



# HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM LSCP: YEARLY REPORT: JAN 2023 – MARCH 2024

Hammersmith and Fulham LSCP

Jan 2023 – March 2024

An overview of activity and impact delivered by the Hammersmith and Fulham LSCP

Miller Cat: H&F [hflscb@lbhf.gov.uk](mailto:hflscb@lbhf.gov.uk)

## **HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM LSCP YEARLY REPORT JANUARY 2023 – MARCH 2024**

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### **Introduction from the Independent Chair, Mike Howard**

As the independent chair of the Hammersmith and Fulham Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP), I am pleased to present our latest annual report. The report focusses on the range of our work, achievements, and impact. Information about the borough's demography, the structure, terms of reference etc. for the LSCP can be accessed through our website.

The website is a practical demonstration of our commitment to actively engage with young people. It was commissioned from a local company which makes real life workplace training a reality for local teenagers seeking a career in IT. The report contains more information about the site.

The work of the LSCP has been summarised in a visual 'road map;' it shows that we have addressed local, regional, and national safeguarding issues. Some of this work was mentioned in our last annual report; the cases of David, Adam, and Awab Ishak. Change and improvements can be slow to achieve but persistence and patience does get results.

As an example, the case of David is now 5 years old. Many of the issues highlighted in the Serious Case Review affect children throughout the country. Despite many letters and meetings, progress has been hampered by frequent changes amongst ministers and senior civil servants within the Department of Health and Social Care. On a positive note, our work in this case has led to engagement from our other LSCPs and interested practitioners from as far away as the USA, joining our training sessions. Other areas of challenge include working with schools, Public Health, and Community Safety around vaping, increasing awareness of GPs about their responsibilities in reporting domestic abuse, greater involvement from housing colleagues about their vital role in safeguarding children and trying to ensure, as far as legally possible, how we can safeguard children who are educated at home.

The highlight of the year was our neglect conference in January. This was a direct response to our audit of cases of neglect following the deaths of Star Hobson and Arthur Labinjo-Hughes. Sadly, a subsequent rapid review into the death of a local toddler showed that neglect is still ever present for some of our children.

In December 2023, the Government published new arrangements for safeguarding; Working Together Guidelines (WTG) 2023. These make major changes to the structure of LSCPs. The independent chair is abolished, with enhanced responsibilities for the three statutory partners, including a chairing role.

These new requirements are controversial; the partners feel that the loss of an independent chair is a retrograde step and many question whether senior people who are already extremely busy will have the capacity to effectively discharge my present job description. These arrangements must be in place by the end of the year.

As this is my last annual report, I would like to thank everyone who has worked with me over the past three and half years. Their support, participation and enthusiasm has been key to all our achievements.

Finally, I would like to record my thanks and appreciation for the LSCP business manager, Cat Miller, and the administrator, Sarah Irvine. They have worked with me throughout my tenure and have been instrumental in the creation, success, and achievements of the LSCP.

I wish my successor well for the future.

Mike Howard  
LSCP Chair  
August 2024

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## Data and Demographic Information

To ensure that the H&F LSCP Yearly Report is accessible and concise, as requested in Working Together 2023, information relating to the structure of the H&F LSCP, data regarding demographics and data on safeguarding assurance for children is available for review on the LSCP Website here: [HFLSCP Annual Report data](#)

## Hammersmith and Fulham LSCP Strategic Partners:



North West London Integrated Care System



London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham



London Metropolitan Police

## Hammersmith and Fulham LSCP Partners

Cambridge school  
Primary Care  
West London Free School  
West London Academy  
Kensington Prep School  
Vanessa Nursery / Randolph Beresford  
Ormiston Bridge Academy  
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust  
Miles Coverdale Primary  
West London NHS Trust  
Lay Members  
London Probation  
Central London Community Healthcare  
Chelsea & Westminster NHS Foundation Trust  
Jack Tizzard

## **H&F LSCP At a Glance Activities**

### **Jan 2023 -March 2024**

The following graphics presents a visual roadmap of activities, meetings, events, and milestones reached between January 2023 and March 2024, and offers a visual demonstration of the extensive amount of work undertaken by the LSCP to ensure children are safeguarded in Hammersmith and Fulham, and that our function to check and challenge is upheld.

*\*graphics not included as not accessible, however the following text illustrates:*

#### **11<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

David Action Plan Meeting

Meeting with NHS England and key local authority leads to review progress against the David Action Plan.

#### **12<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Executive Board Meeting

Strategic leads met to discuss the LSCP's response to Child Q, hear progress on case review action plans, review the findings from the Multi-Agency Neglect Audit, and to review the Police's response to HMIC

#### **19<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Safeguarding Partnership

Partnership discussed nitrous oxide use and availability, findings from the Multi-Agency Neglect Audit, a presentation was delivered by MIND, and discussion was held on improving the identification & response to sexual abuse.

#### **23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023**

Case Review Group

Updates on the 'David' and 'Adam' Action Plans were heard, and a presentation was delivered by the Gangs, Violence & Exploitation Unit.

#### **9<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Learning & Development Group

The Terms of Reference were finalised, discussion was held on how to share the learning from the Multi-Agency Neglect Audit, and learning from Case Reviews were discussed.

#### **16<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Quality, Performance & Challenge Group

Updates on the Section 11 audits were provided and priorities for 2023/2024 were discussed.

#### **22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023**

David Action Plan Meeting: Update meeting with NHS

England on the progress being made against the David Action Plan.

#### **23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023**

LSCP Forum

LBHF Housing Officers provided an update on council stock review in response to the death in Rochdale of Awaab Ishak. The Pan-London Threshold Matrix and the local Escalation Policy were discussed.

**19<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

David Action Plan Meeting

Final meeting with NHS England to sign off the David Action Plan.

