police), who have a shared and equal duty to arrange to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area. These arrangements and how they have been implemented in Hammersmith & Fulham are summarised in the first pages.

In compiling this report, I have taken note of the guidance produced by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel: annual report 2021 which was published on 15 December 2022.

It says too many local annual reports concentrate on describing governance structures at the expense of describing the impact of the partnership arrangements in improving the lives of children. This is commonly known as the 'so what?' question.

Accordingly, the report has been extended to cover a 20 month period, since the first few months of our existence centred on establishing such structures. It focuses on what difference we have made by considering themes raised in section 9 of the Practice Review Panel annual report. (CSPR annual report 2021).

As well as outlining our reactions to recent cases of both local and national concern, the Partnership inherited two Serious Case Reviews involving local children, known as David and Adam, which were commissioned by the previous tri-borough LSCB. The report summarises our responses to both cases.

In conclusion, I believe that the Hammersmith & Fulham Local Safeguarding Children Partnership has made considerable progress since its inception. It is not possible to remove the risk of harm to children and young people but I hope this report demonstrates that our collective approach to safeguarding has significantly reduced that risk and has given better outcomes for our children and young people of the borough.

**Mike Howard**  
LSCP Chair

## **Independent Scrutiny/ role of the Chair**

The Safeguarding Partners agreed that the Safeguarding Forum is led by an Independent Chair, who also undertakes the role of the Scrutineer.

The current Independent Chair's contract was extended for a further 12 months to 31 December 2023.

The Independent Chair's role includes:

- Appropriately challenging partner agencies and professionals for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of local children and young people.
- Providing direction to the Safeguarding Forum and ensuring statutory obligations and local priorities are being delivered.
- Overseeing the progression of case reviews to ensure they meet required timescales. • Ensuring that key local issues and national developments are considered by the Safeguarding Forum.
- Challenging and monitoring the performance and participation of partners in the work of the Safeguarding Forum.
- Chair and agree the record of rapid reviews and oversee the implementation of recommendations and learning.

Examples of the Chair's challenge to partners include:

- Holding an extraordinary Forum meeting to discuss the local response from the police to the serious issues raised by Child Q.
- A similar meeting to review the partners' response to neglect following the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson.
- Challenges to NHS England to expedite their actions resulting from the David SCR.

These cases and a summary of the activities of the Partnership are detailed in the timeline in: Appendix 1.

## **What is a local safeguarding partnership?**

Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships (LSCPs) are local safeguarding meetings where partners come together across children and young people's services to identify subjects and themes which require a safeguarding response, and to address any key areas of need through partnership working.

- The purpose of these local arrangements is to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system whereby:
- Children are safeguarded, and their welfare promoted.
- Partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share, and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children.
- Organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively.
- There is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats.
- Learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice.
- Information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families.

# What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding children is the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Every single person who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.

Child protection is part of safeguarding and refers to the activity undertaken to protect children suffering from, or at risk of, significant harm. (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018).

The NSPCC defines Safeguarding as "the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.

Safeguarding means:

- Protecting children from abuse and maltreatment.
- Preventing harm to children's health or development.
- Ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.

# What is the structure of Hammersmith & Fulham LSCP?

The H&F LSCP has a 3-tiered structure comprising of the Executive Board, attended by all three LSCP strategic leads, the LSCP Forum which is a multi- agency strategic meeting that is attended by senior leaders, and the Safeguarding Children Partnership Group (PG) the operational arm of the LSCP, attended by practitioners and operational managers.

## The Executive Board

The Executive board has statutory responsibilities for setting the priorities for the LSCP, negotiating its budget and resources. Its prime role is to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in H&F, particularly those at the greatest risk of neglect from the actions of other people.

Our priorities are:

- Safeguarding adolescents, including children/ young people with disabilities.
- Increasing awareness and strengthening the response to domestic abuse .
- Increasing awareness and strengthening the response to mental health, with focus on child's mental health.
- Transitional Safeguarding - the recognition that the needs of young people do not change or stop when they reach 18, although the laws and services supporting them often do. It is about making sure they have the help they need to keep themselves safe and as independent as possible.
- The 'Voice of the Child' to be woven through all the priorities.

These priorities were developed through consultation with partners and children in the borough via the Partnership Group, and Forum. They were heavily influenced by the priorities of local young people priorities.

## Next Steps:

The priorities were set for 3 years and will be reviewed in 2024/2025.

## The Forum:

The LSCP Forum, comprises of a core membership of senior managers across the multiagency network, voluntary sector, and lay members, and

is accountable to the Executive Board. The LSCP Forum is responsible for driving and monitoring the delivery of local safeguarding priorities set by the Executive Board and seeks assurance on behalf of the Executive Board that partners are fulfilling their safeguarding responsibilities and making a positive difference to children in the borough.

## Safeguarding Children Partnership Group:

The Safeguarding Children Partnership Group is accountable to the LSCP Forum and is chaired by the Head of Safeguarding for Children's Services.

There is a core membership of operational managers and practitioners from across the multi- agency network, including representatives from the voluntary sector. The Partnership Group is an operational partner collaboration that responds to topical and local safeguarding issues arising within frontline services and practice across the multi-agency network, delivers on the priorities and policies of the LSCP at the front line and acts as a vehicle to influence the strategic direction and priorities of the LSCP.

## **LSCP has a 3-tiered structure:**

### **LSCP Executive Board 3 Strategic Leads & LSCP Chair**

1. LSCP Chair
2. LSCP Scrutiny
3. LSCP Forum
  - a. Partnership Group (Operational)
  - b. Case Review Group
  - c. Learning & Development Advisory Group
  - d. Quality, Performance & Challenge Group

### **Associated Strategic Partners**

- Violence Against Women & Girls
- Community Safety Partnership ○ YCPP Youth Crimes Prevention Partnership
- Safeguarding Adults Board
- Health & Wellbeing Board ○ Children's Health, Education & Social Care Partnership

## **LSCP Subgroups**

### **Case Review Group**

The Case Review Group is critical to the work of the Safeguarding Partners in Hammersmith & Fulham. It is the key mechanism for carrying out reviews of serious safeguarding cases that meet the criteria set out in Chapter 4 Working Together 2018. Improving child protection and safeguarding.

The Case Review Group meeting is chaired by the Independent Chair and is responsible for:

- Considering all serious incident cases in Hammersmith & Fulham and making recommendations to the Safeguarding Partners for determining whether the criteria for a learning review have been met.
- Identifying learning from serious incidents and ensuring recommendations are acted upon.
- Coordinating the arrangements on behalf of the Safeguarding Partners for commissioning and publishing local child safeguarding practice reviews.
- Developing the terms of reference for each learning review, monitoring progress of local reviews, and developing improvement plans.
- Sharing examples of good practice to develop understanding of what works well.

The Case Review Group has a core membership drawn from the statutory safeguarding partners and relevant agencies. It has the flexibility to invite other relevant professionals to discuss certain cases as and when appropriate (including rapid reviews). The Partnership held a rapid review in July 2022, into the death of a child. It was agreed by the Executive Board that the case did not need to be escalated into a Local Practice Review. This decision was endorsed by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.

This group also monitors the implementation of the actions and the impact of the responses by all relevant agencies to the two SCRs; David and Adam.

