



Safer City Partnership Strategy Group

Date: THURSDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2021

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING (ACCESSIBLE REMOTELY)

Members:

Douglas Barrow (Chairman)	Don Randall, City of London Crime Prevention Association
Peter Lisley, Assistant Town Clerk (Deputy Chairman)	Tijs Broeke, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-committee
Marvin Bruno, British Transport Police	Tim Wiseman, City & Hackney CCG
Claire Dumontier-Marriage, Cheapside Business Alliance	Alex Wrigley, Guinness Trust
Renu Gupta, City of London Police Independent Advisory & Scrutiny Group	Sophie Anne Fernandes, Licensing Committee
David Bulbrook, London Fire Brigade	Clare Ansdell, National Probation Service
Bob Benton, City Business Representative	David Evans, City of London Police

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Accessing the virtual public meeting

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John Barradell
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES**

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3. **MINUTES**

To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2020.

For Decision
(Pages 1 - 10)

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

Report of the Town Clerk.

For Information
(Pages 11 - 12)

5. **SUBSTANCE MISUSE IN THE CITY AND HACKNEY ANNUAL REPORT**

Report of the Director of Public Health for City and Hackney.

For Information
(Pages 13 - 36)

6. **PUBLIC PROTECTION SERVICE (ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, LICENSING AND TRADING STANDARDS) UPDATE**

Report of the Director of Markets & Consumer Protection.

For Information
(Pages 37 - 48)

7. **CITY & HACKNEY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT**

Report of the Independent Child Safeguarding Commissioner.

For Information
(Pages 49 - 144)

8. **CITY OF LONDON POLICE UPDATE**

Report of the Commissioner.

For Information
(Pages 145 - 162)

9. **SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE 2021**
Report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
For Decision
(Pages 163 - 170)
10. **PROCEEDS OF CRIME ACT 2002 (POCA) FUNDING - CRITERIA FOR ORGANISATIONS TO ACCESS**
Report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
For Decision
(Pages 171 - 178)
11. **PROJECT KESTRAL**
Oral update of the City of London Crime Prevention Association representative.
For Information
12. **DOMESTIC ABUSE VULNERABILITY AND RISK POLICY UPDATE**
Report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
For Information
(Pages 179 - 184)
13. **STRATEGY 2019-2022 PROGRESS MONITORING AND PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLANS**
Report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
For Decision
(Pages 185 - 200)
14. **LONDON FIRE BRIGADE UPDATE**
Report of the Borough Commander, London Fire Brigade
For Information
(Pages 201 - 204)
15. **COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM UPDATE**
Report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
For Information
(Pages 205 - 210)
16. **SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP INFORMATION SHARING AGREEMENT UPDATE**
Report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
For Decision
(Pages 211 - 212)

17. **DATA PARTNERSHIP REVIEW**

Head of Corporate Strategy and Performance to be heard.

For Information

18. **QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE GROUP**

19. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY GROUP

Friday, 4 December 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Safer City Partnership Strategy Group held at the Guildhall EC2 at 1.00 pm

Present

Douglas Barrow (Chairman)
Peter Lisley (Deputy Chairman)
Clare Dumontier-Marriage
Renu Gupta
David Bulbrook
Bob Benton
Don Randall
Randal Anderson

Tijs Broeke
Tim Wiseman
Sophie Anne Fernandes
David Evans
Patrick Brooks
Ruby Sayed
Deputy James Thomson

Ali Burlington	- Community Safety Officer
Gavin Stedman	- Port Health and Public Protection Director
Andrew Carter	- Director of Community and Children's Services
Alex Orme	- Police Authority Board
Chris Pelham	- Community and Children's Services Department
Helen Isaac	- City of London Police
Christopher Rumbles, Clerk	- Town Clerk's Department
Valeria Cadena	- Community Safety Manager
Ayesha Fordham	- Domestic Abuse, Vulnerability and Risk Policy Officer
Emily Garland	- Remembrancers Office / Town Clerk's Department
Scott Myers	- Community and Children's Services Department
Jillian Reid	- Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
Kate Smith	- Head of Corporate Strategy and Performance
Ellen Wentworth	- Chamberlain's Department
Clare Ansdell	- National Probation Service

The Chairman welcomed Clare Ansdell to her first Safer City Partnership Group meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations in relation to items on the agenda.

3. MINUTES

Resolved, that the minutes of the Safer City Partnership Group meeting on 18th September be approved as an accurate record.

Matters arising

Partnership Data Review – Item 5 on agenda at this meeting with Head of Corporate Strategy in attendance to discuss.

SOS Bus – Bus not required this year due to restrictions in place through the Covid-19 pandemic. Position to be reviewed again next year.

Park Guard Patrol - Plans are in place to meet officers within Community and Children's Services Dept to discuss options around enforcement. Partnership to be kept up to date on these discussions. Park Guard patrol ran as a one-off and there was no comparable data to measure its success.

London Fire Brigade POCA Bid Professionalism of Security Professionals – Update included within Community Safety Team update at item 8 on agenda. Bid not within the Partnership's objectives with POCA funding intended for crime prevention. Alternative funding sources being considered for the bid.

4. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

The Group received a report of the Town Clerk providing Partners with a summary of outstanding actions from previous meetings.

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5. PARTNERSHIP DATA REVIEW

The Head of Corporate Strategy and Performance remarked on the need to ensure a data review was approached in the right way, noting the need for a strategic assessment to start thinking about priorities within this. The Group noted the intention to wrap the Group's data into a review of the City Corporation's Corporate Performance Framework.

A live dashboard would be made available to all Partners to access at any time throughout the year. Information would be available to drill down into allowing insights to be drawn from the range of information from across different Partners. Data level agreements would be put in place to allow partners to access the information and it would not simply be a City of London Corporation product.

Two levels of reporting available through providing an overview or through provided a more detailed dashboard with more granular information. There was already a huge amount of data in the public domain to allow a good framework to be developed.

The Chairman stressed he was keen to see this area of work progress, remarking on how it would be hard to achieve what the partnership wanted without data. The Group noted the intention to bring an interim report to Safer City Partnership in February.

The Community Safety Manager emphasised the importance of Partners contributing to this area of work and giving access to their own data. This would make the process quicker, easier and ensure there was meaningful data from across the range of different agencies. The Chairman emphasised a need for Partners to engage, adding how the data output would be made

available to all Partners but with this only being as good as the information coming in.

Resolved, that the update be noted.

6. **TERMS OF REFERENCE REVIEW AND ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY GROUP**

The Group received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services relating to the role of Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Group from 2021 and changes to the terms of reference setting out the responsibilities, purpose, membership, priorities and sub-groups of the Partnership.

The Director of Community and Children's Services confirmed that Community Safety had now moved to Community and Children's Services Department as part of the City Corporation's new Target Operating Model. The Director explained how this move had provided an opportunity to consider the role of Chair and look across the wider terms of reference of the Group to ensure an appropriate range of partners were being drawn in.

The Chairman welcomed the proposal relating to the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Group, remarking how Safer City Partnership Group had historically been seen incorrectly as an arm of Police Authority Board, which it was not. The move of Community Safety Team to Community and Children's Services Department reflects this and provides a better fit for Safer City Partnership Group. The Chairman proposed the terms of reference allow for 'a nominated representative from Policy Authority Board and Community and Children's Services Committee' to act as Chair; there may be someone better placed on those two Committees to Chair Safer City Partnership Group.

A Member, also Chairman of Community and Children's Services Committee, echoed the Chairman's reasoning and agreed that it made sense for Community and Children's Services Committee to become substantially more involved in the work of Safer City Partnership Group.

The Borough Commander suggested consideration be given to an expansion of Safer City Partnership Group's remit and areas of focus e.g. fire prevention. As part of this, there would be an opportunity to consider funding. There was agreement on making sure the membership was correct and looking to expand this to ensure it reflected a multi-agency approach to public protection.

The Chairman noted the Group's agreement on the role Chair and Deputy Chair of the Group and proposed expansion to the terms of reference. The Chairman confirmed a report would follow at the next meeting for approval and effective from Safer City Partnership in April.

Resolved, that Partners:-

- Support a proposal that the Chairman or Deputy Chairman of Community & Children's Services Committee be elected Chair of Safer

City Partnership (SCP) with Police Authority Board Chairman or Deputy Chairman acting as Deputy SCP Chairman from April 2021.

- Support proposed changes to Terms of Reference and agree to make changes in order to improve effectiveness.

7. CITY OF LONDON POLICE UPDATE

The Group received a report of the Commissioner providing partners with an update on activity of City of London Police since the last meeting, which covered various areas of policing.

The Commissioner remarked on a gradual rise in crime seen across a range of crimes since lockdown had lifted. Violent crime and sexual offences had seen a rise thought to be linked to reopening of licensed premises. Burglary and shoplifting had seen a decrease; a number of premises appeared on the list more than once and officers were working with these companies to offer support. Bike theft received POCA funding last month and this area of crime had seen a decrease of 26%. The Commissioner referred to recent press coverage highlighting the recovery of sixty stolen bikes. The Business Improvement District representative commended the efforts of City of London Police in dealing with bike crime remarking on all the comments received in this regard being very positive.

The Chairman noted the five-year crime trend but questioned whether a more recent time-frame of three years would be more useful to see how City of London Police compared to other Police Forces. The Commissioner explained that a five-year crime trend analysis was deliberate to allow the impacts of specific events, e.g. a Covid-19 pandemic and a year of historic low crime, seeing a smoothing of impact over this longer period of time.

A Partner, also Chairman of Police Authority Board, questioned whether there had been any impact from the introduction of the sector policing model and how awareness of this would be raised in the Community. The Commissioner explained how the City of London Police website displayed contact details for the Sector Policing Team with a named officer for each area and offering a useful contact page to flag other contacts e.g. community support team and other key partners.

The Commissioner further added that the sector policing model had been in place for six weeks and was thought to be working well, with a key local contact in place to address local issues. The Commissioner explained that a communications plan continued to be worked through in looking to get out to people and make them aware of the Sector Policing Team

Resolved, that the update be noted.

8. COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM UPDATE

The Group received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services updating Partners on Community Safety Team activity not otherwise addressed on the agenda.

The Chairman took the opportunity to congratulate the Community Safety Manager on her recent promotion to the role.