**20<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

Safeguarding Partnership

A Presentation was delivered on home education, recommendations from the Young Person's manifesto were heard, and the issue of vaping amongst children were discussed.

**4<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

Case Review Group Discussions held on local cases and safer sleeping and updates from the JAR were provided.

**25<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

LSCP Forum

Police colleagues provided a response to Baroness Casey's report. The impact presentation from the David Action Plan was delivered and updates on youth voice and youth council activities were provided.

**26<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

Learning & Development Group Updates were heard regarding training, including the training needs analysis, and the work plan was initiated.

**7<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

Case Review Group

Updates on local cases were provided and information on the delivery of Autism and Risk Training, which derived from the David Serious Case Review, was shared.

**14<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

Quality, Performance & Challenge Group

Updates on the Neglect Conference preparation and Section 11 audits were shared, along with discussions about aligning priorities with the youth voice.

**21<sup>st</sup> September 2023**

LSCP Forum

Discussions around the updated Working Together 2023 legislation, safeguarding unaccompanied persons and accommodation were held, along with information shared on youth council activities.

**10<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

Section 11 Peer Challenge

Partner agencies gathered to review the findings from the Section 11 audits and to identify recommendations.

**2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023**

Safeguarding Partnership

Youth Voice strategy was shared along with support available for young carers. Key safeguarding issues were discussed.

**23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023**

Learning & Development Group

Updates on the Neglect Conference preparations were shared, the Section 11 findings were discussed as were themes from practice.

**30<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Case Review Group

Local cases were discussed as well as a cross-border issue.

**7<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

Quality, Performance & Challenge Group

Updates were provided on the Neglect Conference and Section 11 findings were shared.

**14<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

LSCP Forum

Police colleagues shared the Met's response to Baroness Casey's report and provided an update on the Met's VAWG commitment; updates on the Serious Violence Duty were provided.

**23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024**

Neglect Conference

The Neglect Conference held by the LSCP brought together professionals from a wide range of professions to learn more about neglect. We heard from guest speakers and several neglect resources were shared.

**23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024**

Launch of LSCP Website

The new LSCP website was launched during the Neglect Conference, with resources on identifying neglect shared on the site.

**25<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Safeguarding Partnership

Working Together 2023 was discussed, along with feedback from the Neglect Conference and some good news stories were shared.

**30<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Case Review Group

Discussions were held regarding local cases of concern and a review of the Escalation Policy took place

**8<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

Learning & Development Group

The work plan for 2024/2025 was discussed, along with feedback from delivered training and the Neglect Conference were shared.



## **15<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

Executive Board

strategic response to the changes arising from Working Together 2023 was sought, along with further discussions around the LSCP arrangements and priorities.

## **22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024**

Quality, Performance & Challenge Group

The action plans from the Neglect and Section 11 Audits were reviewed and areas for focus for 2024/25 were discussed.

## **Hammersmith & Fulham LSCP Priorities**

### **Priority 1:**

Safeguarding Adolescents, including children/young people with disabilities

### **Priority 2:**

Increasing awareness and strengthening the response to Domestic Abuse

### **Priority 3:**

Increasing awareness & strengthening the response to Mental Health, with focus on child's mental health

### **Priority 4:**

Transitional Safeguarding

- *The Voice of the Child to be weaved through all the priorities*

## **Activities in relation to the LSCP Priorities: Safeguarding Adolescents**



Children and Young People require different approaches to safeguarding as they grow. When children reach adolescence their needs change and our methods to keep them safe must adapt. Adolescence is a time when physical and psychological changes emerge, and young people are preparing to enter the adult world. Our multi-agency partners in Hammersmith and Fulham want to ensure that our young people living in the borough feel safe and that their needs as they approach adulthood are met.

In Hammersmith and Fulham, our priority to ensure adolescents are safeguarded is informed by young people from the borough and what their needs are. We work with our colleagues in the Young Hammersmith and Fulham foundation (YHFF) and Youth Voice to ensure that the work we do is aligned with their objectives. We endeavour to engage the voices of the borough's young people and engage them in the shaping and designing of services.

We understand that children's lives can be complex and that some children and young people are especially vulnerable due to specific factors such as ethnicity and poverty, which can lead them to being more at risk criminal exploitation. The LSCP has worked with their multi-agency partners to ensure that an effective response is in place and that interventions are robust and effective in reducing vulnerability and involvement in crime and exploitation.

In the last Annual Report, we shared information on a Serious Case Review from 2019, 'Adam'. Adam was a 17-year-old young person. He was murdered by another teenager in a knife attack in 2019. This was due to an alleged drugs dispute. The report highlighted several themes and findings that are reflective of serious youth violence cases, and an action plan to address the recommendations was agreed. This has now been signed off as completed, however we can never be complacent and this area of adolescent safeguarding continues. You can read the full Serious Case Review here: [David Serious Case Review](#)

### **Gangs, Violence, Exploitation Unit (GVEU)**

The GVEU (Gangs, Violence and Exploitation Unit) was set up in the wake of the murder of 'Adam' in 2020. The GVEU has been working tirelessly to ensure young people in the borough are not just safeguarded, but encouraged to thrive and achieve in their chosen fields once they have received mentoring, advice, support, and encouragement. Highlights as follows:

- Collectively across the multi-agency network including the GVEU, work is focused on disrupting crime and providing opportunities for young people to become involved in positive and pro-social activities.
- The GVEU was presented at MOPAC, this was a great endorsement of all the hard work that has gone into prevent serious youth violence in H&F and demonstrates how forward thinking and innovative they are.
- A special event was held at Bush Hall to showcase the talent that the young people they work with have, this was attended by Councillors, young people and their families and was a great success.
- A 'Vulnerability Tracker' of young people has been developed, which enables intervention at the earliest stage. This also helps pick up emerging issues and trends.
- A new Clinical Practitioner is now part of team, this is encouraging previously resistant young people and families to engage in therapeutic support

- Applications for Grant Funding have been successful, and have enabled a local project in West Kensington to begin - which will be delivered by community organisations and involve young people from that area to help reduce crime.