### **Quality, Performance and Challenge Sub-group**

Quality, Performance and Challenge Sub-group is chaired by the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children. This sub-group is responsible to the Forum for:

- Having oversight of multi-agency practice through audit activity.
- Reviewing how agencies work together to create the right conditions for effective practice.
- Evaluating how and where improvements are needed.
- Developing and implementing a programme of multi-agency audits to evaluate safeguarding practice, policies, and procedures across the multiagency network.
- Making multiagency practice recommendations and disseminating the learning arising from multiagency audits.
- Monitoring implementation of recommendations and actions arising from multiagency audits and reviewing the impact.
- Testing and monitoring multi-agency compliance with Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 requirements.

### **Learning and Development Advisory Group**

The learning and Development Advisory Group is responsible for:

- Ensuring that multi-agency and single agency training needs in Hammersmith & Fulham is identified and that an effective multi-agency training programme is delivered.
- Promoting learning from safeguarding best practice.
- Promoting learning around identified local and national priorities.
- Promoting learning from local and national learning reviews and audits.
- Providing updates on the progress and the impact of the multi-agency learning Offer.



## Key information about Hammersmith & Fulham

London boroughs situated in the central western part of London on the transport routes between the City and Heathrow airport. It is a long, narrow borough running north to south with a river border at its south and south-west side. It is bordered by six London boroughs: Brent to the north; Kensington and Chelsea to the east; Wandsworth and Richmond-Upon-Thames to the south; and Ealing and Hounslow to the west.

However, although there are pockets of great wealth in the borough, there are also areas of deprivation which has a direct result on the health and wellbeing of children. The Council works in several different ways to ensure that these most deprived communities are reached and supported to thrive.

This map shows the borough profile of deprivation in Hammersmith & Fulham.

### Percentage ranking

Within 10% most deprived

- 10-20% • 20-30% • 30-40% • 40-50% • 50-60%
- 60-70%

Source : IoD 2019, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Children and young people from multiple ethnic groups account for 32% of all children living in the area. The largest multiple ethnic groups of children and young people in the area are Black or Black British and Mixed. 32% of children under 18 are living in poverty, and you can see that most people living in poverty are concentrated in the north of the borough.

1046 children and young people were identified as needing specialist support from the local authority on 31 March 2021. This is an increase from 945 on 31 March 2020.

### Borough statistics:

**37,111** The number of children currently living in Hammersmith & Fulham. They make up 20% of our population.

**32%** of this population are from Black and Multiple Ethnic Groups and 32% of children under 18 live in in poverty.

**1,456** Child and Family Assessments were completed.

95% of schools rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted.

**157** children were on a Child Protection Plan.

**216** children were Looked After.

**1,452** Children are on a Child in Need Plan.

\*For purpose of report – data will cover April 2021 – March 2022.

## Learning from LSCPR's and Rapid Reviews

The purpose of a Local Safeguarding Child Practice Review (LSCPR) is for agencies and individuals to learn lessons to improve the way in which they work both individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It is not an inquiry into how a child died or was seriously harmed, or into who is culpable. These are matters for coroners and criminal courts, respectively, to determine as appropriate.

The Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017) places a duty on local authorities to notify serious incidents to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel holds the key responsibility for how the system learns from serious child safeguarding incidents at a national level. The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel meets regularly to decide whether to commission national reviews of child safeguarding cases that are notified to the panel. The panel's decisions are based on the possibility of identifying improvements from cases which it views as complex or of national importance. Examples include the National Panel's review into the cases of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson.

### **The key Practice Reviews that Hammersmith & Fulham LSCP have been focused on are:**

- Independent Review of Children's Social Care.
- National Panel's report into the tragic deaths of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson.

From national reviews, we recognise the additional risk posed to children who are subject to neglect and abuse from their parents and caregivers and have worked to ensure local audits and findings are shared amongst the multi-agency network. Learning from child safeguarding practice reviews, both local and national, shapes the work programme of the H&F LSCP. Assurance is regularly provided on how recommendations from previous safeguarding reviews are being taken forward.

## **Serious Case Reviews**

### **'Adam' Serious Case Review**

#### **Overview:**

Adam was a 17-year-old young person, who was born in London. His parents had migrated to the UK from East Africa shortly before his birthday. He was murdered by another teenager in a knife attack in 2019. This was due to an alleged drugs dispute.

An initial review of the facts pointed to possible concerns about the way in which agencies had worked together to safeguard his welfare and there may be important learning for local agencies. The report highlighted several themes and findings that are reflective of serious youth violence cases.

#### **Activity:**

A Serious Case Review was commissioned in 2019 by the tri-borough LSCB.

The 'Adam' Serious Case Review was published in July 2021 following the murder of Adam in March 2019.

After Adam's murder, and before the publication of the review, significant efforts and improvements have been made across safeguarding agencies in response to serious youth violence.

An action plan was developed which addressed the key findings and were grouped into themes.

Colleagues in Health, Police, Children's Services and Community Safety have been actively reviewing policies, interventions, writing guidance and putting support in place to minimise the risk of Youth Violence.

This murder, and several other serious assaults, led to the creation of the Gangs Violence and Exploitation Unit, which operates across a multi-agency network which includes the Local authority, Community Safety, and the Metropolitan Police. This unit has streamlined processes and interfaces with all key agencies to ensure a joined-up service approach to support intelligence led disruption and community safety interventions.

There is also an ongoing task and finish group, with a multi-agency membership, reviewing family relocation when there is a safeguarding risk from serious youth violence. It is anticipated the findings from this task and finish group will be available later in 2023.

Extensive feedback has been received from safeguarding partners, which has contributed to a comprehensive action plan aimed at demonstrating how partner agencies work differently with young people who face similar risks as Adam.

### **Outcomes Achieved:**

Improved understanding of the consequences of relocating a young person and their family and impact on their safety and tenancy.

An assessment matrix has been developed that supports practitioners to better assess risk.

Pathways into education, employment or training have been identified and young people are encouraged and supported to participate in these.

Gangs, Violence and Exploitation Unit (GVEU) established.

Issues or concerns can be identified at the earliest stage, which is key to improving outcomes for young people.

Implemented different approaches in their work with children and young people such as systemic practice, relational based interventions, and trauma informed approaches.

### **Impact:**

A case study has been developed that demonstrates the impact of the changes implemented following the Serious Case Review. Please see the 'Ryley' Case Study Appendix 3.

## **‘David’ Serious Case Review**

### **Overview:**

A young person who was looked after by Hammersmith & Fulham Children’s Services, committed a serious assault on a young child in August 2019. The child suffered life changing injuries as a result of being thrown from a public building in London.

### **Activity:**

As a result of this serious assault, the ‘David’ Serious Case Review was commissioned by the tri-borough Local Safeguarding Children Partnership and the review was published in April 2021.

This complex review identified a range of findings and recommendations, which safeguarding partners developed into an action plan. Since publication, the LSCP has worked with the key partners to ensure the recommendations and actions are implemented, what actions have been taken to date and to review the progress made and ensure that recommendations have been followed up.

There has been a system review of pathways for children with autism, learning disabilities, and mental health needs, co-produced with young people and their parents. This led to the development of an Intensive Behaviour Support System, and the development of a Dynamic Support Register in Hammersmith & Fulham, which is viewed as a national exemplar.

A collaborative, multi-agency review has delivered a joint accountability framework to ensure clear pathways, agency responsibilities, quality assurance process and escalation in relation to children with autism, learning disabilities and mental health needs resident in H&F and those placed out of borough.