The Community Safety Manager referred to a particularly challenging time during the Covid-19 pandemic with six cases of domestic abuse having been reported to the MARAC compared to one or two cases during a normal reporting period. Robust action plans have been agreed and are being worked through with key partners. Cases were not being closed until the MARAC had been satisfied the risk has decreased.

Serious and Organised Crime Board (SOCB) met for the first time this year; priorities for next year are under consideration. Terms of Reference for the Board are also being reviewed, looking to avoid duplication with other areas and strategic oversight be maintained by this Group.

The Community Safety Manager referred to a planned hate crime event as part of National Hate Crime Awareness week. This event would be looking at what can be done to prevent online hate crime. Online hate crime was proving very difficult to tackle, but this was needed given the increasing number of young people and families now spending so much time online; the Community Safety Manager referred to a link provided within the paper to a consultation from the CPS around introducing more robust legislation to tackle online hate crime.

The Chairman note the increased reporting of domestic abuse and remarked on the importance of getting to the root cause and eventually stopping this from happening; it is not just an issue in the City and the Chairman urged Partners to engage where they can have an impact. The Chairman referred to the Proceeds of Crime of Act Fund, noting this had £110k remaining, and encouraged partners to come forward with any bids for consideration that meet the current priorities of the Safer City Partnership.

Resolved, that the update be noted.

9. **DOMESTIC ABUSE VULNERABILITY AND RISK POLICY UPDATE**

The Group received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services providing an update on the City Corporation's domestic abuse COVID-19 response plan for the second national lockdown and how this aligns with the City Corporation's actions around the 16 days of Action Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

The Domestic Abuse, Vulnerability and Risk Policy Officer Group highlighted work that had taken place across Partners in promoting the domestic abuse/VAWG services. Information on domestic abuse had been included within various newsletters, London Fire Brigade had distributed leaflets to publicise services and a range of promotional work had taken place through key partners and forums in highlighting the support available.

Reference was made to the specific requirements of the Bangladeshi community through language barriers that exist with not all within this community able to speak English. It was important vulnerable groups within all

communities are able to access the full range of support available and language was currently presenting a barrier to this.

A specific issue had been identified within the Bangladeshi community, with the pandemic having highlighted an issue requiring specialist support through a telephone interpreter. A Proceeds of Crime Act Fund bid was to be considered as the next item on the agenda requesting funding to support this additional service.

Resolved, that the update be noted.

10. PROCEEDS OF CRIME ACT FUNDING BID 2020 - 2021

a) Violence Against Women and Girls support worker for Bangladeshi Residents within the City of London

The Community Safety Manager referred to the discussion under the previous item and the explanation given on the importance of a support worker for the Bangladeshi Community. There was not currently an appropriate level of engagement with the Bangladeshi community, which was thought in part to be down to language barriers that exist. A support worker would help in overcoming some of these barriers

A Member, also Chairman of Community and Children's Services Committee, referred to his role as Chair of the Asian Women Resource Centre, where they have expertise within the Bangladeshi community and confirmed he would be happy to take a discussion offline and put officers in contact with the Director.

The Commissioner added a note of caution when considering using Proceeds of Crime Fund Act (POCA) to fund a post; POCA was a variable amount of income and strategy would be needed on funding beyond what could prove to be an unreliable funding stream.

The Director of Community and Children's services acknowledged the Commissioner's note of caution, whilst also adding that the bid would offer innovation funding in allowing a period of time needed to engage with the community and establish whether the post would work. POCA funding would be used for the initial phase, after which the position could be reviewed and with a view to mainstreaming it.

The Chairman questioned whether funding should be approved on a one or two-year basis. The Director responded and proposed funding of the post be granted on a one-year basis, with an option of going into two years. The position could be reviewed after one year and if the role was not working then the remaining funding could be reallocated back in the POCA fund. If the role was considered to be working then funding would already be approved and in place for a second year.

The Chairman agreed that it would help the team to know that funding was in place for a two-year period if the post was working and agreed with the

Director's proposed approach. The Chairman asked that a review of the position be undertaken after nine months.

Resolved, approval be given to £71, 818 to cover funding for a two-year fixed term post, with funding of £35.713 released immediately to fund the post on a one-year basis, with the option of going into a second year to follow following a review that would take place after nine months.

11. **PREVENT UPDATE**

The Group received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services providing an update on City of London Corporation's Prevent activity.

The Community Safety Officer explained how the team continued to engage with partners on when and how they can make referrals. A training package was now available that can be delivered to any partner wanting training and the team were keen to push this message out as widely as possible.

The Community Safety Officer referred to a Prevent Forum for Higher and Further Education establishments within the City that had provided an opportunity to build relationships that had not previously been in place. A Prevent framework was now in place that can be delivered in other settings e.g. secondary schools next year.

The Group noted other areas of focus had been through a Counter Terrorism Policing Prevent 'Act Early' website campaign promoted through various sources, staff intranet page, social media and inclusion within a Residents at Home newsletter.

The Chairman suggested that information be circulated to Partners offering information on areas the Community Safety Team were working on and which may be of interest.

Resolved, that the update be noted.

12. **RESPONSES TO ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB) IN THE CITY OF LONDON: UPDATE REPORT**

The Group received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services updating Partners on the activities of the two-year funded post of the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator and Strategy Officer.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator explained how the update presented the Community Safety Team's response to anti-social behaviour in the City and continued efforts at addressing concerns in this area.

The Chairman remarked on how impressed he was with all the work that was ongoing by so many people in looking to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Resolved, that the update be noted.

13. **LONDON FIRE BRIGADE UPDATE**

The Group received a report of the Borough Commander providing Partners with an update of activity of London Fire Brigade, City, since the last Safer City Partnership Group meeting.

The Borough Commander remarked on how it had been a busy period for London Fire Brigade, City. Attendance time at incidents in the city was within the target time and one of the best in London. A reduction had been seen in the number of false alarms, which was in part down to Covid-19, but also changes to operational procedures in allowing increased training to be delivered.

The Chairman acknowledged the impressive response times in arriving at incidents and the encouraging reduction seen in false alarms.

Resolved, that the update be noted.

14. **COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES UPDATE**

The Group received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services providing an update on activity within the Community and Children's Services Department.

The Director explained how the report updated Partners on the work that had continued in supporting those that were clinically and extremely vulnerable and setting out the response and support now available to them following a move out of lockdown and into a tiered system. The Director also set out the latest position in relation to Covid-19 testing, add that the new testing centre in Guildhall Yard that continues to have capacity for people to come forward.

Resolved, that the update be noted.

15. **PUBLIC PROTECTION SERVICE (ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, LICENSING AND TRADING STANDARDS) UPDATE**

The Group received a report of the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection updating on work of the department that contributes to the Safer City Partnership through its Public Protection Service.

The Port Health and Public Protection Director highlighted the great success of the pilot project looking at tackling illegal street trading and a proposal being presented to Committee that this project be extended for a further two years.

The Chairman questioned the approach to the Late Light Levy at this time, which the Director explained was a legal requirement to charge, but with businesses not currently getting income coming in it was hoped a change in legislation may be forthcoming from the Home Office to resolve this.

Resolved, that the update be noted.

16. **QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE GROUP**

There were no questions.

17. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cheapside Business Improvement District – The Cheapside Business Improvement District representative referred to public realm work that would be taking place in the area with planters being put into at certain locations to prevent vans from accessing these areas. Reassurance was offered to partners that the bollards would go down when blue light access was required by the emergency services.

The Chairman concluded the meeting by thanking those Members of the public watching the meeting through YouTube.

The meeting concluded at 2.35pm

Chairman

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SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP GROUP

26 February 2020

OUTSTANDING REFERENCES

No.	Meeting Date & Reference	Action	Owner	Status
1	7.11.19 Item 6 Partnership Data Review	Multi-agency strategic assessment to be developed. Update to be provided at next meeting. Initial scoping exercise undertaken. Draft strategy to be prepared. Chairman stressed a need for SCP to receive analytical support.	Community Safety Manager / Head of Corporate Strategy and Performance	<u>ONGOING:</u> Oral update provided at SCP on 04.12.20 Head of Corporate Strategy and Performance to present at SCP on 25.2.21
2	26.02.18 SOS Bus	Deployment of bus Christmas 2019. Further review to take place at the end of the year when data collected will be expanded upon in an effort to understand additional areas to focus on e.g. drinking cultures at certain organisations. Initial discussions have taken place looking at CoLP/Corporation purchasing their own bus. Alternative provision being looked at in consultation with St Bultoph's Church and St John's Ambulance.	City of London Police / Community Safety Team	<u>COMPLETE</u> No immediate plans to consider deployment of SOS Bus. CoLP to update the Partnership should the position change in the future.
3	7.11.19 Item 13 Park Guard Patrol (Middlesex Street)	Commissioner and Head of Community Safety to agree how to monitor success of the £5k POCA fund bid for a Park Guard Patrol on Middlesex Street. Patrol seen as positive in offering increased visibility and reassurance to the public, but very hard to measure when	Commissioner / Head of Community Safety	<u>COMPLETE</u> Meeting in December 2020 considered enforcement options and costs and this will potentially be

No.	Meeting Date & Reference	Action	Owner	Status
		look at what has been prevented.		something for inclusion in the CoL tender process later this year. Further meetings to take place to progress this during the year.
4	18.09.20 Item 9 Proceeds of Crime Act Funding Bid	Proposed future Proceeds of Crime Act Funding Bid relating to Professionalisation of Security Professional.	Borough Commander / Community Safety Manager	<u>COMPLETE</u> Bid not in line with Partnership's objectives.
5	04.12.20 Item 6 Terms of Reference Review	Role of Chair and Deputy Chair and Terms of Reference to be reported back at meeting on 26 th February 2021. Role of Chair and Deputy Chairman to be presented seeking approval along with consideration of expanded terms of reference for the Group to consider.	Director of Community and Children's Services	<u>COMPLETE</u> Report to be presented at Safer City Partnership on 25.02.21.
6	04.12.20 Item 11 Community Safety Team	Information to be circulated to Partners offering information on areas the Community Safety Team were working on and which may be of interest.	Community Safety Manager	<u>COMPLETE</u> Information circulated to Partners 25.01.21.