Click here for further [GVEU information](#)

## **Vaping**

Vaping is a national concern particularly amongst young people. This issue has been raised within the Safeguarding Partnership Group in April 2023 by education colleagues. This was subsequently brought to the attention of the LSCP Forum in May 2023.

There is an increasing concern regarding vaping and it has been noted that more children are vaping than smoking cigarettes. Vaping is not necessarily being seen as smoking and instead as a casual, harmless action and contradictory advice around vapes is circulating.

An initial conversation had been held with the Youth Council to gather their views on vaping, with some young people saying it is easy to obtain vapes and they are promoted differently from cigarettes. A large amount of work has been undertaken within the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham by the Trading Standards Team against specific shops who have been marketing vapes towards school age children, including the seizure of a large amount of illegal vapes.

The LSCP tasked Public Health colleagues to identify a strategy which will promote healthier choices and can be promoted to schools.

In December 2023, the Forum heard from Public Health colleagues of the efforts taken to address the issues of the availability and promotion of vapes, though also recognising there is insufficient data in place as this is a relatively new public health issue. Regardless, efforts taken to address this issue within the borough have included the recommissioning of the Resilience Service (Young People's Substance Misuse and Sexual Health Service), which will produce information material on vaping to enable informed decision making by young people and to deter usage; the information package will also be shared with local schools, youth organisations, social media accounts, LSCP and Council websites. The Trading Standards Team continues to target shops which sell vapes to underage children; so far 6,000 illegal vapes have been seized.

The Vaping Strategy implementation is underway, with regularly meetings scheduled to ensure monitoring and tracking of progress. This will continue to be monitored and regular progress reports from colleagues will be sought.

### **Recent work around vaping:**

The Public Protection Team is leading on a vaping strategy, which has received Councillor's endorsement. The Hidden Harm Lead is contributing to that and it is about to be implemented.

Additional resources are being explored to support young people re. smoking / vaping, to also include the use of illicit substances in vapes, which has been an area of emerging recent concern

4 schools recently took part in vaping awareness week (20th – 24th May). This included 900 pupils from one school alone.

### **Missing Children:**

In April 2023, the Police and Crime Committee published a report into Missing Children in London. The aim of the report was to consider how children at risk of going missing can be better protected in London and kept safe from harm. The report makes several recommendations which are directed at the London Mayor and MOPAC (Mayors Office Policing & Crime). It is important to note that children going missing is a national issue, and not only affects children in our borough.

The authors of the report asked for input from young people into their research, as well as professionals who work with children at risk of going missing or who do regularly go missing. On page 22 of the report, Hammersmith and Fulham LSCP's response is mentioned and highlighted as good practice. Feedback was shared from young people directly via Hammersmith and Fulham's Youth Voice. One of the points made was that Safer Schools Officers needed to work more closely with other partners, including multi-agency missing-children forums and youth offending services. The LSCP has addressed this point by inviting the Safer Schools Inspector to the last two LSCP Forum's to speak on this subject. [Missing Children Report](#)

- Families face delays and incorrect information when they report missing incidents, this creates low trust and means they may delay contacting the police or searching for their children themselves.
- The reasons children go missing is not collected in a cohesive way that could inform future planning, and the over representation of black children who go missing is not understood.
- Children who go missing should not be criminalised, and instead they should be treated as victims.
- The response from services is not always effective when a child does return home, and intelligence is not gathered that could inform safeguarding plans.

### **Domestic Abuse**

In Hammersmith and Fulham, there is ground-breaking work underway to embed new models of practice to tackle domestic abuse more effectively; and in turn, safeguard children who are often the invisible victims of this pernicious problem.

Under the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) children are now recognised as victims of domestic abuse. The Hammersmith and Fulham LSCP ensure that this issue remains high on the agenda at the Forum. The co-chair of the Violence against Women & Girls Network attends the LSCP Forum and ensures that there is a coordinated approach to it across the partnership. This is to ensure better outcomes

for victims and their families. For further details on the definition of Domestic Abuse please see this link: [Domestic Abuse Definition](#)

### **Areas of Achievement:**

#### **Safe and Together Practice Model:**

Work has focused on perpetrators via the rolling out of the Safe and Together model of practice across Children's Services to strengthen the response within the child protection system. It aims to reduce instances of abuse and violence, and improve understanding of individuals behaviour.

The importance of working collaboratively and all for agencies to understand the Safe and Together Model is crucial to its success. Information on the Safe & Together model of practice is available on the H&F LSCP website here: [Safe and Together Practice Model](#)

The issue of domestic abuse was highlighted during a recent Rapid Review that was held by the LSCP which recognised the importance of health practitioners engaging mothers at every safe opportunity where it is felt that domestic abuse may be present.

#### **IRIS (Identification and Referral to Improve Safety) programme**

Domestic violence and abuse (DVA) can have devastating physical and mental health impacts to both survivors, their children including, and the wider communities, yet it is under reported. The IRIS programme resumed in Hammersmith and Fulham in November 2023 and is being commissioned by the North West London ICB.

This is a nationally recognised evidence-based, effective, and cost-effective intervention, jointly delivered locally by Advance in partnership with Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC), to improve the primary care identification and response to DVA, to improve the safety, quality of life and wellbeing of survivors of DVA.

Introductory letters were sent to all 28 Hammersmith & Fulham practices resulting in local GP practices starting to be trained and subsequently sent referrals into the IRIS services.

Referrals into the service have indicated language, risk informed practice and the use of material delivered on the training are being used. For example, a clinician referring to using the power and control wheel and another clinician referenced escalation in risk factors. Training and direct work with victim/survivors of domestic abuse are just starting with co-location of the advocates in practices to offer further support the next stage.