Operation Cavell ensures, where appropriate, assaults against professionals by young people are addressed through the criminal justice system and was rolled out across the local police command as good practice.

### **Next Steps:**

Efforts are now focused on delivering the learning opportunities with support from NHS England and NHS Improvement. Oliver McGowan training will gradually be rolled out into 2022-2023 across the Health and Social care settings in the first instance. Wider roll out will follow as resources allow in due course.

Specialist training will be delivered by clinicians from Broadmoor which will focus on Autism, risk, and emerging personality disorders.

An overview and key learning points from the David Serious Case Review Webinar will be disseminated out across several different service areas.

### **Outcomes and Impact:**

To fully demonstrate how important and ground-breaking this collective activity has been, a case study (‘Logan’) has been developed that demonstrates the learning from the David SCR in action across the multi-agency partnership see Appendix 5. This has contributed to robust risk management and improved outcomes for ‘Logan’. Ways of working were adjusted to accommodate the change in practice and enabled them to respond differently to a young person with a similar presentation to David.

# **LSCP Activities and progress**

## **Domestic Abuse**

H&F LSCP works closely with partners to ensure that the issue of domestic abuse is prominent on our agenda, and that there is a coordinated approach across the partnership. This is to ensure better outcomes for victims and their families. Work has also focused on perpetrators via the rolling out of the Safe and Together model of practice in Children's Services to strengthen the response within the child protection system. The recent new legislation contained in the Domestic Abuse Act highlights the impact on children who experience domestic abuse and recognises them as victims for the first time.

The Act places a duty on local authorities to support all victims of domestic abuse in safe accommodation. The Act also aims to support the survivor of domestic abuse and places additional measures within criminal courts to enable improved conviction and establish safety measures. This includes granting powers to senior police officers to give a domestic abuse protection notice against a perpetrator where there are reasonable grounds to believe they have been abusive towards the victim and the notice is necessary to protect the victim.

As concerns with domestic violence and abuse continue, work of the Pathfinder Project 'whole health' approach to tackling domestic abuse brought together expertise and funding for specialist domestic abuse interventions. Pathfinder built on existing good practice in our 8 sites by joining up the efforts of local health partners from acute health, mental health, and primary care with local domestic abuse specialist services. Professional healthcare colleagues helped to embed governance and policies, coordination, data collection, specialist interventions and training to build the capacity of the local health systems to respond to survivors of domestic abuse. This is led by the health economy in H&F and is chaired by the Designated Nurses for safeguarding. The purpose being to establish comprehensive health practice approach to domestic abuse in acute hospital trusts, mental health trusts and community-based IRIS programmes in GP practices. This will focus on training, data collection, policy, domestic abuse champions and ensuring that there are robust referral pathways.

## **Safe and Together Model of Practice**

First developed in the United States, this internationally recognised suite of tools and interventions is designed to help services who work with children and families improve their awareness and understanding of domestic abuse. The model is based on three key principles:

- Keeping children Safe & Together with their non-abusive parent, ensuring safety, healing from trauma, stability, and nurturing.
- Partnering with the non-abusive parent as a default position ensuring efficient, effective, and child-centred practice.
- Intervening with the perpetrator to reduce the risk and harm to the child through engagement, accountability, and criminal justice.

Hammersmith & Fulham are committed to shift the culture and practice of children's social care to strengthen their response to domestic abuse and enable practitioners to have greater confidence in challenging the perpetrator and holding them to account. The roll out of the training has already begun and it will be monitored to measure success.

The National Panel circulated a briefing on Domestic Abuse in September 2022. It set out key findings from a thematic analysis of rapid reviews and local child safeguarding practice reviews where domestic abuse featured. It summarised the most common themes that

emerged in relation to multi- agency safeguarding for children who are victims of domestic abuse and includes examples of practice and recommendations. Hammersmith & Fulham's roll out of Safe and Together training was one of the best practice examples included.

## Child Q

In December 2020, a 15 year old black girl endured a traumatic strip search, whilst she was menstruating by police officers who attended her school in Hackney. The reason for this was that the schoolgirl had been wrongly suspected of possessing cannabis. The officers had been called in by school staff who were not present during the intimate search. In fact, there were no appropriate adults present, and her parents were not informed by the school or by the police. Child Q as she is known (to protect her identity) felt traumatised after the search and has required therapy since the event.

### LSCP Response

LSCP held an extraordinary Forum to focus solely on the issues raised by the review. The meeting was well attended by key partners, including senior officers from the Police. The LSCP was reassured that relationships between schools and police were sufficiently strong and supportive to enable appropriate challenge between agencies, and that safeguarding policies and procedures are robustly implemented.

- The LSCP explored what training is provided to police officers and schools in relation to searches of children where drug possession is suspected.
- The Youth Voice Coordinator assisted the LSCP to understand young people's views on this matter. These views underpinned the focus of the discussion at the extraordinary Forum meeting.

## Neglect

Over the last 18 months, Hammersmith & Fulham LSCP have robustly focused on the area of neglect, following the deaths of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson. Understandable concerns were being raised by Ministers, MPs, and the public as to how these events could have happened.

The LSCP wanted to understand the local picture of identification and response to neglect by individual partners and jointly through multi-agency work.

At an extra-ordinary forum that was held in January 2022 it was agreed that the LSCP would complete a multi-agency audit on neglect.

### Learning from the audit

Schools safeguarding leads found to be a helpful resource.

Improvement in communication would assist relationships between schools and CYPS.

Good collaborative work focus between Adult Social Care CYPS.

Information sharing good practice between Adult Social Care and CYPS - but this needs continuous focus.

Good examples of multi-agency work and response to neglect in CYPS.

Consideration of children not attending school and missing support on offer.

Persistent challenge to escalate neglect issues to assessment.

Ensure non-engagement is challenged at the earliest possible point.

Missing Education should be seen as a risk factor of neglect not only of child's education but as an indicator of wider issues in the home environment.

Educational Neglect – this issue arose due to difficulties in evidencing how it meets threshold for statutory intervention.



## Recommendations/Next steps

Developing and implementing an aide memoir to assist practitioners in identifying neglect.

Promoting the Think Family model of practice.

Convening a learning event on neglect for all our partners to attend with key speakers.

Review and update the training offer on neglect.

Our Escalation Policies need to be strengthened, and how we view and promote these across agencies. Challenge is to be encouraged and is a sign of a healthy system.

All agencies should ensure joint responsibility for multi-agency action plans being conducive to making an impact and that these are completed. Responsibility should not be limited to those which they lead upon.

Capturing the child's voice – thinking about what we see and what we say – observing and recording any discrepancies picked up via professional curiosity.

Police highlighted that it is important for them to think about concerns raised by wider family members.

Timely, multi professional considerations and risk assessment when families decline supportive services such as early help or do not engage as expected. This should include whether escalation is required.

## Everyone's Invited

Everyone's Invited is a website that was set up for victims and survivors of sexual assault and harassment to anonymously share their stories. Since the 8 of March 2021, over

15,000 anonymous testimonies have been submitted, some of which have included the names of schools and education settings.

A small number of local schools, including maintained and the independent sector, were named on the Everyone's Invited website. Whilst many of the testimonials on the website relate to incidents that took place out of school in private homes or elsewhere in the community, our local education settings are key partners in helping to develop safe spaces for children and young people.