Substance misuse in the City of London and Hackney



Annual report of the Director of Public Health for
City and Hackney 2019/20

Foreword

Dr Sandra Husbands
Director of Public Health for
City and Hackney



I have chosen to focus on substance misuse, both alcohol and drug use, for my first report as the joint Director of Public Health for the City of London and Hackney. This is in order to highlight not just the many harms caused by alcohol misuse and illicit substances but also to call for a greater focus on the actions that can be taken to address these harms. No one agency can effectively prevent or provide services to our residents who are experiencing the wide-ranging health and social impacts of substance misuse.

The impacts of Covid-19 continue to be felt across all aspects of our communities, services and businesses. The extent to which the pandemic continues to change society is still evolving and this is also the case for substance misuse. Supply of both alcohol and illicit substances was significantly disrupted along with treatment services - rapid changes needed to be implemented to ensure substitute prescribing could be safely maintained and services shifted online.

Fear, stress and worry are all normal responses to the unknown and have been heightened throughout the pandemic compounded by far reaching effects on every aspect of daily life. The short, medium- and long-term effect of the pandemic and its interrelationship with substance misuse and mental health is only now starting to be understood. For some people, the disruption has led to a reduction in harmful behaviours. For others, increased mental health stresses have led to increased substance misuse.

For too long the combined challenges of a so-called dual diagnosis, of both a mental health condition and substance misuse, has made accessing treatment and care for either or both more difficult. Services have not always worked together as needed to ensure there is no wrong door into services and to start the journey to recovery.

In my report I describe the need, harms and local responses to substance misuse, and I call for the adoption of six principles that should underpin our approach, rooted in evidence-based interventions and recognised good practice.

The common factor uniting these principles is the need for partnership working. In recognition of this, I will be seeking feedback and advice on these recommendations prior to the production of a supplementary second part to this report, to be published in the new year.

In developing these principles by incorporating the views of political representatives, service users and those within the local health system, I aim to assure their success through consensus building and shared ownership. This should ultimately allow us to review the full scope of services and public health interventions and agree where we should focus our attention as the system responds to the challenges brought about by the pandemic.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sandra Husbands'.

Executive summary

Substance misuse creates harms for the individual, their families, and the wider community. To effectively address substance misuse, a partnership approach is required across the widest range of organisations and society to not only support people into effective treatment, but also strengthen protective factors and address the root causes. This partnership needs to reflect the interrelatedness of the risk factors which make people more vulnerable to problematic use of drugs and alcohol.

Drug and alcohol misuse contribute towards a wide range of physical and mental health conditions, increasing the risk of illness, hospital admissions and premature death. Furthermore, drug and alcohol misuse are often associated with poverty, insecure housing, homelessness and unemployment. It can negatively impact on friends and family, as well as having negative social consequences such as crime, anti-social behaviour and economic costs. These are not issues that can be remedied by either the public health or medical professions working in isolation. Addressing them requires a broad coalition of partners such as probation services, the police, the education sector, adult social care and mental health providers among others. This needs to be underpinned by strong political support and advocacy.

In Hackney and the City approximately one third of adults are estimated to drink more than the recommended low risk limit (14 units of alcohol per week). Only a minority of those with alcohol dependency are receiving treatment.

Just over 4,000 16-59-year olds in Hackney and around 100 in the City of London are frequent drug users. In Hackney only 44 % of the estimated number of residents using opiates, and 10 % using non-opiate/crack, are accessing treatment. These figures indicate a high level of unmet need.

Priority local issues that need to be addressed include:

- The reducing number of residents with alcohol dependence accessing treatment services, especially given local high alcohol related hospital admissions and death rates
- An ageing cohort of opiate and poly-drug users, with significant physical and psychological health needs
- The number of residents with both mental health conditions and substance misuse who are not currently receiving any mental health support
- Increasing inequalities locally and nationally, including for health, housing, employment, education and income
- The impact of the coronavirus crisis locally, including the additional negative impacts this is having on mental health and inequalities
- Significant improvement in equity of access to a full range of drug and alcohol treatment interventions through the newly commissioned Hackney and the City integrated service.

The basis of our response to these issues must be prompt identification and effective prevention of substance misuse and related harm.

This includes preventative measures, such as education and information provision; early intervention and brief advice; and specialist treatment, including in-patient care. From October 2020 Hackney and the City has had

a single integrated drug and alcohol treatment service. This will build on the successes of the previous service, but it has also been designed to address the gaps identified above. If we are successful with this approach, it should lead to a greater level of resilience to substance misuse in both the individuals at risk and our community more broadly.

Six core principles should underpin this response. Achieving them requires commitment from all stakeholders, and so consensus building will be key as we chart a path forward.

- 1) **Prevent:** reduce the availability of alcohol and illicit substances, increase price and restrict marketing especially where viewable by children.
- 2) **Assess:** Universal use of assessment tools to identify children and adults at risk of substance misuse harms, including both use and dealing especially so called “county lines”. These tools need to be implemented across all services who come into contact with residents including education, housing, social care, health and criminal justice settings.
- 3) **Dual Diagnosis:** All clients accessing health or social care services with a suspected or confirmed mental illnesses are assessed for substance misuse at least every 12 months and an up to date dual treatment plan is recorded where a need is identified.
- 4) **Inform:** Provide locally relevant information on the effects of substance misuse and where to get support, treatment or to exit illicit dealing/supply-ensuring information is widely known and all practitioners are confident to make an effective referral to local services.
- 5) **Refer:** Where either a vulnerability or existing substance misuse need is identified an effective referral is made within the last 12 months, documented and follow up enquiry made with the client.
- 6) **Excel:** A renewed local focus on helping people into effective treatment and ensure treatment outcomes including reductions in drugs overdoses, abstinence or harm reduction and successful blood borne virus outcomes are amongst the best in country.

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1. Background



Alcohol and drug use occur in all sections of society across England, but the nature, extent and acceptability varies significantly with culture and religion. The majority of people do not use illicit drugs or drink above the recommended limits. However, a significant number do, and this can have a serious negative impact on their physical and mental health, social relationships, economic circumstances and lifestyle choices, in addition to wider family, environmental and economic impacts.

In Hackney and the City of London, we are committed to reducing the harm associated with drugs and alcohol. We will do this not only by providing up to date and accurate information on the risks of substance use (allowing local people to make an informed decision about their choices) but also by providing excellent and effective treatment and support to those who are affected by substance misuse. Importantly, individuals struggling with substance misuse will be fully involved in the decisions made about their treatment journey.

However, providing information and services in itself is not sufficient. To effectively address substance misuse there must be ongoing partnership work to address the root causes and ensure that the treatment system is trusted and easily accessible. Outcomes should not only focus on harm minimisation, recovery and abstinence but also ensuring clients are able to address housing, employment and wider health issues. All agencies across the private, voluntary and statutory sector must work together to ensure effective identification of need, referral and ongoing support for residents who would benefit from accessing treatment services. We recognise the importance of behavioural science and continue to look at opportunities to embed behavioural insight-led approaches into our work.

2. Substance misuse and its impacts

Physical and mental health

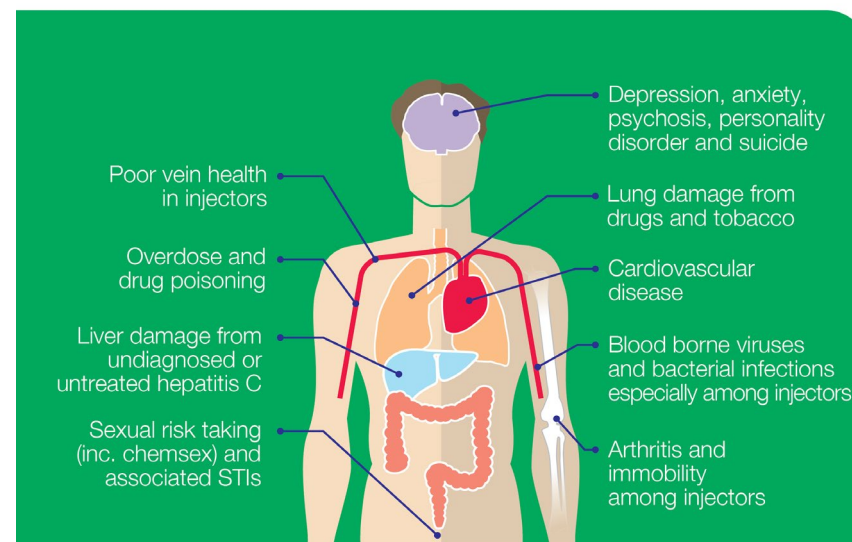
Physical health

Alcohol and drug misuse are associated with a wide range of negative physical health outcomes. In the short-term this can include indigestion, nausea, diarrhoea, changes to appetite, heart rate, wakefulness, blood pressure, and mood changes. Individuals can also overdose from substances which can lead to death. In the longer term, it can also increase the risk of a wide range of long-term physical health conditions, including stroke, cardiovascular disease, cancers, psychosis and brain damage. Some of the longer-term health risks associated with alcohol and drug misuse are outlined in the images on the right-hand side of the page, courtesy of Public Health England. [1]