Clinicians have shared their feedback and this includes:

- 'Gained better understanding and awareness of DVA and its effect on health'
- 'Developed better approach on how to deal with patients who may be experiencing DVA.'

#### **Children's Mental Health**

One of our priorities is focused on increasing awareness and strengthening the response to children's mental health.



The LSCP has been able to proactively and effectively engage with multi agency groups, and our partners have professionally challenged and influenced the ideas, service offers and pathways that have been proposed, providing a strong safeguarding perspective to the development of these services.

Partners have been able to provide constructive feedback on services through their own frontline experience with children and families. There has also been strong advocacy from the Youth Council and this demonstrates how the voice of the child has been heard in meetings.

We are pleased to report the implementation of a variety of innovative and helpful ways in which children and young people in the borough can access support.

### **Activities of Mental Health Charity 'MIND'**

The mental health charity 'Mind' run The Mind crisis prevention Café in Hammersmith and Fulham. It offers children and young people aged 5 to 18 years a place they can go to for support when experiencing mental health distress. The café has drop-ins and appointments which can be arranged by parents and teachers. The café works in partnership with West London Mental Health, and we look forward to hearing more about the impact that their work is making.

Mind supply Mental Health Support Teams in schools and have a 'Be Kind to Your Mind' programme to which 25 schools have signed up to. They support all schools to have a Mental Health officer, and there is a well-being advisor in West London College across the different campuses.

Their Emotional Wellbeing Hub offers services to school staff and sign posts young people to support. Mind are also involved in a pilot project focused on preventing exclusion. Every school in the borough receives a 'Digital Bulletin,' and there is a theme of the month with different topics to discuss.

Mind explained that Mental Health Support Teams who go into schools and trained and are aware of issues such as abuse, neglect, harm, and risk. Professionals build relationships so young people feel safe and be able to disclose if they are experiencing harm.

Mind work alongside the Youth Council to ensure their services are co-produced. They offer the chance for young people to train with them and support their peers. Mind also developed a project with young black boys in local schools called 'The World I want to See' where the boys wrote letters to their older selves. They speak to schools about racism, and their 'Racism & Mental Health Toolkit' resulted from this piece of work.

Children's Mental Health is a regular and increasing theme in both the Safeguarding Partnership Group and the LSCP Forum. There has been difficulty in mapping out all the support available to young people in the borough, particularly regarding the different levels of mental health which can range from feelings of mild anxiety and depression through to feeling actively suicidal. The new Professional Mental Health Directory has been developed to address this.

### **Hammersmith & Fulham Mental Health Directory:**

A professional directory for mental health resources and support services has been developed that lists all the services available to support children in the borough who may be experiencing issues with their well-being and mental health. The purpose of this is to make it easier for professionals to identify the correct support when referring children and young people. Click [here](#) for details.

### **The Listening Place:**

At the higher end of support, our colleagues in Public Health have been working to strengthen their response to the issue of self-harm and suicide. The Director of Public Health is an active member of the Forum, as is the Head of Safeguarding for Children's Services. For further information click [here](#)

They have developed several resources to assist young people and adults. There are several new multi-agency governance groups including a suicide prevention steering group, and a panel who meet to review cases where suicide is suspected to strengthen prevention efforts and share learning. The use of R;pple, which intercepts harmful online searches is also promoted throughout the borough, including schools and colleges. You can read more [here](#)

### **Public health is leading the creation of bespoke funded activities around suicide prevention, which include:**

- Self-harm reduction for children
- Dedicated, expert communications and engagement with communities.
- Bereavement services
- Commissioned The Listening Place for help and Support
- Suicide intervention training

## **Transitional Safeguarding**

### **Progress on the David Serious Case Review (SCR)**

In last year's annual report, we shared the progress of the Serious Case Review for 'David' who was a young person looked after by Hammersmith & Fulham Children's Services. He 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.

This case continues to make national news periodically, with progress updates of the young French child who was injured. We are pleased to share that he is reported to be making good progress with his health and development. You can read the full Serious Case Review here: [David Serious Case Review](#)

Since then, the LSCP has been systematically working through the recommendations of the difficult and complex and review, which has involved colleagues in NHS England as well as the North West London Integrated Care Board. The action plan has now been signed off as completed by the LSCP members.

### **Examples of progress made include:**

- 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 & those placed out of borough.
- 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.
- 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.
- There has been a system review of pathways for children with autism, learning disabilities, and mental health needs

The progress of the actions from the action plan, and being able to challenge civil servants and other senior executives, was made considerably more complicated by the frequent change of personnel in Government and NHS England. However, despite this we were able to challenge several points and make excellent progress with the outcomes for children.

During the last year, we have been delivering training and learning opportunities with support from the ICB, NHS England and NHS Improvement. The Oliver McGowan training continues to be rolled out gradually across different sectors. We have had specialist clinicians from Broadmoor Secure Hospital delivering training remotely that focuses on Autism, risk, and emerging personality disorders.



Both web based sessions delivered have been very well attended by people as far away as the United States. There has been great interest in this training from people across the UK. Other LSCP's have also been in contact regarding our work.

To demonstrate the impact of all the work that has been completed, there is a case study that outlines the learning from the David SCR, and how using some of the risk management strategies and care pathways has made a positive difference in children's lives. This is available on the H&F LSCP Website [here](#),

Colleagues across the Integrated Care System are currently working on a pilot programme aimed at children with complex needs, who may or may not be diagnosed with Autism and who do not have a mental health diagnosis, yet still require significant intervention.

A recent case of a teenager without a mental health or Autism diagnosis has highlighted that there are still areas that need to be strengthened. We look forward to being able to report on this in more detail in the next annual report.

This case shows that there is still much more work to do to safeguard children who suffer with undiagnosed autism like David. highlights the ongoing nature of the work that the David SCR instigated.