Hammersmith & Fulham colleagues alerted the LSCP following testimonials on the site naming a local school. The website was shared with the London Safeguarding Partnership who escalated the matter to the lead for Safeguarding in the Met Police who swiftly initiated a London wide police response.

The LSCP wrote to all schools to remind them of their safeguarding responsibilities, the need to refer to Children's Services (including referrals to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) service) and the police and signpost to the safeguarding support on offer from Children's Services and other partner agencies.

The LSCP liaised with the Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership (VAWG Partnership) in order to develop an appropriate local response across Hammersmith & Fulham and work in partnership with local schools and colleges to strengthen the development of a whole school approach to tackling harmful sexual behaviours.

The Police Safer Schools officers offered a 'Staying Safe' training package to schools impacted by testimonials on the Everyone's Invited website. Schools have continued to keep the allegations of sexual abuse, child on child abuse and harassment in the forefront of how they work.

Schools have reviewed their policies in managing these types of harms and behaviours, they have continued to make sure students know how to report these concerns and harms - giving students various ways to do this and schools have engaged with the offer from the safer school's police team's presentations. In addition, this topic continues to be discussed as needed at the Designated Safeguarding Lead networking forums and the Headteacher forums. Some schools have also taken up the offer through the Barnardo's contract in getting further training for staff on harmful sexual behaviours, exploitation and online safety while also taking up the offer for Barnardo's to offer learning to students through bespoke assemblies and Personal, Health, Social, Economic sessions.

## **Did you know?**

Safer Schools Officers in the Police are linked to all the secondary schools across the Partnership. Their role is to:

Develop strategies to keep young people safe, in partnership with the school.

Perform regular uniform patrols after school to address, truancy, ASB and crime, working with Safer Transport Teams and Safer Neighbourhood Teams as required.

Make pupil referrals to intervention and diversion schemes for the purpose of safeguarding the child's welfare and/or diverting them from criminal activity/anti-social behaviour (ASB).
Participate in multi-agency case conferences for students coming to notice.
Provide a visible and familiar point of contact with their assigned school(s).
Gather and share information/intelligence in relation to pupil behaviour linked to crime or ASB, or for safeguarding in accordance with data sharing agreements.
Advise Head Teachers and their staff on policing issues and work in partnership to investigate crime and deal with emerging issues.

Locally, the Local Authority Designated Officer services and the Safeguarding Schools in Education officers within children's services have worked closely with schools to review and respond to disclosures made on the Everyone's Invited website, The LSCP were reassured that there has been a robust multi-agency response to any allegations made.

The Designated Nurses also liaised with local health providers to keep them updated with developments about Everyone's Invited and that there might be an increase in young people coming forward to help and support. The Designated Nurses reminded providers of their responsibilities to follow safeguarding policies and procedures as normal and to contact the Designated Nurses for Safeguarding Children for additional advice and guidance where needed.

**The national response**

At a national level, the DfE announced a new helpline run by the NSPCC to support potential victims of sexual harassment and abuse in education settings. This helpline is open to both children and adults as well as parents and professionals. Following advice from the Metropolitan Police, the Everyone's Invited website was updated to include better signposting to support and guidance to victims and survivors.

The government also asked Ofsted to undertake a rapid review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges which was published in June 2021 and outlined their findings and recommendations.

Hammersmith & Fulham were visited by Ofsted in September 2021 as part of the annual engagement process. The collaborative work on this subject was well received by them. Verbal feedback was that practice was multi-layered, wide-reaching, mature, and intelligent. Hammersmith & Fulham's work has also been mentioned by the Executive of

the London Safeguarding Children Partnership and has been circulated across London as good practice.

## **Awaab Ishak LSCP Response**

### **LSCP Response:**

The case of Awaab Ishak was tabled for discussion at the LSCP Forum. The Partnership requested a response from

LBHF Housing to understand to what extent damp and mould issues existed in the Boroughs housing and what action was being taken to address any identified issues.

### **Outcome:**

The partnership heard that Hammersmith and Fulham Housing have put in place clear policies and are taking steps to identify and address any reported concerns across their housing stock. The Council has a Damp and Mould Action Group, chaired by the Strategic Director, Economy and attended by the Director of Public Health and the Children's Head of Early Help Family Support. Monthly reporting to the Senior Leadership Team on repairs includes updates on damp and mould.

Public Health shared an information document for families that detailed who to contact if they were concerned about damp and mould in their properties. This was shared across the partnership and has been shared as good practice in other local authorities.

Housing works closely with colleagues in Adult Social Care and the Children's Service to ensure prompt communication where vulnerabilities are identified.

Children's Practitioners and families now have available to them clear instructions on what to do and who to contact if they are concerned about housing conditions that they believe are dangerous or unsafe for children and families.

### **Next Steps:**

Housing will provide the LSCP with regular updates in relation to their response to the concerns.

## **Afghan Evacuees: Partnership Response**

In August 2021, Hammersmith & Fulham welcomed 120 new residents from Afghanistan following mass evacuation due to the collapse of the central government in Afghanistan. In the following months, 69 more evacuees arrived in Hammersmith & Fulham from surrounding boroughs. The 190 new residents were placed in a bridging hotel in the borough. Of these, 89 are children; 75 children have been enrolled in schools, nurseries, or college, including a further 30 children from a neighbouring borough being placed at a secondary school in Hammersmith & Fulham.

There has been a proactive, robust, partnership response to supporting these families, which has included:

- Dedicated staff, including a practice nurse and a Children's Services representative, at the bridging hotel available for wraparound support.
- Staff have assisted residents in gaining access to benefits and any further entitlements.
- Supporting adults into additional training to help secure employment.
- Community and youth outreach through extra-curricular programmes, such as women's cooking groups, men's football, and other sporting activities, with sports equipment having been donated from local charities, mosques, and football clubs.
- All families have been registered with local GP surgeries, childhood immunisations have been provided, and local dentists have provided free dental examinations.

- Families have had access to sessions at children’s centres and have been able to engage in activities over Christmas and after school.
- Educational psychologists have provided wraparound and network support to schools for individual pupils and staff.
- An educational offer for young people aged 16 and older was devised, including sourcing appropriate courses for university level students.
- Some families have already been offered more permanent accommodation.

The longer-term impact of this evacuation on children and families is difficult to measure. Nationally, some families remain in hotels and the housing shortage across the country is causing difficulties. There is also on-going resource pressure for local services. Issues such as legal status, mental health and resettlement plans continue to be the key concerns amongst those evacuated. This subject will be revisited to ensure we have a full update on progress and impact.

### **Afghan Families Placed in H&F**

Adults	101
5 and under	35
Between 6 to 10	18
Between 11 to 15	23
Between 16 to 18	13

## **Children’s Mental Health**

The LSCP is aware that there is increasing concern about the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people. Anxiety and depression are the ones most frequently experienced by young people.

We know that mental health issues in childhood, if left unaddressed, can extend into adulthood.

Improving and responding to children’s mental health has been a priority focus across the partnership and the number of children presenting with mental health issue remains an area of concern.

Children & young people (CYP) have fed back that they want to have easy access to mental health support and understand what is available to help them. Work is being undertaken on behalf of the Forum by the partnership group, through Youth Voice, Children in Care Council and Young Hammersmith & Fulham Foundation. There is a process of continuous feedback to and from children and young people.