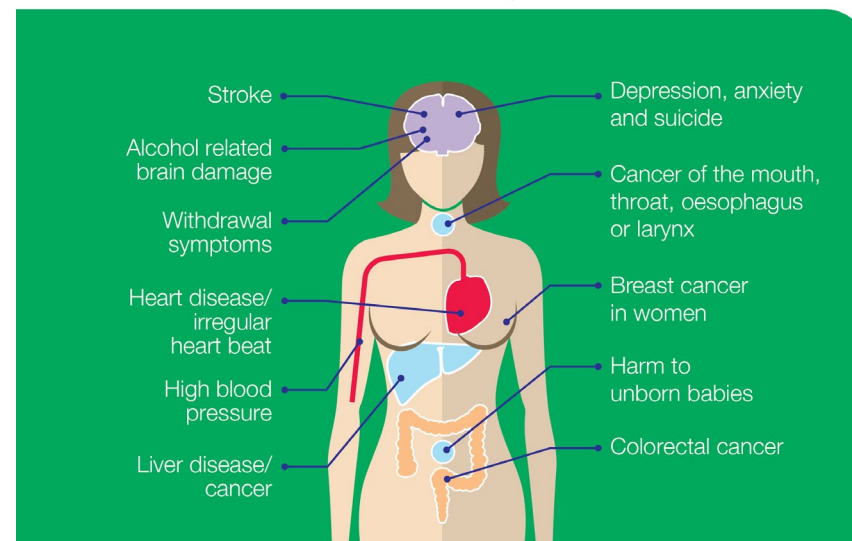


Public Health
England

Drug misuse damages health



Alcohol use damages health

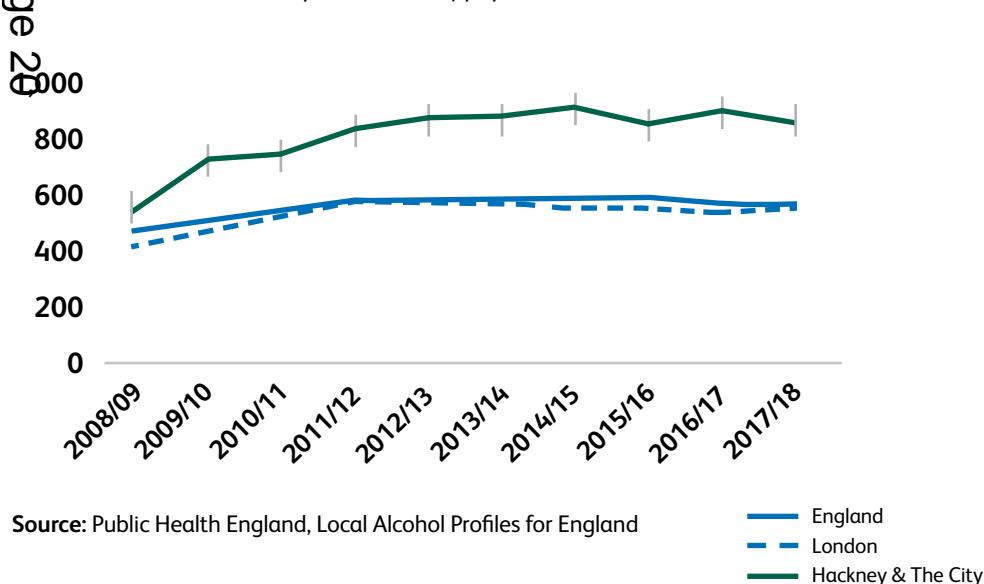


Local health data

The rate of drug related deaths in Hackney¹ has consistently been greater than both the England and London average recent years. Between 2015 - 2017, there were 50 recorded drug related deaths in Hackney equating to 6.4 deaths per 100,000 population, compared to 3.0 for London. Although this reduced to 44 for 2016-18, 5.4 deaths per 100,000, this remains above the rate for London at 3.1 per 100,000, or England at 4.5 per 100,000.

Alcohol is the leading risk factor for ill health, early death and disability among people aged 15-49 years in England and the 5th leading risk factor for these areas across all age groups. [2]. In terms of hospital admissions, alcohol has a significant impact locally, as seen in Figure 1. This is for adults only, for under 18s the figure is lower than England and London averages.

Figure 1: Rates of alcohol-specific hospital admission episodes (all ages, directly age standardised rate per 100,000 of population, 2008/09 to 2017/18)



¹ Data not available for City of London due to small numbers



Mental health

Poor mental health can be both a cause and a consequence of substance misuse. Compared with the general population, people addicted to drugs or alcohol are approximately twice as likely to suffer from mood and anxiety disorders and, similarly, people with mental health problems are more likely to be dependent on drugs and/or alcohol. [3] Evidence indicates that alcohol use causally increases the risk of depression, however, there is also evidence that many people in the UK drink alcohol in order to help them cope with emotions or situations that they would otherwise find difficult to manage. [4] [5] Over 40 % of new presentations to the local drug and alcohol treatment service in 2017/18 self-reported a concern with mental health and asked for support.

Socioeconomic impacts

The importance of partnership working becomes clear when we consider the range of wider socioeconomic issues that have a reciprocal relationship with substance misuse. Issues that are strongly associated include poor housing, social deprivation and unemployment. These can only be tackled in the context of the wider system, necessitating the involvement of multiple agencies. One of the key roles of Public Health is to facilitate this kind of partnership working, by developing professional relationships, helping colleagues understand what the data is telling us, and creating opportunities for partners to develop system-level solutions. This should all be rooted in an empathetic, strengths-based approach that recognises the value of the individual.

This kind of attitude is exemplified by MEAM, making every adult matter. This framework is used by local partnerships across England to develop a coordinated approach to tackling multiple disadvantage in their local area. Locally, our STEPS (Supporting Transitions and Empowering People Service) program provides numerous examples of how powerful this can be. A case study is provided in **Appendix B**.

Poor housing and Homelessness

Drug and alcohol problems can be both a cause and a symptom of homelessness, with substance use being recognised locally as a key driver for rough sleeping. [6] In 2019/20, 275 and 434 rough sleepers were identified in Hackney and the City of London respectively, a large increase of 112 people in Hackney and a small reduction of 7 people in the City of London since the previous year. Of rough sleepers assessed across London during this time period, 77 % reported using drugs, alcohol and/or having a mental health need, demonstrating that substance use and mental health are significant risk factors within the local homeless population.

Rough sleepers are among those most vulnerable to the risks of coronavirus, and given the impact coronavirus is having on employment and the wider economy it is likely that more people will become homeless over the coming months. In response to the needs of this high risk group, in line with the wider government initiative, Hackney Council and the City of London Corporation worked to find appropriate accommodation for everyone sleeping rough, or in a shelter, in Hackney and the City during lockdown. This has provided an opportunity for the council/corporation, local health trusts and voluntary sector and community organisations to engage the homeless population and provide wraparound support in a way that was not previously possible.

The *Covid Homeless Rapid Integrated Screening Protocol* (CHRISP) conducted by clinicians from University College London Hospital (UCLH), following the 'Everyone In' initiative to protect the homeless during the pandemic, provided a health assessment for 140 rough sleepers in Hackney. CHRISP data found 51 % of rough sleepers met clinical thresholds for a diagnosis of depression and/or anxiety, with a further 25 % suffering from a severe mental health condition, such as bipolar disorder or psychosis. A further 17 % were dually diagnosed, meeting the clinical thresholds for daily injecting drug use and severe mental health.

Importantly, this focus on delivering health and wellbeing interventions to recently housed rough sleepers includes testing for Covid-19, alongside the screening of blood borne virus, tuberculosis, and physical and mental health. The Covid-19, Homeless, Rapid, Integrated, Screening Protocol survey is being carried out by UCLH's Find and Treat team. Findings from CHRISP will inform a local needs assessment of this population to further inform local pathways, service delivery and the identification of appropriate move on options for longer term sustained housing.

Deprivation

People living in more deprived areas live, on average, shorter and unhealthier lives. [7] Deprivation is linked to almost all health outcomes. In terms of substance misuse, there is an association between deprivation and prevalence of opiate and crack cocaine use, and also an association with poorer treatment outcomes. The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is a combination of a number of indices: income deprivation; employment deprivation; health deprivation and disability; education skills and training deprivation; barriers to housing and services; living environment deprivation; and crime. [8] In 2019, Hackney was ranked² the 22nd most deprived local authority in England and the City of London was the 135th out of 149. Hackney continues to rank poorly in areas such as income, crime, barriers to housing and services and has over 50% of the lower super output areas ranked as being in the most deprived 20% nationally.

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Employment

Drug and alcohol use and misuse is known to have an impact on employment, and other areas that support employment such as education and training programmes.



For example, alcohol misuse has been estimated to cost £7billion in lost productivity across the country. [10] In addition, the majority of individuals engaged in drug and alcohol treatment report they are unemployed. Effective treatment services work to support service users back into employment or other kinds of meaningful activities. Employment and recovery from drug and alcohol misuse are mutually reinforcing.

² Rank of Extent

Friends and family

Drugs and alcohol can also have a negative impact on friends and family. A recent national survey in England found that one in five adults had been harmed by the drinking of another person in the previous 12 months. [11]

Parental drug and alcohol misuse can also have a detrimental effect on the health and wellbeing of children. The Department for Education's (DfE's) **Characteristics of children in need** showed that in 2016 to 2017, drug use was assessed as a factor (either parent or child-related) in 19.7 % of cases and alcohol use was a factor in 18 %. It is associated with an increased likelihood of the children partaking in risk-taking behaviours, reduced educational attainment and earlier uptake of drugs or alcohol. Alcohol during pregnancy also creates a risk of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), causing neurodevelopmental problems that impact on the life chances of those affected.

In 2017/18:

- 11 new presentations to drug and alcohol treatment across Hackney and the City of London were pregnant women, equating to 5 % of all new presentations
- 14 % of new presentations for alcohol misuse and 12 % of new presentations for drug misuse were living with children in 2017/18 (their own or others)
- However, in Hackney it is estimated that only 16 % of alcohol dependent residents and 55 % of opiate dependant residents living with children are receiving drug and alcohol treatment, demonstrating a notable unmet need. Numbers in the City of London are too small for meaningful analysis. [12]

Hackney and the City's Pregnancy Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)

Since 2018 Hackney Recovery Service's offer to pregnant women has improved significantly in response to this unmet need. The Pregnancy MDT was also established in response to the specific needs of pregnant and perinatal women in Hackney and the City, which included greater co-occurring mental health issues in this population:

- The pregnancy and perinatal MDT consists of the consultant psychiatrist, families worker, midwife, recovery workers, and the health visitor.
- The MDT occurs every two weeks, via Microsoft Teams.
- The focus of the MDT is around holistic assessment of substance misuse difficulties, diagnosis of comorbid mental health difficulties, psychosocial planning, communication and feedback from midwives, MDT planning, sharing of information, and referral to mental health perinatal services if required.

Outcomes from this innovative partnership working include; increased referrals to Mother and Baby Units, with treatment being prioritised for pregnant women through referrals to detox units and rehabilitation facilities, the MDT has been able to advocate for women and identify additional needs such as complex PTSD, social and general anxiety and bipolar disorder. Women have successfully been referred to Hackney's Orbit service to continue learning about how substance misuse impacts upon theirs and their babies' health and wellbeing and to learn parenting and self-care skills.