### **Other LSCP Activities**

#### **LSCP Subgroups**

The Terms of Reference for all three subgroups is available on our website [here](#)

#### **Case Review Subgroup:**

At the time of writing the Case Review Group is currently chaired by Mike Howard, the LSCP Chair. This subgroup is responsible for overseeing the LSCP response to local, regional, and national cases involving death or serious harm to children. Mention has already been made of the David and Adam SCRs, and further in the report we discuss the response to the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson. The case review subgroup also convenes and oversees all aspects of Rapid Reviews which are discussed in more detail on page 15.

#### **Quality, Performance and Challenge Subgroup**

The QPC has worked to implement the actions from the neglect audit that took place in the 2022-2023 which included hosting the first conference of the LSCP in January 2024 and launching of a suite of resources for the partnership. Please see the section on the Neglect Conference for more detail on page 17.

The QPC has worked to implement the actions from the neglect audit that took place in the 2022-2023 which included hosting the first conference of the LSCP in January 2024 and launching of a suite of resources for the partnership. Please see the section on the Neglect Conference for more detail.

The QPC subgroup have undertaken the first LSCP section 11 audit of the Children Act 2004 which ensures that services working with children are complying with the need to ensure children are safeguarded and having their welfare promoted.

The learning from the Section 11 audits will be monitored via the QPC subgroup, and will also be linked in with the work plan for the Learning and Development subgroup. Please see Page 14 for further details on the audits. The impact on practice will be demonstrated and captured via the Quality Performance and Challenge Group and the action plans that have been developed as part of the work undertaken.

The subgroup developed a number of resources to assist in the identification of neglect and to support practitioners and members of the public to know what they should do if they are concerned that a child may be neglected. These are available on the LSCP Website - click [here](#).

Members of the subgroup also focused on using different data sources to inform what area of work should be planned going forwards, as well as planning and delivering the Neglect Conference, the Neglect Resources and the Section 11 audits.

### **Learning and Development Subgroup**

Hammersmith and Fulham LSCP have a long-established relationship with our bi-borough colleagues in Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster. We have an agreement to share our learning and development resources with them. This means that our partners in different organisations in Hammersmith & Fulham can access all the training opportunities available.

During the period January 2023 – March 2024, there were approximately 490 people who attended over 16 workshops with many different topics. For further detail on the workshops delivered - please see data available on our website: [click here](#)

The most well attended workshops are the core programme including Multi-Agency Safeguarding and Child Protection, MARAC workshop, Meet the LADO and Understanding Child Trafficking and Modern Slavery. The LSCP also facilitate a workshop on Intrafamilial sexual abuse which was funded by London Councils and delivered by the Centre for Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse. This was attended by 6 practitioners from Hammersmith and Fulham.

One of the inventive ways that we are promoting multi-agency work is by developing our pool of co-trainers. Currently 50% of Multi-Agency Safeguarding and Child Protection workshops were co-delivered in Q3 2023-24. The co-trainers ranged from health, education, children's services, and private education. It is hoped that this pool of capable, enthusiastic, and knowledgeable professionals will grow even more over the next year. It is a positive reflection of how the multi-agency training programme is truly multi-agency and shows the commitment and cooperation present in many agencies across the borough

The LSCP trainer has contributed to the delivery and development of the pan-London LSCP training programme and delivered the Information Sharing and Threshold documents sessions.

## **Future Plans:**

- We will continue working together with Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster to develop our shared training programme. The Learning and Development subgroup will develop a work plan which will align with the LSCP priorities and ensure an interesting, relevant, and useful range of training will be on offer.
- The co-delivery pool of trainers will grow and local expertise will be used more and more to deliver workshops, webinars, and events around the borough.
- There will be an increase of learning from reviews, and some more specialist workshops which will be led in part by the results of the training needs analysis completed in April 2024.
- Whilst there are many different agencies represented at workshops currently, there will be efforts made to increase attendance from housing, police, the faith sector, probation, and adult social care in the coming year.

## **Feedback received:**

- Knowing that the LADO is there for advice, even if a referral is not made. That is a helpful approach to make sure that we do not let things fester
- Great scenarios shared and hope to follow this up with staff session and student session at school.
- The training was very engaging and very informative and it allowed us to look at situations and determine whether we thought these were of trafficking and modern slavery.
- These training sessions are consistently excellent and I routinely recommend them to colleagues internally and externally.
- Great multiprofessional approach to safeguarding that was thought provoking and challenging.

## **Learning from Rapid Reviews and LSCPR's**

Rapid Reviews are held by the LSCP when a Serious Child Safeguarding Incident (SCSI) has occurred. A SCSI is where a child has died or been seriously harmed, and abuse or neglect is known or suspected.

- The Rapid Review is a multi-agency process which considers the circumstances of a SCSI.
- It identifies & acts upon immediate learning, and considers if there is additional learning which could be identified through a wider Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR).
- The main purpose of both a Rapid Review & a CSPR is to identify lessons that require improvements to be made to policies, procedures, and practice.

- Lessons must be used to improve practice, manage risks better and enhance outcomes for children and young people.
- The reviews focus on systems and how agencies work together to safeguard children and young people although the actions of individuals may come under scrutiny.

All identified learning from a review is disseminated to practitioners in several different ways including through briefings, inclusion within training, and we will be developing learning sheets to aide understanding and implementation in the future. Agencies are asked to ensure that learning is widely disseminated within their agencies.

The final decision with regards to initiating a CSPR lies with the LSCP Executive, and following the recommendation from the LSCP Case Review Group, they will consider the information and make a final decision.