The Youth Council worked in co-production with ‘Healthwatch’ to research young people’s access to mental health services pre and post pandemic. They designed and lead surveys and focus groups with other young people, from which they co- produced a series of recommendations compiled into a report for commissioners and deliverers. A strategic group has now been established led by the Integrated Care Board, involving young people and key stakeholders to review and action the recommendations.

In response mapping has been undertaken to identify mental health resources and referral pathways and is due to be published next year.

A heavy focus is therefore placed across services on emotional resilience, prevention, and early intervention to work towards increasing children and young people's positive mental health. The recommendations will be reviewed and feed into the Children and Young People's Early Intervention Strategy.

The work of the LSCP in relation to the 'David' Serious Case Review demonstrates the collaborative multi-agency work that has been undertaken in relation partly to mental health and well-being, as well as learning disabilities and young people with autism.

There will also be an increased investment into Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) provision to further expand capacity and expertise with a view to improving access, experience, and outcomes for CYP and resulting in fewer ED presentations. Lastly, Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) have been placed in Schools across H&F (11 primary schools, 12 secondary and 2 specialist schools). MHSTs carry out direct interventions with CYP, offer whole school approaches to better mental health, and signpost and refer on to more specialist provision.

## **Safer Sleeping**

Following the sad deaths of three babies in Hammersmith & Fulham within a 6 months' time span, there became a need to reassess how safe sleeping practice is promoted in the borough. As a result, a task and finish group were initiated.

It was agreed to utilise the Lullaby Trust resources which are comprehensive and supported by Public Health England (Office for Health Improvement & Disparities), to support improved promotion within the LSCP and borough website.

A video link was to be made available and information was promoted widely in H&F across the multi-agency network including Children's Social Care, early years, children centres, and GP waiting rooms, to ensure that the same message is provided to parents and carers.

## Youth Voice

Hammersmith and Fulham's Youth Council is an elected group of young people aged 13 to 19 who live, work or study or are looked after by the borough.

Its purpose is to give young people a 'voice' that is listened to by decision makers and to involve young people in decisions about issues and services that affect them.

Youth Voice also work closely with The Young Hammersmith and Fulham Foundation. This is a charity that supports opportunities for young people in Hammersmith & Fulham in collaboration with its Members, partners, and supporters.

The Youth Council is passionate about many things and as there are a significant number of boards seeking youth participation, a strategic group has been developed, which includes the LSCP. The purpose of this strategic group is to assist in mapping and identifying any gaps across the partnership. It is important young people know their voice is making an impact and the current focus is around co- production and to have young people fully involved in policy making right from the beginning.

Some of the main areas young people wish to focus on as priorities include:

Sexual Health
Relationships
Staying safe within the borough
Mental Health

Young people attend the Corporate Parenting Board alongside councillors, managers, and officers with the service. These meetings give young people

the opportunity to ask questions and respond to developments and various areas of improvement across the service in relation to the 3 priorities for the young people:

Settled and Belonging
Safe, Happy and Healthy
Thriving Adults

The Children in Care Council and Care Leavers have also worked alongside the Corporate Parenting Board to co-design the New Pathway Plan. A Young Inspector Programme has also been established with young people receiving training to inspect and co- produce



recommendations to improve the services they receive including those provided by Centre Point.

Youth voice is highly valued by young people. They are regularly consulted and involved in decision making and some positive examples of co-production are taking place with young people throughout the borough.

Youth Voice have worked collaboratively to further strengthen, streamline, and expand the reach and impact and to embed co-production with young people as the way we do things. The strategic group worked in collaboration with Youth Council, to review youth voice arrangements, develop recommendations and a clear governance process.

Some of the ways Youth Voice have promoted awareness of services to young people include:

Influencing various strategies, Arts & Culture, Industrial & Hate Crime.

Increasingly diverse and representative Youth Council.

Successful Youth Cabinet Election- Over 3000 votes electing a diverse youth cabinet.

Youth Voice Champion Role adopted by strategic boards and partnerships.

Launch of the co-produced Youth Voice Strategy, Principles & Priorities.

Diverse youth panels involved in interviewing CHS staff- including the Director of Education and the LSCP Business Manager.

The LSCP places high value on children and young people's views and is committed to ensuring that they feel valued and heard. One way in which this has been achieved is through collaboration in the development of the 'Youth Champion' role, to ensure children and young people have an active voice in the Forum and subgroups and are involved in decision making, scrutiny and challenge. Additionally, a 360° feedback loop and a 'you said, we did' approach has been developed and ensures that children and young people are aware of the actions that have been taken in response to the issues they have raised and the impact this has had.

Young people have provided feedback to the LSCP in relation to Child Q. They provided challenge to the LSCP and requested reassurance that something like this wouldn't happen in H&F schools. Following the work undertaken by the Partnership in relation to Child Q, feedback and reassurance was provided. This is one example of how children and young people are providing a 'check and challenge' role.

## LSCP Learning & Development

The Learning and Development Advisory Group is attended by the key partners from Hammersmith & Fulham and representatives from the Bi-Borough LSCP. This subgroup is responsible for developing and delivering the LSCP training programme, ensuring learning from local and national reviews and audits is disseminated across the partnership and promoting best practice.

The LSCP training programme continues as a shared collaboration with the LSCP for Kensington and Westminster (Bi-Borough). The multi-agency safeguarding children training programme is administered by the Bi-Borough LSCP on behalf of both LSCP's. Training opportunities are available to practitioners and volunteers working across both LSCP footprints.

The table below outlines some of the core safeguarding children's workshops that were delivered between April 2021 and October 2022 and the number of colleagues based in Hammersmith & Fulham, who attended. This included colleagues from health, education, voluntary sector, police, and the local authority.

Workshop Title	Number of workshops	Attendees working across H&F
Multi-Agency Safeguarding and Child Protection	39	414
Safer Recruitment	7	67
Meet the LADO	7	18
Safeguarding Children: Domestic Abuse and Coercive Control	7	19

In addition to the core workshops above, further workshops were offered covering more specialist topics including:

- Harmful Practices (forced marriage, FGM, Faith Based Abuse and So-Called Honour Based Abuse).
- Understanding Child Trafficking and Modern Slavery.
- Child Sexual Abuse.
- Gang Awareness. • MARAC briefings.

In May 2022, the LSCP also collaborated with the Met Police to deliver a joint Modern Slavery and Child Exploitation workshop for police and social care practitioners across the Central West BCU footprint. This was well attended by over 70 local practitioners, over half of which were from the Police.

In spring 2022, the LSCP was funded by the then Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to deliver some bitesize workshops on Understanding Resilience and Enhancing Well-being;

Domestic Abuse and Coercive Control and Think Family. These workshops were offered to practitioners working across the children's and adult's workforce and were well attended.

The LSCP continues to monitor training evaluations received from delegates in order to quality assure the content and delivery of our programme. In addition, the LSCP hosts regular 'mystery shopping' activities with members of the Partnership, who are encouraged to share their perspectives on the content of the training and how well they are delivered.

In 2023/24, the Learning & Development subgroup will be undertaking a training needs analysis to help shape the training programme. A Safer Organisations learning event will be held in 2023 to further upskill local organisations on best practice regarding safeguarding policies and procedures, safer recruitment and maintaining a culture of vigilance.