Wider society

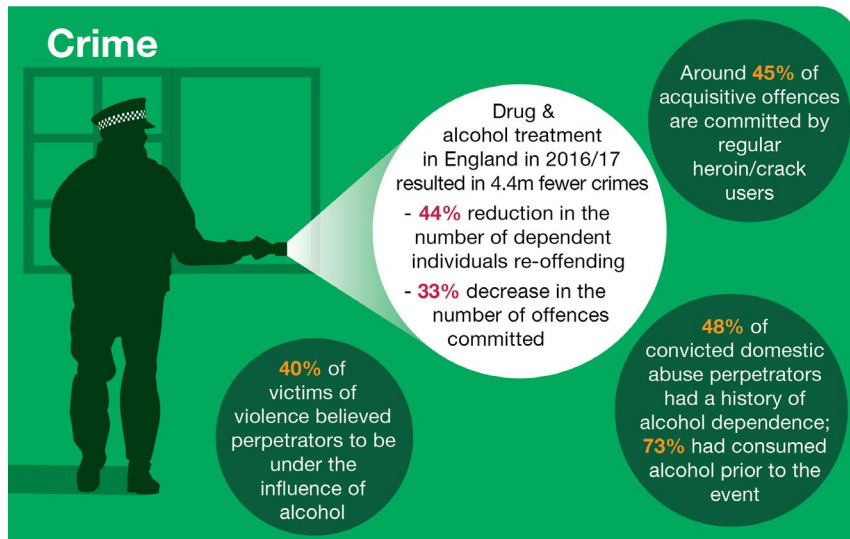
Crime

Acquisitive crime, violent crime and domestic abuse are particularly associated with drug and alcohol misuse. Up to 80 % of weekend arrests are alcohol related and over half of violent crime is committed under the influence of alcohol. [13] Furthermore 45 % of all acquisitive offences (for example theft, burglary, and robbery) are committed by regular heroin or crack cocaine users. [14]

Local data across the City of London and Hackney echo the above statements with ambulance dispatches for alcohol assaults increasing at times and on days where alcohol is more likely to be consumed. It is important to note that Hackney and the City's night time economy is attractive to visitors, so the increase may not wholly relate to the residents.

Drug and alcohol treatment have a proven track record of reducing crime.

Drug and alcohol misuse harms communities*



Annual costs of drug misuse and alcohol related harm*



Economic costs

The costs associated with drug and alcohol use, and their associated harms, are substantial. They include costs associated with deaths, NHS treatment, crime, policing and lost productivity in the workplace. [1]

The evidence shows us that alcohol and drug treatment helps people to recover and is value for money. Treatment is associated with immediate and long-term savings to the public purse, e.g.

every £1 spent on drug treatment, saves £2.50

* * Courtesy of Public Health England

3. Prevalence of substance misuse in the City and Hackney

It is challenging to estimate how many people use substances within a local area. This is partly due to the hidden nature of substance misuse, possibly linked to the legal status of many substances, or potential feelings of shame or embarrassment. Many people also underestimate the risks associated with their lifestyle choices; for example, underestimating their alcohol consumption by as much as 40 %, and how risky their drinking patterns are. [15]

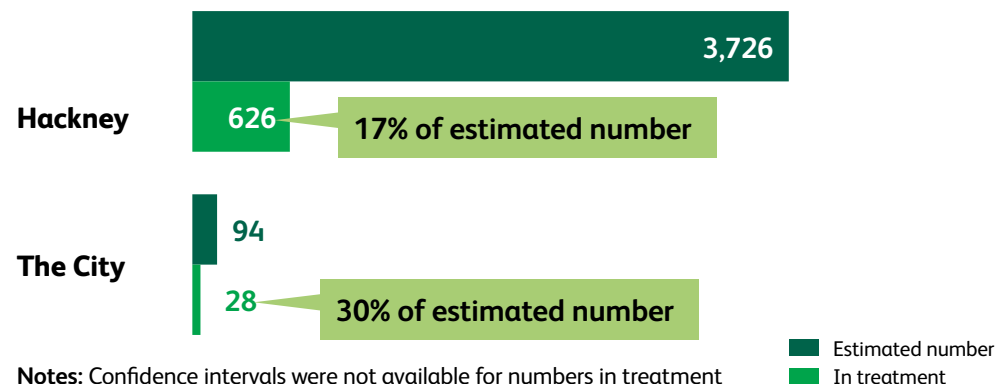
However, there are some estimation tools available that give local authorities and other services (e.g. healthcare) an idea of the amount of substance misuse occurring in a local area, and therefore, the support and treatment needed.

Alcohol

About one third of adults in Hackney are estimated to drink more than 14 units of alcohol per week (commonly agreed to be the lower risk limit for alcohol consumption) but around one fifth of residents abstain from alcohol completely. [16] A local survey in 2019 suggested that some people may not have good insight into their drinking habits, with over 70 % of those who thought they did not drink to excess being assessed as ‘high-risk’ drinkers using the AUDIT-C tool.

Public Health England estimates that nearly 4,000 residents across the City and Hackney are dependent on alcohol, with 83 % of those adults in Hackney and 69 % in the City not receiving treatment for this. [18]

Figure 2: Estimated number of Hackney and City of London residents with alcohol dependency (age 18+, 2016/17) compared to numbers in treatment (age 18+, 2017/18)



System wide approaches to prevention can help our community to reduce levels of harmful drinking, and multidisciplinary alcohol care teams linking primary care, secondary care and the community are very effective in reducing alcohol harms and costs to the health system and wider society.

Cross-sectional data extracted from primary care records on 1st April 2018 showed that 16 % of City and 6 % of Hackney residents registered with a GP aged 18 and over had completed an AUDIT-C assessment. Of these, nearly 500 City residents and 5,475 Hackney residents aged 18 and over had an AUDIT-C score of 5 and above indicating increasing or higher risk drinking (8 % and 2 % of the resident adult population respectively). Brief advice and screening such as this are essential to a systems wide approach to the identification and prevention of substance misuse.

Drugs

The 2017/18 Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) gives an estimate of the prevalence of people using drugs in London. We can use this prevalence estimate by applying it to our local population data. This crudely predicts the number of people using drugs in Hackney and the City (Table 1). The CSEW also estimates that around 2.1 % of 16-59-year olds nationally are frequent drug users³. [19] Applied locally to 2018 population projections, these estimates suggest that just over 4,000 16-59-year olds in Hackney and around 100 in the City of London are frequent drug users.

Table 1: Local estimates of Hackney and the City residents using drugs in the last year by type (age 16-59, 2017/18)

Substance type	National prevalence England	Regional prevalence London	Hackney estimated No.	City of London estimated No.
Any Class A drug ⁴	3.5 %	3.3 %	6,387 (2.2 %) ⁵	165 (1.9 %) ⁶
Any drug ⁷	9.0 %	9.3 %	18,001 (6.4 %)	466 (5.6 %)

Source: Home Office, CSEW 2017/18, [18]

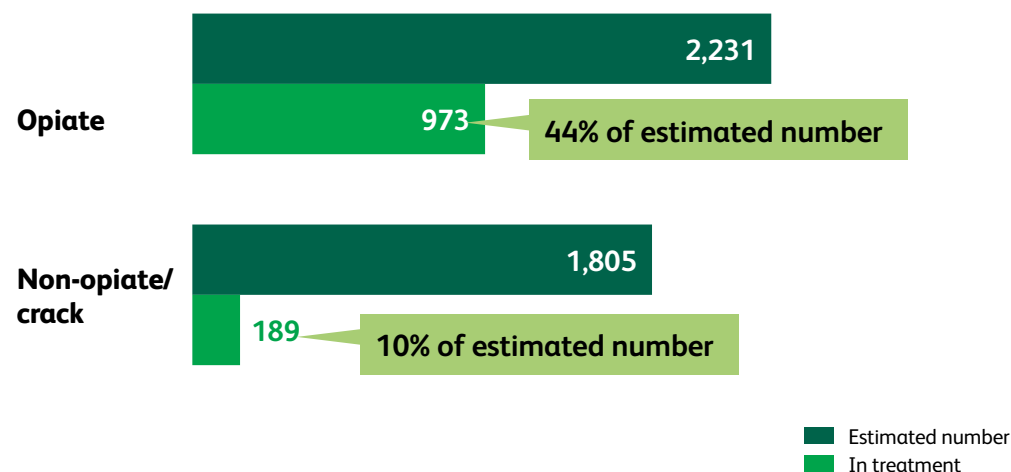
³ Frequent use refers to use of any drug more than once a month in the past year.

⁴ Any Class A drug' comprises powder cocaine, crack cocaine, ecstasy, LSD, magic mushrooms, heroin, methadone and methamphetamine.

⁵ Based on the 2018 mid-year population estimate of 279,700

Public Health England uses a tool developed by Liverpool John Moores University to estimate the prevalence of opiate and/or crack cocaine use in local areas. [20] This tool suggests there are approximately 2,880 residents across Hackney and the City using opiates and/or crack cocaine. As with alcohol, there is a high level of unmet need, with over half of those estimated as dependent on opiates and/or crack cocaine not receiving treatment for this.

Figure 3: Estimated number of Hackney residents using opiates and/or crack cocaine (age 15-64, 2016/17) compared to numbers in treatment (age 18+, 2017/18)



⁶ Based on the 2019 mid-year population estimate of 8,700

⁷ Any drug' comprises powder cocaine, crack cocaine, ecstasy, LSD, magic mushrooms, heroin, methadone, amphetamines, cannabis, tranquillisers, anabolic steroids and any other pills/powders/drugs smoked, ketamine, methamphetamine and mephedrone.

4. Emerging issues

Mental health and Dual Diagnosis

Unfortunately, due to continually increasing health inequalities, a deteriorating economy and the coronavirus crisis, prevalence of mental health problems in the City and Hackney are likely to increase over the coming months and years. Mental health thus needs to be a high priority to strengthen prevention efforts with substance misuse, as in 2019/20, 56 % of substance misuse treatment service users had a mental health treatment need identified.

Published guidance emphasises that an integrated approach to treatment and support is essential. Yet, a quarter of all new presentations to Hackney and the City's treatment system in 2019/20, with a self-disclosed mental health issue, were not receiving any support or treatment for their mental health.

However, work is underway in Hackney and the City to review and improve the pathways and partnership working between substance misuse and mental health services, so that service users receive more joined up care going forward. In North East London, a novel approach to mental health service provision is emerging, focusing on blended teams that draw on a wide range of partners to meet the needs of our community. Our new substance misuse provider is becoming more engaged with this promising neighbourhoods model, enabling service users to have a package of support that is tailored to their specific needs. Along with this additional capacity to bring drug and alcohol treatment into the community to better tailor the recovery journey to the individual's need, the new substance misuse service will provide a Dual Diagnosis post to lead on evidence based, best practice for substance misuse to complement the work of the new blended mental health teams.