**Some of the emerging themes from the review included:**

- Young Carers
- Educational Neglect
- Invisible Fathers
- Referrals
- Voice of the Child

**We also identified some areas of good practice**

- Hammersmith and Fulham now have an improved Young Carers offer which has been co-developed with young carers and has been shared within the Designated Safeguarding Lead Forum and across the wider multi-agency network.
- Schools involved have already taken on recommendations and changed their practices and policies.
- The use of the Was Not Brought policy was appropriate.
- All the children were spoke to alone by both the Police and Children's Services.
- There will a roll-out of safeguarding raining to all Housing employees.
- Both the London Fire Brigade and the London Ambulance Service applied the Think Family approach when discharging their safeguarding responsibilities.
- The traded offer by the Primary school of a Family Support Practitioner being based at the school once a week to work with families referred to.

The partnership held one Rapid Review during this report cycle, which was well attended by the multi-agency network, including health, education, police, local



were able to identify signs of neglect and crucially know what to do if they were concerned that a child was being neglected in some way.

The conference on Child Neglect took place in January 2024. The event was oversubscribed which illustrates the level of interest. Over 90 people attended from several different agencies which included the Police, Housing, Health, Children's Services, Education, voluntary agencies, and youth/ sports clubs.

We heard from three excellent speakers; Dr John Hutchins who is a consultant community paediatrician with over 25 years of experience in safeguarding children. The second speaker was Jane Wiffin, a Social Worker who is now an Independent Serious Case Review author for Safeguarding Children Partnerships. The final speakers were Dr Orla Kenny and Dr Gillian O'Shea both Educational Psychologist in Hammersmith and Fulham who delivered a presentation on the topic of educational neglect.

The conference reviewed a fictional case study, which had features of some of the frequent concerns that arise, such as poor school attendance, domestic abuse, poverty, mental health, and substance misuse. They were asked questions with a view to assisting them to start thinking about how they would tackle some of those issues.

At the conference, several resources were shared, with the aim to assist those working across the multi-agency network to identify neglect, support children and families where neglect may be present and refer children experiencing neglect to ICAT so that the right support can be identified for them. One of the resources was a quick guide to neglect, which has some key information and easy to follow instructions on what to do next. You can access these resources [here](#).

The feedback and evaluation from the conference was positive. We asked those attending to share their feedback via the Mentimeter system - which you can view on the website.

Sadly, neglect is ever present and is an issue that needs to remain a priority. We want to make sure all those working with children and families know how to spot it and what to do. One of our next steps is to assist in organising an event specially for those working in Children's Services to look at some of the areas in more detail.

We also want to work more closely with our housing colleagues to increase their understanding. They are well placed to see children in their own home and family settings unlike other professionals, and this can give a unique insight into their lived experience. This is highlighted by the recent Rapid Review held recently; there is more information on pages 15 and 16.

The role of housing in safeguarding children is also illustrated on page 21, which talks about the local response to the death of Awaab Ishak in 2022 in Rochdale.

### **Section 11 Audits**

Section 11 (S11) of the Children Act 2004 places a statutory responsibility on key agencies and organisations to have due regard to the need to

safeguard and promote the welfare of children in discharging their functions. Agencies are required to complete a full S11 self-assessment every two years. Section 11 audits are outlined in the legislation 'Working Together 2018'. The first Section 11 audit by the Hammersmith and Fulham LSCP helped to ensure that agencies placed under a duty to co-operate by this legislation, are fulfilling their responsibilities to safeguard children and promote their wellbeing.

The methodology had two strands; an online survey for frontline practitioners to understand their perspectives on ease of access to safeguarding information, and whether they felt their safeguarding systems were adequate. A separate survey was used for safeguarding leads from the respective organisations with comprehensive questions about each services safeguarding processes and policies. A peer challenge day followed, providing an opportunity to identify what was working well, what are the perceived challenges and things that will be taken forward for organisations to change in their practices to improve our responsibilities to safeguard children. The learning from the Section 11 audits will be monitored via the QPC subgroup, and will also be linked in with the work plan for the Learning and Development subgroup.

The impact on practice will be demonstrated and captured via the Quality Performance and Challenge Group and the action plans that have been developed as part of the work undertaken.

### **There were 25 Section 11 Audits returned in total**

Chelsea & Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Primary Care

Integrated Care Board

Adult Social Care

West London NHS Trust

Imperial College Health NHS Trust

Metropolitan police Service

Hammersmith and Fulham Children and Young People's Service (CYPS)

Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust

London Probation

### **Practitioners survey responses**

210 practitioners completed the short survey, a selection of results include:

- Staff felt that they had easy access to Safeguarding information
- The majority of respondents felt that their intranet was helpful & most practitioners used their own intranet for safeguarding advice.
- Having Difficult Conversations training was suggested as this is an area highlighted to be a challenge for practitioners.

### **Next Steps:**

As a result of the Practitioners survey, a number of next steps have been identified that include:

- Shorter, lunch-time bite sized training and learning is preferred
- More 7-minute briefings to be available – with tips for practice on the back
- LSCP Multi-Agency Training to be further promoted via the Learning and Development Subgroup
- Training on Right Care, Right Person to be introduced and co-delivered by the police and health

### **Feedback from the Audit:**

We asked agencies to tell us what was working well in their service area, and what needed to be strengthened, and any challenges they were facing.

### **Key achievements highlighted by the audits include:**

#### **Metropolitan Police:**

The Metropolitan Police Service shared that they are proactively working to increase staff levels with good quality officers. Safer Schools Officers do an exceptional job in our schools, and deserve recognition. They are considered an area of strength and are highly valued in the community. Challenges faced by the police include having frequent changes in management structure which creates some difficulties for escalation of concerns and losing organisational memory.

#### **Initial Consultation and Advice Team (ICAT)**

The ICAT consultation service for referrals at the front door is well used by partners, the feedback received indicates that professionals consistently value being able to talk through concerns with a social worker and this makes a real difference to feeling confident to refer safeguarding concerns in. The LSCP regularly promotes the ICAT service across the partnership.