Following the Child Q Safeguarding Practice Review, the LSCP will be commissioning training on the topic of Adultification to address the issue of children of black or multiple ethnic backgrounds being viewed as adults rather than children.

# Health

## CCG and Move to ICB

What was once eight NWL CCGS joined and became one on April 1, 2021, as part of the implementation of the ambition of NHS Long Term Plan (2019). This was in preparation of being an Integrated Care Board (ICB) as of July 2022.

This merger aims to reduce competition and increase collaboration to reducing inequalities in access to health services and delivering equality of outcome.

## Training

Within the health system, though the impact of the pandemic continued to be felt with respect to training, health providers continue to try and implement innovative means of ensuring staff are trained including use of hybrid training, webinars with staff continuing to access the LSCP training as well.

These and the usage of training passports, which allows prior learning to be recognised when staff move organisations, should enable improvements.

## IRIS project

The commissioning of the IRIS project by MOPAC was extended to March 31, 2022. The aim of the project was to promote and improve Primary Care's recognition and response to gender-based violence and subsequent referrals of the same.

Local GP practices have reported that they have found that the training they had received "helped improve my confidence in discussing with patients" and have also reported that the advice and support that they receive from IRIS to be invaluable.

- 22 practices (81%) have been fully IRIS accredited ('domestic abuse aware practice') with 159 clinical staff and 112 non-clinical staff fully trained and able to refer onto a domestic abuse service.
- Total referrals in LBHF from Q4 2020/21 – Q4 21/22: 98 referrals an increase of 92 referrals before the project commenced.
- 38% of the total patients referred in Hammersmith had children under the age of 18.
- 10 high risk MARAC referrals identified by the domestic abuse worker as a result of the patient being referred to the service by their GP.

## LADO Summary

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) works within Children's Services and gives advice and guidance to employers, organisations and other individuals who have concerns about the behaviour of an adult who works with children and young people.

In the financial year reporting period from April 2021 to March 2022 the LADO service received a total of 212 contacts, 92 of which resulted in a referral. This was an increase in the number of referrals received in 2021-22.

Of the 92 referrals, 54 proceeded to the full allegations process, 9 progressed to an evaluation meeting and concluded with no further action, 8 were referred to the correct local authority, 24 reached a conclusion of no further action with advice given as needed.

Out of the 54 allegations that met the threshold, 46 proceeded to Allegations against Staff and Volunteers (ASV) meetings and investigations were completed. The following outcomes were reached: 21 were substantiated, 11 unsubstantiated, 5 were false, 1 was

malicious and 8 were unfounded. 5 cases remained open at the end of this reporting period.

Of the 46 investigations, 19 had police involvement. Out of those 19, 16 reached an outcome of no further action (NFA) by the police. Reasons for

NFA, can vary from insufficient evidence or the victim or their parents not wanting to engage in the prosecution process. Additionally, the Criminal Prosecution Services may deem that there is insufficient evidence to prosecute. One case progressed to court and achieved a successful prosecution. Police investigations continue in two cases. The Allegations process has been completed on these cases. The allegations have been substantiated and are not reliant on the outcome of criminal proceedings.

These outcome figures highlight that that organisations in the borough are managing allegations appropriately and referring correctly as per the LADO process.

Where a safeguarding concern is not the fault of an individual staff member but instead in relation to poor policies or practises in the organisations then we use our Safer Organisations remit to support the organisation to improve its safeguarding practises.

Outside of managing allegations, the LADO service supports the delivery of Safer Recruitment and Meet the LADO training for the LSCP. The H&F LADO service is part of the London LADO network.

## **Final thoughts from the Chair**

In my opening remarks, I mentioned the LSCP's progress since its inception and our collective efforts, as shown in the report, to reduce the risk of harm to the children and young people of the borough.

I said that in compiling this report, we have taken note of the guidance produced by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. I believe that the examples of several different safeguarding interactions by LSCP members show the impact of our work.

The case study of Ryley following the tragic death of Adam, demonstrate our innovative response to problems of youth violence which are sadly all too prevalent in society today.

Our work in the specialist area of autism as highlighted by case of David, necessitated challenges to ministers and NHS England as well as local service providers over a long period of time. Our persistence and determination mean that we now have a bespoke service designed around the needs of each child not the other way round. I am proud that Hammersmith & Fulham is now recognised as one of the leading partnerships in England for helping children with autistic behaviours.

We have also challenged the Metropolitan Police about the local response to the strip searching of children after the publication of the Child Q LSCPR. The annual report describes our work into neglect following the tragic murders of Arthur and Star; both in terms of challenge and case audit so that we can better understand the local response.

The report outlines other significant pieces of work; our response to the national concerns raised by the publication of the findings of the 'Everyone's Invited' website, the response by housing providers to the tragic death of Awaab Ishak and our humanitarian interventions for the Afghan evacuees who arrived on the borough with little time for preparation in the summer of 2021.

Finally, it is also important that we include as far as possible, the voice of the child as exemplified by the Ryley case study.

The role of the LSCP is to provide reassurance that everyone working with children and young people in Hammersmith & Fulham is operating as effectively as possible to keep our children and young people safe from harm.

I hope that the examples of our work give you that reassurance.

**Mike Howard**

Hammersmith & Fulham LSCP Chair

## **Appendix 1: LSCP Timeline of progress**

### **Hammersmith & Fulham April 2021 –December 2022**

#### **April 2021**

HF LSCP is formed

Mike Howard is appointed as Independent Chair. Cat Miller appointed as interim Business Development Manager.

#### **27 April 2021**

'David' Serious Case Review Published

This was the case of a 17 year old looked after young person who was involved in a very serious assault on a young six-year-old child.

#### **5 May 2021**

First Executive Board Held

All three strategic leads met to set the direction and agree terms.

#### **20 May 2021**

First LSCP Forum held

Terms of reference and Arrangements Document shared for sign off by the Partnership.

#### **May 2021**

Everyone's Invited Discussion

Themed discussion led by the Operational Director Children and Young People's Services.

#### **21 June 2021**

Case Review Group: first meeting held

Case review procedure document was reviewed by participants and the SCRs Action Plans were discussed.

#### **15 July 2021**

LSCP Forum Held

Key Discussion points included:

Everyone's Invited, updates on Youth Participation, and new practice emerging to safeguarding adolescents in H&F.

#### **19 July 2021**

'Adam' Serious Case Review published

Serious case Review undertaken regarding the murder of 'Adam' in March 2019. **21**

### **July 2021**

Safeguarding Children Partnership Group Meeting held

An operational quarterly meeting which is well attended by a range of professionals.

### **4 August 2021**

Housing Summit Held

A multi-agency response to the 'Adam' SCR to review the local offer to families who are at risk of extra-familial harm and are often placed out of the borough.

### **23 September 2021**

LSCP Forum Held

A presentation was delivered by Alice Hendy on her suicide prevention tool, R;pple. We also heard about how the local police are safeguarding children in our community.

### **28 September 2021**

Case Review Group held

A 'deep dive' of the Adam Action Plan and Findings were carried out. A discussion regarding Safer Sleeping was held following the death of a baby in H&F.

### **21 October 2021**

Executive Board Meeting

The Strategic Partners met and heard updates on the SCR Action Plans and Everyone's Invited.

### **17 November 2021**

Housing Summit Held

The progress of the task and finish group was explored; particularly the development of a risk assessment tool across the multi-agency.