Increasing inequality

The recently published report: Health equity in England: *The Marmot Review 10 years on*, [22] found that inequalities in the UK have continued to increase across a wide range of domains, including health, education, housing, employment and income. This is likely to be at least partly a consequence of the last decade of austerity, including factors such as the closure of children's centres; declines in education funding; an increase in precarious work and zero hours contracts; a housing affordability crisis and a rise in homelessness; more people with insufficient money to lead a healthy life and resorting to food banks; and ignored communities with poor living conditions and little reason for hope.

These increasing inequalities are likely to directly and indirectly led to increased levels of substance misuse. Often, inequalities are interrelated and can have a compounding effect. For example, low income is a risk factor on its own but children living in poverty are also more likely to be exposed to adverse childhood experiences. These experiences in turn elevate the risk that children and young people will experience negative health and social outcomes across the life course, including higher risk of substance misuse. The more adverse childhood experiences, the worse the outcomes are likely to be. For example, where children have four or more adverse childhood experiences, they are five times more likely to use illicit drugs and seven times more likely to be addicted to alcohol than children who have not. [23]

The effect of inequalities is being magnified by the coronavirus pandemic, and regardless of how quickly we can overcome the virus, these impacts are likely to be felt for a long time to come.

Many people have experienced trauma as a result of the crisis, including frontline workers, people who have lost loved ones, those who were seriously ill but recovered and those who struggled to feed or look after themselves and their families during the crisis. Economic inequalities have increased, with the least affluent struggling more than ever with debts, housing, employment and health. Children from the most deprived families are also most likely to have had their education negatively impacted by lockdown restrictions, which will have long-term effects on their opportunities in life.

All these issues create risk factors for substance misuse. How we respond to coronavirus therefore has significance far beyond the direct effects of the virus; it will determine the future of our community and our ability to build an environment that is conducive to lowering the risk factors for harmful use of alcohol and drugs.

Changes in the City of London

The Covid-19 pandemic and the introduction of strict social distancing measures, combined with “lockdown” in March 2020 and move to Tier 2 and 3 Covid restrictions, has led to a huge shift in the daytime population in the City of London. With the vast majority of City workers and other desk-based workers in central London working from home and the likelihood that this will remain the case in at least the short- to medium-term, this brings about significant changes to the Night Time Economy (NTE) in the Square Mile. These changes will, in turn, have a large impact on the “social” use of alcohol and substances among City workers and visitors to the City’s NTE; the effects of which it is too early to confirm. Most cocaine use among City workers has typically been in combination with alcohol consumption.

In addition, increased working from home has necessitated different approaches in terms of supporting City employers to share messages about alcohol and drug related harm and harm reduction with their workforces, such as through virtual channels and signposting to digital resources. This is not necessarily the case with regards to the City’s “hidden” workforce (such as security guards and cleaners), who continue to travel into the Square Mile and work on-site.

5. Conclusion and recommendations

The challenges that substance misuse creates for individuals and families in our community are only likely to increase as the broader social impacts of the pandemic become apparent. The current pattern of need across the City and Hackney highlights how important it is for us to ensure our treatment services are able to deliver for those affected, and our approaches to prevention must take in to account the wider determinants of health and focus on reducing health inequalities between different groups in our population.

None of this can be achieved by single measures that tackle isolated problems. We need the entire system to respond, and partners must work together to achieve this. As such, any recommendations should be made in the spirit of collaboration and consensus. I therefore propose the following six principles that should underpin partnership working. We will seek feedback from these partners to agree on how these principles should be employed and developed in response to the increasing need we are likely to see in the coming months and years.

Prevent

Reduce the availability of alcohol and illicit substances, increase price and restrict marketing especially where viewable by children.

A fundamental component of our approach to reducing the harms of substance misuse is creating an environment that is less conducive to it. For alcohol, Shoreditch and Dalston are already Special Policy Areas, creating a presumption that new licencing applications will be refused; more generally,

we advocate to continually seek appropriate and effective opportunities to discourage excessive consumption, through reducing 'special offers' and price reductions.

Our new service provider is obliged to support and promote local and national campaigns (e.g. Dry January, Alcohol Awareness Week), in an effective and strategic manner. The City and Hackney should use these opportunities to support national efforts to reinforce messaging around alcohol consumption, in particular zero alcohol during pregnancy; Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders increase the future risks of substance misuse for those affected, and prevention is thus crucial to breaking recurrent cycles of alcohol misuse across generations.

Assess

Universal use of assessment tools in all agencies to identify children and adults at risk of substance misuse harms, including both use and dealing especially so called "county lines".

Consistent application of assessment frameworks must be a cornerstone of our approach to substance misuse. We need all professionals to be confident in applying these, such as the AUDIT-C framework for alcohol, and tools such as DAST for illicit substances, and to have clear subsequent referral pathways and mechanisms. Our new service provider is working closely with GPs to ensure a seamless transition of referral pathways, and this needs to be the case for all partners in the health system and social care.

Application of assessment frameworks also underpins our ability to recognise young people at risk of exploitation. The incentives for young people to become involved in gangs and “county lines” can be powerful, and we need a multiagency approach to supporting parents and carers to overcome these. Appropriate assessment forms the basis of this approach.

Dual Diagnosis

All clients accessing health or social care services with a suspected or confirmed mental illnesses are assessed for substance misuse at least every 12 months and an up to date dual treatment plan is recorded where a need is identified.

The interrelationship between mental health and substance misuse creates challenges in delivering services for people with the most complex needs. Joined up services which seek to eliminate the walls between interventions for mental health and substance misuse require good record keeping and dual treatment plans, designed to allow people to reconnect with services if treatment is halted prematurely.

Inform

Provide locally relevant information on the effects of substance misuse and where to get support, treatment or to exit illicit dealing/supply - ensuring information is widely known and all practitioners are confident to make an effective referral to local services.

All partners in the health, social care and education sectors need to be confident and aware of the services we are providing, with the opportunity to develop relationships with providers and develop an understanding of the services offered. Open days and networking meetings should be encouraged

and can be facilitated by the Public Health team. Public Health in conjunction with our new service provider Turning point will also aim to develop our approach to Shared Care among GPs.

Refer

Where either a vulnerability or existing substance misuse need is identified, an effective referral is made within the last 12 months. This must be documented and a follow up enquiry made with the client.

Consistency and quality of referrals from the health, social care and education providers must be continually reviewed, alongside a recognition that making a referral does not represent the end of our duty to the individual. Follow up is required to ensure treatment commences and results in a successful outcome. This often requires sensitivity to individual circumstances, for example the observation that many people referred for support with alcohol misuse find services that also tackle other types of substance misuse unacceptable.

Excel

A renewed local focus on helping people into effective treatment and ensure treatment outcomes including reductions in drugs overdoses, abstinence or harm reduction and successful blood borne virus outcomes are amongst the best in country.

We must draw on all the evidence available to us to provide the best service. This starts with our communities and service users; sharing of experiences through stories and user representation in decision making forums is an opportunity for all partners to take ownership and responsibility for substance misuse. Regular focus on NDTMS metrics and reflection on how we can improve upon them should similarly be a collaborative effort.

6. Appendix A: Related Policy Documents

National policies and recognised guidance

National Drug Strategy (2017) - Sets out the Government's partnership approach to tackle drug misuse at a local, national and international level. It is focused on reducing demand, restricting supply, building recovery and global action. [26] This expands on the aims of the previous strategy in 2010, namely to provide additional focus on reducing illicit drug use and increase the rate of people recovering from addiction and/or dependence on substances.

Drug misuse and dependence: UK guidelines on clinical management (2017): These guidelines, commonly known as the 'Orange Book', provide information for clinicians and commissioners on evidence-based pharmacological and psychosocial treatments, ensure safe clinical and prescribing practices within specialist drug and alcohol services, and other clinical environments such as hospitals, custody settings and GP practices. [27]

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidelines: Commissioners and substance misuse services will comply with NICE guidelines on managing alcohol use disorders and drug misuse to ensure high quality practices for alcohol and drug use prevention, identification, assessment and treatment. [28]

Local Policies

Hackney's Alcohol Strategy (2017-2020): This local alcohol strategy is the result of a consultation process with residents and partners aiming to reduce alcohol-related harm in Hackney. [29] It is based on four core principles:

- encourage healthier drinking behaviours
- commission appropriate and responsive services
- support families, carers and young people affected by alcohol misuse
- promote responsible drinking environments.

Hackney Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment (2018-2019): This strategy focuses on tackling crime and disorder in Hackney and has three strategic priorities linked to alcohol and drug misuse:

- gangs, youth crime, youth victimisation and engagement
- alcohol related crime, licensing and safer socialising
- substance misuse, treatment and drug dealing.

City's Draft Alcohol Strategy (2019-2023): This strategy is currently in consultation with residents and workers of the City of London, but it stands on three main outcomes:

- people being informed about the risks of alcohol-related harms
- people being and feeling safe in the night-time economy
- people having the support they need to access services.

7. Appendix B: Case Study

The following case study has been provided with the permission of S. His story highlights the problems that people encounter dealing with a system where the parts do not always work together well. His engagement with the Multiple Needs Service shows how effectively partners from different agencies can be when they collaborate to overcome the problems to allow those with substance misuse problems to flourish.

S is a 50 year old male who was diagnosed with clinical depression, bi polar and personality disorder at a young age but his mental health worsened when his dad died unexpectedly. S was first introduced to class A drugs when he was an inpatient in a mental health hospital by other patients and his drug use, crack and heroin, continued after he was discharged. S was last sectioned in December 2015 for two months following an overdose as a deliberate serious suicide attempt.

S has a history of offending including charges for possession and shoplifting. Prior to his hospital admission S was homeless so on discharge he was placed in a hostel for ex-offenders in Stoke Newington by Probation.

S was referred to the Multiple Needs Service, MNS, in August 2016 by his keyworker at Hackney Recovery Service (HRS). S had been a client at HRS and prescribed 45mls of methadone since May 2016. S scored high on the Chaos Index at 39 out of 48 as he had support needs in all four key areas, mental health, substance use, criminal justice and unstable housing. S was on a methadone script but continued to use crack and heroin on a weekly basis, he was no longer being supported by mental health services but was compliant on medication prescribed by GP for clinical depression and bi-polar and he continued to attend probation.