#### **Primary Care:**

The response from Primary Care was outstanding. Approximately 69% of GP practices responded to the Section 11 audit which is a high level and demonstrates practice engagement with the process. Practices meet regularly to discuss safeguarding cases, and they also discuss across the Primary Care Network.

#### **Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)**

The Local Authority Designated Officer in Hammersmith and Fulham manages allegations against staff and volunteers in the borough. All Local Authorities have a statutory responsibility under s.11 of the Children Act 2004 to appoint a Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), which is outlined in Working Together 2018 guidance and the London Child Protection Procedures.

The Safer Organisations/Safeguarding in Education Manager has continued to develop strong relationships with all schools in the borough, including our independent and private schools. This has resulted in a strong culture of consultation and a good application of the Allegations procedures.

These procedures have been adopted in full by the Hammersmith & Fulham LSCP as the procedure for managing allegations against staff and volunteers (in a position of trust) who work with Children. Our role is to 'check and challenge,' and the LADO regularly presents at the LSCP Forum to share updates that enables this function.



For further details on the data regarding allegations, please see the LSCP Website [here](#).

### **LADO Highlights:**

#### **Partnership Work:**

Innovative work has been completed with the British Transport Police (BTP) to tighten up the process when allegations are made against the Police. Training will be delivered to the BTP to ensure that they understand the process fully.

#### **LADO Developments for 2023-2024**

There has been a Peer Review completed with Merton LADO and the results of this will be published in the next report.

### **Housing**

In our last annual report, we outlined the HFLSCP response to the tragic death of 2-year-old Awaab Ishak, who died in 2020 due to prolonged exposure to mould and damp in his home. His parents had followed the instructions of their Housing Associations and reported their concerns as directed, but the issues in the home continued and resulted in Awaab's death.

Government directives required all homes to meet specific standards outlined in legislation, with particular attention to damp and mould.

The LSCP asked for and received reassurance that measures are in place in relation to the Coroners Prevention of Future Deaths report, which you can read [here](#). The LSCP Chair was able to provide challenge to ensure that we had Housing represented at the Forum, which they now are as well as in the LSCP Subgroups. The importance of this has been highlighted in several Rapid Reviews that have been held.

To build on the initial response from the LSCP, the partnership was reassured that Hammersmith and Fulham Housing have clear policies in place and are taking steps to address any reported concerns across their housing stock. They will consider if there are any other measures that they can implement to improve the living conditions of children and families in the borough.

Guidance was shared across the partnership by the Director of Public Health which provided a link between health professionals and housing departments.

The partnership has been reassured that the new leadership in housing are making significant progress and improvements and there are several ways that this has been achieved:

- Reviewing the complex issue of Temporary Accommodation to ensure it meets the needs of children and families.
- Work is underway to quickly turnaround accommodation that is void which will free up some housing availability
- Ensuring that landlords in the borough provide dry, warm, and healthy homes
- work with tenants to resolve issues of damp and mould in their homes
- promote information about the energy support and advice

- Advice about preventative and remedial actions that tenants and landlords can take
- Treat tenants in a fair and non-discriminatory way
- Respond supportively and effectively to complaints about hazardous housing conditions.

This is an ongoing piece of work and will remain on the partnerships agenda to ensure progress continues.

### **Youth Voice**

The Young Hammersmith and Fulham Foundation is a membership charity supporting voluntary organisations in Hammersmith and Fulham. Their mission is to cultivate an environment where the youth in Hammersmith & Fulham not only survive but thrive. They collaborate with local organisations to provide as many opportunities for young people as possible. The aim is to provide children and young people with the platform they need to shine and thrive in their community. You can read more about them here: [Young H&F \(yhff.org.uk\)](http://yhff.org.uk)

YHFF host events such as Safeguarding Networks that bring together several voluntary organisations and provide them with training. They have guest speakers on a range of topics regarding children's wellbeing - and promote ways in which the voluntary sector can connect with the public sector.

Subjects that have been raised this year included setting boundaries on social media between young people and professionals, substance misuse, interest in adult work in 18–25-year-olds and the offer of support available at MIND's Circle Café and Resilience drug and alcohol support services.



Young people's views and opinions are sought and heard robustly in Hammersmith and Fulham. There is a range of work being undertaken to strengthen young people's voices, and embed co-production across the council. To align young people's voices in strategic boards and partnerships, a holistic approach is being taken to promote their priorities.

The Youth Council have been consulted on policies and assisted with the development of the local SEND strategy and development of the mental health offer. Youth Voice in Hammersmith and Fulham want to strengthen young people's voices and embed the idea of co-production. Young people's views, energy and experiences help to shape a happier, healthier, and safer borough. Collectively, Youth Voice see's young people as influencers, co-producers, & agents of change.

In their Youth Voice Manifesto, young people have identified some key areas for development which include:

- to strengthen inclusivity,
- improve communications,
- ensure there is robust governance,
- Be able to demonstrate the impact of their work.



Youth Voice have completed a borough-wide research project where they spoke with 1022 children who shared their views and experiences. Five clear themes emerged from the research, and these have formed part of the manifesto. Youth Voice have a plan in place to address these five priority themes and have set some clear goals and milestones to measure success.

For further information please see the website [here](#).

### **LSCP Website**

The Hammersmith and Fulham LSCP Website is now live and can be accessed via <https://hflscp.co.uk/>

H&F LSCP launched their new website on 23rd January 2024, which was commissioned and developed by a local company within the borough. This company makes real life workplace training accessible to young people through their Digital Kickstart programme. The development of the H&F LSCP site was done with a young person from Ukraine who is now residing in Hammersmith & Fulham.

The aspiration for the site is to be a platform to share professional resources, such as those which were shared with partner agencies during the Neglect Conference, and a platform for young people to showcase activities, events, and resources which are important to them. There is close liaison with the Youth Voice Coordinator to ensure young people can co-produce the new look website.