### **30 November 2021**

Safeguarding Partnership Group held

Updates given regarding current issues being faced by practitioners in H&F.

### **16 December 2021**

LSCP Forum Held

Each agency reviewed their practice and response to the issue of neglect, following the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson.

### **20 January 2022**

Safeguarding Partnership Held Updates

heard regarding current issues being

faced by practitioners in H&F.

### **24 January 2022**

LSCP Extraordinary Forum held

Extra Forum held to specifically focus on issue of Neglect, following highly publicised cases of the murders of Arthur Labinjo- Hughes and Star Hobson.

### **3 February 2022**

Case Review Meeting Held

Key points raised included:

The Rapid Review process, SCR Action Plan, and progress on Safer Sleeping for parents & infants.

### **24 February 2022**

LSCP Forum Held

Annual reports from the LADO and NWL CCG were discussed; Young people's mental health was discussed at length following a video produced by the Youth Council.

### **March 2022**

LSCP & SAB Joint Workshops

Through March, workshops were held with funding from the CCG on cross-cutting themes such as Think Family, Domestic Abuse.

### **5 April 2022**

Safeguarding Partnership Group Meeting

Themes included: Neglect, the LADO annual report, ASE Parent/ Carer Champions. **10**

### **May 2022**

LSCP Executive Board Meeting Items

discussed:

Child Q.

NWL CCG funded training offer.

Inspection preparations.

### **19 May 2022**

LSCP Forum held Agenda

items included:

Updates on both SCR's.

Updates from Subgroups.

Ukrainian Refugees.

Child Q.

### **23 June**

LSCP Quality, Performance and Challenge Subgroup Key

Points:

Terms of Reference Schedule of work.



MA Neglect Audit.

Sec 11 Audits.

### **12 July 2022**

Multi-Agency Audit on Neglect started

Questions and format of audit were agreed. Representatives across different services were appointed and work began.

### **14 July 2022**

Safeguarding Partnership Group Meeting Items

discussed included:

Children held overnight at Police Stations. Summer activities for children, Notting Hill Carnival plans.

### **14 July 2022**

Rapid Review held –Child K

First H&F LSCP Rapid Review held. This was well attended across the multi-agency partnership.

### **27 Sept 2022**

Plenary meeting for Multi-Agency Neglect Audit

All those involved in the MA Audit met to discuss and compare results of audits and consider key themes emerging.

### **6 October 2022**

LSCP Forum meeting Key

issues raised:

Elective Home Education – safeguarding presentation, children affected by domestic abuse.

### **3 November 2022**

Safeguarding Partnership Group Meeting Main

Points:

Professional challenge and escalation.

Timescales for ICPC;s.

Concerns re children vaping, children's mental health.

### **10 November 2022**

Case Review Subgroup Meeting

Discussed JAR updates, progress on the Rapid review, updates on both SCR Action Plans.

### **14 November 2022**

Sec 11 Working Group meeting

The Working Group met to discuss terms, and agree questions and devise survey.

## **9 December 2022**

Learning and Development Subgroup Meeting

The Multi-Agency Neglect Audit results were discussed and agreed how these would be shared.

Training Needs Analysis roll out agreed.

## **15 December,2022**

LSCP Forum

Topics included:

Safeguarding implications from death of Awaab Ishak.

National Panel Briefing on domestic abuse, ICS changes.

YJS Inspection outcome.

## Appendix 2: 'Adam' Serious Case Review Case Study

### Ryley: Story so far...

Ryley was referred to Gangs, Violence and Exploitation Unit (GVEU) in August 2021 following an incident related to serious youth violence in the borough.

Ryley had a complex relationship with his mother due to her mental health concerns and this worried him a great deal.

Ryley had previously been involved in a criminal offence of holding and discarding weapons in a particular area of the borough and had left school to begin an apprenticeship in college in September.

He was aware of the issues in the borough however, he explained that he felt safe and didn't feel at risk of any trouble.

### Interventions

From the date of referral, Ryley had weekly appointments, and during these sessions, he began to discuss his peers and the activities they were involved in. Ryley was very open in discussing topics such as binge drinking, family relationships, feeling angry and experiencing outbursts at times.

Ryley was offered a range of activities, programmes, and opportunities to divert him from any anti-social behaviour. Ryley showed interest and said that he was looking for an apprenticeship in college.

In October, Ryley suggested that he was interested in completing a business-related programme with the Princes Trust.

An application was started. His criminal case had been dropped at the time and he was feeling much more positive about The Princes Trust Self Starter Business Programme.

In December, Ryley was involved in an incident in school for which he was permanently excluded. He was also experiencing a breakdown in the relationship with his mother. A Front Door referral was completed and concerns were raised with the CCE lead due to his associations. It was decided that due to the positive work and interaction between Ryley and the GVEU, no role was identified for CYPS at that time.

Ryley was discussed at SARP (Safeguarding Adolescents at Risk Panel). This is an operational panel attended by a multi-agency network to support and intervene with young people and offer positive intervention pathways.

Ryley attended the Youth Ambitions Event hosted by the GVEU and links were made with Construction Youth. Ryley was given an appointment to access employers for part time work.

From this time on, many outreach visits with Ryan were completed, which included taking him to activity days or sightseeing whilst completing intervention work around his lifestyle choices and mindset. Relational practice supported understanding about his history and upbringing.

In January 2022, Construction Youth met with Ryley and discussed potential opportunities for employability and apprenticeships alongside CV development.

## **Serious Youth Violence**

Ryley was a victim of an incident that occurred near his home involving mopeds and an attack upon him and his friends.

The GVEU addressed this matter with the police using safeguarding measures. This led to further tensions with his mother, whose behaviour was distressing for Ryley at times.

Ryley moved to another family members house out of borough for a while due to this strained relationship.

Key professional meetings were held to ensure Ryley was safeguarded.

## **Serious Youth Violence**

In February, a social worker was allocated to Ryley following the incident. Meetings took place between Ryley's Social Worker and GVEU that focused on safeguarding for Ryley as well as planning and supporting his mother's health and well-being after a recent suicide attempt.

Construction Youth also met with Ryley on a weekly basis to check in regarding his behaviour, and wellbeing. Sometimes these meetings were online.

## **Emotional and Physical Wellbeing**

Ryley began to lose motivation and reported to feel traumatised after his mother's attempted suicide. He did not spend too much time at home as he did not like to address what has occurred with mother.

Ryley was allocated a new social worker who has dedicated much time into completing home visits and working with both mother and Ryley on their emotional and mental wellbeing.

In April, Ryley began to attend Rebel Records Music Project that GVEU commissioned to take place for 10 weeks. Ryley engaged very well and began to work on his musical talent. He developed a great relationship with the managing director and has been engaging on the programme for the last 30 weeks. This has supported his well-being in many ways.

Ryley has completed three programmes and is now moving on to the fourth to release his music on social media and become an independent music artist. He is in a new relationship and is engaging with other GVEU funded youth programmes in the borough, again – this is a boost for his mental health and well-being.

## **Outcomes**

Due to the success of the programme (Rebel Records) and his engagement, a launch event was held in November whereby council staff, parents and key professionals attended and Ryley was able to showcase his music to all involved in his case and the music company. Some progression in his relationship with his mother was witnessed after the event as he was excited to let her know of his achievement.