When S was first referred to MNS he didn't know how the team could support him and asked to 'take it slow' as he didn't want to feel overwhelmed, but after the first few meetings he started to open up and spoke about his family and his mental health and substance use. S wasn't feeling supported at the hostel and there were concerns about issues he was having with the other resident in his flat and there was no 'move on' plan in place. This was impacting his mental health, in particular when he experienced bi-polar low moods he was finding it difficult to keep himself safe in his environment. S was expressing suicidal ideation and at times he considered hospital admission. MNS were active in coordinating and attending case management meetings with S, the hostel, HRS and Probation in order to develop a shared support plan.

Whilst putting a move on plan in place we were informed by the hostel that S had accrued almost £3000 rent arrears that he needed to pay off first. There appeared to be a short fall in housing benefit of around £50 per week, S wasn't in a financial position to cover this and pay off arrears so MNS took the lead on finding a solution. Through investigation, MNS were informed that this was an error as the hostel were classed as supported accommodation, so therefore a benefit cap does not apply. During this process, MNS discovered that S was registered for council accommodation and with the rent arrears now cleared, he was eligible to bid. MNS supported S to bid on properties and used their knowledge of Hackney to ensure they were in areas that suited his needs. Within a few weeks of bidding S was invited to view a property, MNS supported him to attend, he accepted the property and collected the keys and signed the tenancy agreement that same day.

The hostel supported S to move from the hostel into the flat three weeks later,

and allowed him to take the single bed and a small table from his room as he had no furniture of his own. In addition, the hostel and HRS applied for funding from various sources to help furnish the flat, enabling S to buy a fridge freezer and washing machine and in addition MNS Service bought him a microwave. MNS supported S with a PIP application which was successful and he used this to buy a cooker, double bed frame and put £200 towards a sofa and the other £250 was paid for from the Sherriff's Fund. A year later, because S had been unable to save for a double mattress, MNS team bought him one to celebrate maintaining his tenancy for one year and his 50th birthday.

Once settled in a safer environment and engaging well with MNS and HRS support, S wanted to access services to support his mental health. HRS contacted his GP who referred S to The Therapeutic Outreach Service (TCOS), a service for people with personality disorder and MNS referred S to the Wellbeing Network. MNS supported S to attend his assessment for TCOS and he was accepted for the 8 week Group Introduction programme and whilst he waited to start he attended some group sessions at the Wellbeing Network and continued to attend the peer led weekly SMART group.

S went on to complete the introduction programme at TCOS but found it challenging so felt unable to continue with the Wellbeing Network as well. When he was invited back to TCOS to discuss his progress and the next stage of treatment, S asked MNS to go with him and when asked, how MNS Team support him, he replied by saying, 'they saved my life'. S has been accepted for

the next stage of treatment at TCOS but was advised there is a 9 month wait to start and is currently still waiting. In the meantime he is encouraged to check in with TCOS if needed but is otherwise supported by HRS and MNS.

S continues to attend the SMART group and HRS and has reduced his methadone dose by more than half to 20mls. He had managed to reduce his dose to 5mls but at that point he experienced symptoms of withdrawal and bought street methadone to prevent him from using heroin over a weekend. S initiated a joint meeting with MNS and his keyworker at HRS to discuss what happened and together we decided it was best for him to go back up to 20mls as he'd also had some disruption with the medication prescribed by his GP. In joint meetings since then S has explored residential detox as an option and after attending several pretox groups and further discussion, has decided he is ready. There is a plan in place and funding agreed for S to attend 3 weeks residential detox to be followed by a 12 week abstinence day programme at HRS.

In recent weeks, a number of other service users and professionals have commented on the way S contributes during group sessions and how well it supports his peers. He has been exploring with MNS ways he could develop his skills and is considering an NVQ in Advice and Information with a view to facilitating his own peer led groups. Most recently he attended a MEAM learning hub where he contributed well and was proud to tell people he is an MNS service user.

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Committee(s)	Dated:
Safer City Partnership Strategy Group	25 February 2021
Subject: Public Protection Service (Environmental Health, Licensing and Trading Standards) update	Public
Report of: Director of Markets & Consumer Protection	For Information
Report author: Gavin Stedman, Port Health & Public Protection Director	

Summary

The Department of Markets & Consumer Protection contributes to the work of the Safer City Partnership (SCP) through its Public Protection Service which comprises Environmental Health, Licensing and Trading Standards. Work relating to the SCP is on-going in relation to the following priorities:

- **Acquisitive Crime**
 - Investment Fraud – Trading Standards continues to collaborate with the City of London Police over Operation Broadway, now extended across London via Operation Offspring.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour**
 - Illegal street trading – Additional resources have been put into a campaign to eliminate ice cream vans and nut sellers from the Square Mile.
 - Noise complaints service – a 24/7 service is provided.
- **Night Time Economy Crime and Nuisance**
 - The COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown resulted in all licensed premises being closed and only approximately 10% re-opening once the lockdown has been eased.
 - Late Night Levy – this has generated approximately £460k for the fifth full year of the operation of the levy between October 2018 and September 2019.
 - Safety Thirst – The scheme for 2020 has been deferred due to the COVID19 pandemic.
 - Licensing controls and enforcement – enforcement activities and the use of the Late-Night Levy have kept the number of licence reviews and suspension notices at a relatively low level.

This report details enforcement activity and progress in the above areas. The Service contributed to the One Safe City programme and will be involved in the Secure City Programme. It is also represented on other relevant Boards and Groups.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The Consumer Protection part of the Department of Markets and Consumer Protection comprises three services:
 - Animal Health
 - Port Health
 - Public Protection
2. The latter includes Environmental Health, Licensing and Trading Standards, all of which contribute to the work of the SCP, specifically the 2019- 22 SCP Strategic Plan outcomes of:
 - Acquisitive Crime – We will work to protect our businesses, workers, residents and visitors from theft and fraud with an emphasis on cyber-crime.
 - Anti-Social Behaviour – Respond effectively to behaviour that makes the City a less pleasant place.
 - Night Time Economy Crime and Nuisance – To ensure the City remains a safe place to socialise.
3. Whilst there are routine proactive and reactive responses to community needs, there is also a range of projects underway, details of which are provided below.

Current Position

Economic Crime

The City of London Trading Standards Service (COLTSS) primarily works in partnership with others in support of the SCP's outcome to *protect our residents, workers, businesses and visitors from theft and fraud*.

4. COLTSS continues to support and actively participate in Operation Broadway, a joint project with the City of London Police, National Fraud Intelligence Bureau, National Trading Standards 'Regional Investigation Team', the Financial Conduct Authority, the Insolvency Service and HM Revenue and Customs. Operation Broadway aims to disrupt the activity of criminals engaged in investment fraud.
5. Key actions include:
 - a) Operation Broadway meetings continue to take place every two weeks, with partners sharing intelligence about possible fraudulent activity taking place within the City of London and surrounding Boroughs. Deployments then normally take place the following week to inspect premises and find out exactly what is going on. This leads to the gathering of intelligence and the opportunity is taken to investigate and disrupt the activities of businesses that may be involved in fraud. These visits are led by a

Trading Standards Officer due to the powers of entry afforded to officers under the legislation that the service enforces. During the COVID-19 lockdown, meetings have continued to take place virtually and although it has not been possible to carry out physical visits, enquiries continue to be made by telephone and email.

- b) Trading Standards Officers continue to speak to victims of investment fraud and many of the stories that we hear are heart breaking with life changing sums of money being lost. The voluntary Code of Practice that was introduced by the Payment Systems Regulator at the end of May 2019 continues to require banks to compensate customers that have fallen victim to what is called 'authorised push payment' fraud. Officers are now actively advising investment fraud victims who have lost money about this potential route to compensation with growing success.
- c) An emerging problem revolves around what are called 'lead generators.' Consumers who are looking to invest money into financial investment products like bonds very often carry out internet searches and are drawn to lead generator sites that offer attractive returns and "full protection". The lead generators pass on the consumer details to criminals who then carry out the hard sell. The lead generators pay money to internet search engines to appear at the top of any searches, but it is proving very difficult to trace who they are. The lead generator websites are being taken down by the FCA and Op Broadway, but they very quickly set up again. Trading Standards are developing a project plan around this problem and have been given £25,000 through the Community Safety Partnership to look more deeply into it. This project has been on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions and staffing difficulties but is now being picked up again. The next stage is to make an application under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act, and this is now underway.
- d) Trading Standards continue to maintain and build further good working relationships with mail forwarding businesses and serviced office providers in the City. It was recently discovered that some mail forwarding businesses who also act as company formation agents were being selective about the types of mail that they would forward to their clients. The consequence of this is that consumers who are trying to resolve legitimate problems by writing to the relevant business were simply having their mail returned. If a business has a registered office address, it is the view of Trading Standards that it must be possible for this mail to be successfully delivered. Funding of £6,000 was secured from National Trading Standards to seek Counsel's opinion about this practice which was received in May and every effort will be made by the City of London Trading Standards to drive changes in this sector. It is anticipated that we will be engaging with the mail forwarding sector right across the UK during March/April 2021. It is a massive task to ensure that our advice message is balanced but assertive and we have been consulting with many other agencies to make sure we get it right.

- e) Trading Standards has recently been involved in work being coordinated by the National Economic Crime Centre (part of the National Crime Agency). Information is being shared about Operation Broadway and the model has been used to help tackle fraud associated with COVID-19. This has led on to the City of London Trading Standards being involved with a working group convened by the National Crime Agency that is looking at the specific issue of the cloning of well-known investment companies such as Legal & General, Aviva and JP Morgan.
- f) Trading Standards have been investigating complaints from vulnerable job seekers who have responded to adverts offering employment. The reality is that the jobs do not exist, and job seekers have ended up paying hundreds of pounds for training courses that are a complete waste of time. This investigation is now complete and legal proceedings have been instituted. A three-week trial was scheduled to take place at the Central Criminal Court in August 2020 but this has now been delayed until July 2021 due to pressures on the Court service caused by COVID-19. Trading Standards are also tackling an Irish based company who offer training courses in a wide range of subjects. The company appear to be operating a subscription trap and there have been hundreds of complaints. We are engaging with this company and attempting to work with them to reduce complaint levels and get them to change their practices. This is a real challenge with a business based outside of our jurisdiction, but we are working collaboratively with other agencies.
- g) In the City, there are very few retailers that sell knives. However, test purchasing using a 17-year-old was carried out during October 2019 and one of the retailers sold without asking any questions. This matter has now been investigated and legal proceedings have been instituted. The case was due to be heard at City Magistrates Court, but that case too has been delayed due to COVID-19.