We felt that the work WebFX do with young people, their community investment, and the drive to reduce disproportionality in the IT world aligned closely with our values at Hammersmith and Fulham LSCP. We are delighted to join forces with them and use their expertise and experience. Here is an example of young people designing a site for their peers and those who work with children and young people.

## **Elective Home Education**

In Hammersmith and Fulham, the LSCP have taken an active interest in how home education is overseen, and have invited the ACE\* team Webex to present at the Forum on several occasions in relation to the National Panel's briefing on this issue.

The ACE team have oversight for children who are home educated, and they have informed us that safeguarding concerns for children being home educated persist. Attending school is a way of safeguarding and professionals can visually see and observe a child who attends school. If a child is not in school, they do not have this protective factor.

To counter this issue, the ACE team in Hammersmith and Fulham see every home educated family, the parents and children and work undertaken:

- There is a 1.5 home educator who is responsible for 160 home educated children.
- There are currently 160 children being home educated in Hammersmith & Fulham. Pre-pandemic the number was 72. Post pandemic it was thought children would go back to school, but they have not and levels of home educated children remains high.

The LSCP has raised this issue across the partnership and heard from colleagues in the ACE team about the work that they do to ensure any children who are being home educated in the borough are safeguarded (as far as legislation allows). Concerns about the gaps in the statutory framework are frequently raised at relevant forums. This was a consideration at a recent Rapid Review and at the Neglect Conference held in January this year.

The government are regularly challenged on this subject. A national register of children who are home educated has been proposed, but to date there remains no way to track children educated at home.

*\*ACE (Attendance (statutory), Child employment and children in entertainment, Elective home education, children missing education, permanent exclusions) - and School Admissions)*

## **Safer Sleeping**

The issue of Safer Sleeping is frequently discussed at the Case Review Group, as you will see by the LSCP activities detailed on the Road Map. Although not an LSCP Priority area, safer sleeping is a consistent factor in some of the cases that we are informed of. The LSCP promotes the messages of awareness regularly and will continue to do so.

CLCH continues to raise awareness of the importance of safer sleeping, by promoting the work of the Lullaby Trust and Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT) and learning from national and local reviews. During national safer sleeping week, awareness was raised by cascading information in the daily message pack to teams. Backdrops/signature campaigns to use on virtual calls were shared with the frontline teams.

[The Lullaby Trust - Safer sleep for babies, Support for families](#)

[ICON – Babies Cry You Can Cope :: North West London ICS \(nwlondonicb.nhs.uk\)](http://nwlondonicb.nhs.uk)

[New baby and parent resources :: Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust \(clch.nhs.uk\)](http://clch.nhs.uk)

A safer sleeping Webinar was delivered by CLCH Safeguarding Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children and the Safeguarding midwife from Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust and was well received.

The focus on safer sleeping included involving fathers by showing the London Irish Rugby Team 'Lift the Baby' video at team meetings and at the CLCH Annual Safeguarding Conference in 2023. The Lullaby Trust came to the CLCH 0-19 conference in November 2023 to show their presentation. There is clear and accessible information about safe sleeping on the CLCH hub page and the Child Accident Prevention Trust information on safer sleeping during Child Safety Week (3rd – 9th June 2024) has been circulated. Records show that safer sleeping is discussed by health visitors home and clinic contacts with parents.

**Some feedback received:**

“As a new parent, this is an informative article. I am looking forward to reading the other articles on child safety.” Thank you. Farhana

- The Lullaby Trust has a wealth of information on this subject and in many different languages for ease of access, this is also able to be accessed visually to help meet everyone's needs.
- Nurses, Midwives, Health Visitors reinforce their message of 'Every Contact Counts' particularly to GPs across the borough via the GP Forum by the Designated Nurse.
- There are several areas to develop, including how to best involve communities where practices may differ to strengthen the message and thinking about how to better involve voluntary agencies.

**LSCP Income and Expenditure:**

Information relating to income and expenditure, and staffing information is available on the LSCP Website.

**Looking Forwards**

**LSCP Executive Board**

The LSCP Executive Board includes the Executive Director of People who is also the DCS for Hammersmith and Fulham Local Authority, the Head of Public Protection for Central West BCU Metropolitan Police, and the Chief Nursing Officer in the North West London ICB. The Executive Board have been meeting regularly and working closely together to discuss the changes outlined in Working Together 2023 at strategic level. Significant consideration has been given regarding how best to implement the changes in a way that will enhance the LSCP and promote the spirit of shared responsibility. The loss of the role of Independent Chair has meant some

challenge in meeting the requirements, however it is hoped that the new way of working will provide a number of new opportunities for growth and development. The agreed arrangements will be ready for publishing at the end of 2024.

### **Focus for 2024 – 2025**

Improved outcomes for children are at the core of what the HFLSCP strives to achieve. The strategic partners alongside the Business Manager will be developing a flexible three-year plan that focuses on:

Strengthening the role of education in the Partnership. The HFLSCP Executive recognises the important role education plays in the lives of children and young people.

Developing the the early response to concerns and prevent young people becoming at risk of exploitation or anti-social behaviour at the earliest stage, via a task and finish group looking at arranging a multi-agency Adolescent Safeguarding Summit.

The HFLSCP will be ensuring that any work carried out will be data informed, have clear goals and impact will be measured effectively in order to ensure success.

Ensuring the recommendations from the Section 11 audits and Rapid Reviews are implemented will continue.

We will be further developing the partnership to ensure all partners are represented, particularly the voluntary and community sector and ensure that there is capacity within the partnership to take forward recommendations from national learning and briefings in a timely way.

The LSCP Website will continue to be developed in collaboration with young people from H&F.

The leadership of the Partnership remain committed to learning, including in the way the Partnership forms it's strategic plans. Reflection on the challenges in delivery and measure of the current priorities and plan have shaped the approach to considering priorities for 2024/2025 and beyond.