Earlier this year, he was stabbed with non-life threatening/non-life changing injuries – by a perpetrator known to him. All professionals held an urgent strategy meeting which was reviewed monthly until all the risk was able to be safely managed. Ryley did not retaliate or react as he felt he had larger goals to achieve in his music career moving forward. This demonstrates how Ryley's emotional regulation and consequential thinking skills have developed.

Ryley is now working with the music company and GVEU to assign himself on a full-time digital marketing course to aid his talent and will be attending the studio to utilise their equipment and learning space.

## Appendix 3: 'David' Serious Case Review

### A Case Study: 'Logan' Background information

Logan was discussed in the Dynamic Support Register (DSR) meeting. He was under the care of West London Health Trust.

Logan was placed under Section 20 of the Children Act, by a Local Authority (LA) outside London.

The Social Worker was invited to the Dynamic Support Register (DSR) meeting.

There were concerns raised by Mental Health Professionals regarding escalating behavioural issues. Logan had a diagnosis of high functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder with a significant history of self-harm.

Mental Health Professionals brought the case to the DSR meeting to share concerns about escalating behaviours and urgent need for placement.

Logan had already been arrested for a serious crime that could have endangered lives of others.

### Background information

A safeguarding professional who attended the meeting for observation was struck by the similarities between David and Logan's experiences. Logan was receiving 3:1 staffing due to the assessed level of risk when he moved boroughs. This was reduced to 2:1/24 hour care after settling in his new borough.

Secure accommodation was considered but it was ruled out because of Logan's age. Legal advice was sought with the Local Authority Team and the threshold for secure placement was not met.

All professionals agreed that an escalation to senior leaders was required to ensure that Logan was kept safe.

### Similarities between David and Logan

Young person with Autism.

No mental illness diagnosis.

No Learning Disability.

Concerns about possible Personality Disorder

Behaviour problems.

Criminal activities with serious crime allegations.

Need for therapeutic placement.

Placement breakdowns.

Age and gender.

Risk of harm to self and others.

### **Key learning points from the findings:**

**Finding 1**-Gap of support for children with Autism without additional disabilities: Logan would have been easier to manage if he had a diagnosis of Mental Illness. This is purely based on service provision.

**Finding 2**-Lack of residential treatment options for young people with high risk behaviours & emerging personality disorders: There was an exploration of secure placement for Logan. The Local Authority legal team, advised that the threshold would not be met mainly due to his age.

**Finding 3**-Disincentives to escalate service gaps creating unmet need: Escalation of case was important. Although there was no clear escalation policy or procedure, the need for escalation was recognised. The DSR meeting created a platform where the case could be discussed. The engagement of a safeguarding lead from health provided the support to staff in escalating the case for immediate attention to decision makers.

**Finding 5**- Limits of health and Social Care integration at individual case management level: The DSR meeting presented a platform for case discussion and management of actions from discussions. Health Practitioners were able to bring the case forward for discussion. Following escalation to senior individuals, several multi-professional meetings were set up and held to ensure that Logan was placed in a therapeutic placement, with reduced risk of harming others.

### **Outcomes and Impact**

Logan is reported to be well settled now. He is in receipt of the therapeutic services required to enable him to live a better life. There haven't been any further safeguarding concerns highlighted - including no need to settle in another home.

Collective risk assessments led to collective risk management planning. There was further intensive work by professionals to work through risks during the transfer processes.

There was clear communication amongst professionals and agencies. This was led by professionals working with Logan. Professionals were fully supported by Safeguarding Children Leads and their managers.

Professionals are aware of Logan's vulnerabilities and needs, should there be any further incidents of risk to self and others

As Logan is still considered high risk for admission, he remains on the DSR of the placing LA.

### **What we could do better**

Finding 6- Absence of Quality Assurance for joint assurance scrutiny of case across the ICS and LA

Although there may not be clear partnership between agencies in Ealing, including senior LA managers, a platform for scrutiny and quality assurance is beneficial

The safeguarding element of the DSR could be improved. This is currently being reviewed by the ICS Safeguarding Team.



# Appendix 4: Contact List for Housing Repairs

## For NHS professionals

H&F GPs and NHS professionals:

Easy guide to housing and jobs (Economy Directorate) London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

Type of query	Who can you ask for help?	Email	Telephone
Damp and mould in a council property	Head of Repairs is _____ lead liaison is _____	_____ Capital works engagement manager The Economy Department Hammersmith & Fulham Council  _____ Please put 'GP/NHS Enquiry' at the start of all subject headings	_____
Repairs in a council property	Head of Repairs is _____ lead liaison is _____	_____ Capital works engagement manager The Economy Department Hammersmith & Fulham Council  _____ Please put 'GP/NHS Enquiry' at the start of all subject headings.	_____
Damp and mould in private rented property	Initial approach to landlord LBHF private housing team can support with enforcement action	Private Housing Team  _____ Please put 'GP/NHS Enquiry' at the start of all subject headings.	_____

Patient asks for a letter to support council housing application	The housing register: Medical assessment   LBHF This outlines all the banding information, so that as NHS	Please read the guidance on the link. The form is the responsibility of the housing applicant to complete but will require supporting	If you need extra help, call _____ To escalate a query contact _____
<b>Type of query</b>	<b>Who can you ask for help?</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
Patient seeking employment support or training opportunities via the council's job brokerage team	professionals you know which information is helpful.  Refer patient to the council jobs brokerage team WorkZone   LBHF	information from their medical professional. For help email _____ Please put 'GP/NHS Enquiry' at the start of all subject headings. _____	Housing Solutions Senior Officer _____ _____

## Additional housing information

Some patients may live in social or council housing, whilst others may live in private rented housing.

People in either of these tenancies may claim support to help them pay their rent – this could be either through housing benefits, or universal credit.

## How the rate is calculated differs slightly dependent on the type of tenancy.

For example:

- In social and council housing, housing benefit is calculated on actual rent plus service charges (as well as spare rooms, income, and personal circumstances).
- In private rented housing, housing benefits is calculated on the Local Housing Allowance rate or actual rent – whichever is lower (as well as spare rooms, income, and personal circumstances).

## Helpful links on benefits:

Housing Benefit: What you'll get:

GOV.UK [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

Housing costs and Universal Credit:

GOV.UK [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) Benefits | LBHF

## The benefits cap does not apply if: Benefit cap:

When you're not affected:

GOV.UK [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

You're not affected by the cap if you're over State Pension age. If you're part of a couple and one of you is under State Pension age, the cap may apply. You're also not affected by the cap if you or your partner:

- Get Working Tax Credit (even if the amount you get is £0).
- Get Universal Credit because of a disability or health condition that stops you from working (this is called 'limited capability for work and work-related activity').
- Get Universal Credit because you care for someone with a disability.
- Get Universal Credit and you and your partner earn £617 or more a month combined, after tax and National Insurance contributions.

You are also not affected by the cap if you, your partner, or any children under 18 living with you gets:

- Armed Forces Compensation Scheme.
- Armed Forces Independence Payment.
- Attendance Allowance.
- Carer's Allowance.
- Child Disability Payment.
- Disability Living Allowance (DLA).
- Employment and Support Allowance (if you get the support component).
- Guardian's Allowance.
- Industrial Injuries Benefits.
- Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

- War pensions.
- War Widow's or War Widower's Pension.

## **Appendix 5: CCG Joint Funding-Training**