2020/2021	2019/20 Total	Q1 Apr- Jun	Q2 Jul- Sep	Q3 Oct- Dec	Q4 Jan- Mar	Total
a. Op Broadway deployments/ disruptions/ interventions	58	5	12	10		27
b. Adopted for further action by other agencies	23	2	5	4		11

c. Contacts with 'enablers'	7	0	0	1		1
d. RP07 forms submitted to Companies House by serviced office providers	7	0	2	2		4
e. Website suspension requests	10	6	7	3		16
f. Promotional / prevention activity - e.g. publicity campaigns, days of action, attendance at external events, press coverage	4	0	1	3		4
g. Number of C19 complaints & Interventions	N/A	0	0	3		3

- h) With the onset of COVID-19 that led to lockdown in March 2020 and again in November 2020, new legislation was introduced by Government to close businesses. This legislation placed a responsibility on Local Authorities to enforce and the necessary authorisations were provided to Trading Standards Officers and Environmental Health Officers. The impact of lockdown means that commuters no longer come into the City and most business premises closed due to there being no customers. A relatively small number of businesses continue to be advised about the closure regulations and there have been no breaches detected requiring prohibition notices to be issued or prosecutions to be commenced. The situation in the City is very different from the rest of London. Colleagues in many other Boroughs have a very different experience with businesses seeking to remain open illegally.
- i) Another consequence of COVID-19 is a rise in the popularity of take away food delivery companies. The City of London is the corporate home to two of the big UK players in this sector and Trading Standards are pulling together a project to address rising complaint levels.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

6. The Public Protection Teams support the SCP outcome of tackling and responding to anti-social behaviour
7. Two issues that relate to the work of this committee that are being tackled by the Public Protection Service are:
 - Illegal Street Trading
 - Noise Complaints Service
8. The COVID-19 pandemic resulting in the lockdown of hospitality and workplaces in the City changed the nature of the antisocial behaviour issues the City was facing. Licensed premises ceased to be a source of complaint, but construction noise complaints increased as did complaints about social distancing. The teams have worked hard to implement and educate as new guidance and Acts such as

the Business and Planning Act 2020 have been released to support the easing of lockdown such as the granting of pavement licences and the extension of construction working hours.

Illegal Street Trading

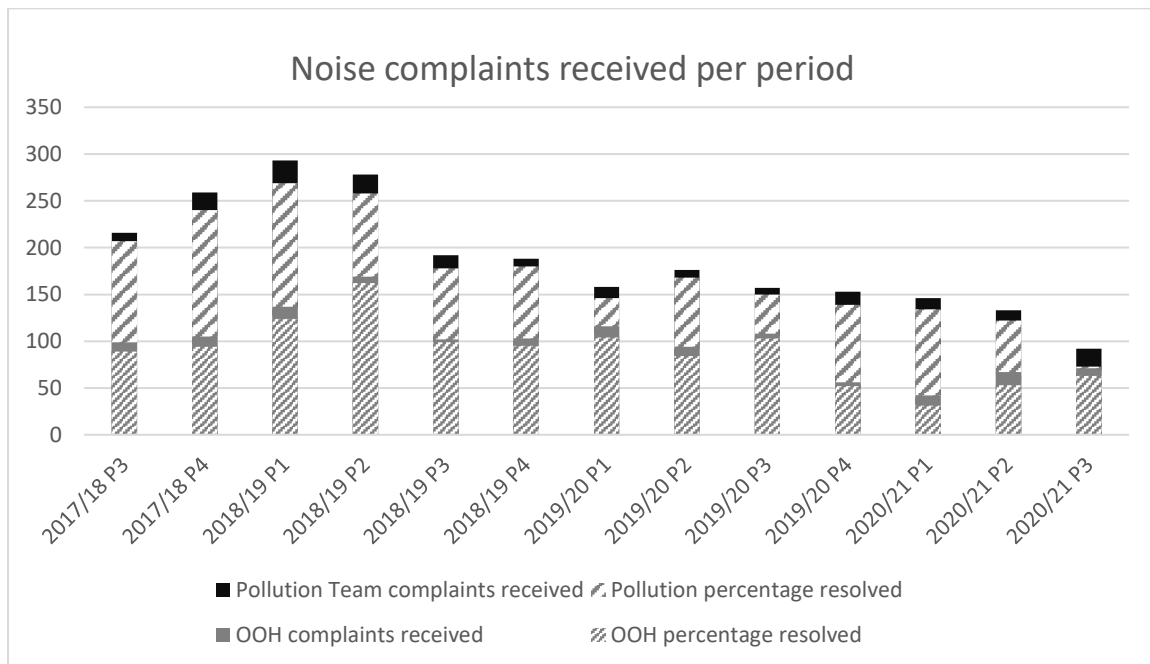
9. The Section 101 agreements with the London Borough of Southwark and the London Borough of Tower Hamlets are now in place; these allow the City to enforce against illegal street trading just over the border into Southwark and Tower Hamlets, for example on the south side of Millennium Bridge and all of Tower Bridge.
10. All known hotspots continued to be visited during lockdown and intelligence shared with partner agencies. Although illegal street trading began to return during August 2020 when the COVID-19 restrictions were eased, albeit at a much reduced level of activity, there has been little evidence of illegal activity since the start of the tiered restrictions and during the second lockdown.
11. A number of cases are in the process of being taken to court which will be heard when courts resume a pre-Covid-19 level of hearings. This is now likely to be in 2021.
12. The operation has run throughout the year and because of the foregoing and the continued on-street presence of Licensing Officers, illegal street trading has either been eliminated within the City of London and the bridges or stopped immediately the traders set up.

Noise Complaints Service

13. The Pollution Team dealt with 94 noise complaints between 1st October 2020 and 31st December 2020 of which 93.6% were resolved. In addition, they also assessed and commented on 134 Planning and Licensing applications and 222 applications for variations of work outside the normal working hours. Comparatively in the same period for 19/20 the Pollution Team dealt with 157 noise complaints of which 96.2% were resolved.
14. The Out of Hours Service dealt with 71 complaints between 1st October 2020 and 31st December 2020 and response (visit) times were within the target performance indicator of 60 minutes in 90% of cases. Comparatively, in the same period for 19/20 the Out of Hours Service dealt with 108 complaints and response (visit) times were within the target performance indicator of 60 minutes in 96.5% of cases, and often only 30 minutes.
15. The Pollution Team served one Section 61 notice between 1st October and 31st December 2020. In the same period for 2019/20 the Pollution Team issued two S.80 Environmental Protection Act 1990 notices, three S.61 (Prior consent) Control of Pollution Act Notices and three Section 61 consents.
16. The trends for total noise related complaints are set out in the tables below for information.

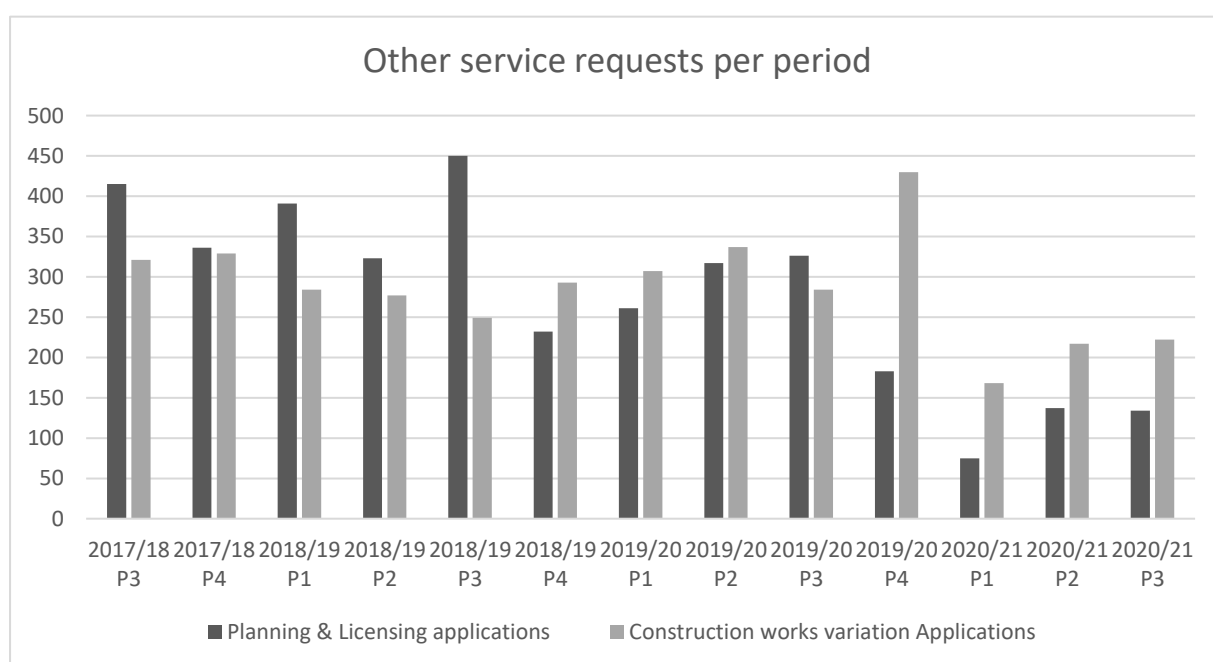
Noise Complaints

Year	Period	Pollution Team Noise complaints received	Percentage resolved	OOH Team Noise complaints received	Percentage resolved within KPI (60min)
2017/18	3	216	96.3%	99	90.9%
2017/18	4	259	93.8%	105	90.1%
2018/19	1	293	92.8%	137	91.5%
2018/19	2	278	93.9%	169	96.3%
2018/19	3	192	93.8%	102	98.2%
2018/19	4	188	96.3%	103	93.5%
2019/20	1	158	93%	116	90.9%
2019/20	2	176	96%	94	90.3%
2019/20	3	157	96.2%	108	96.5%
2019/20	4	153	91.5%	56	94.6%
2020/21	1	146	92.5%	42	76.1%
2020/21	2	133	92.5%	67	80.7%
2020/21	3	92	93.6%	71	90%



Noise Service Requests

Year	Period	Planning & Licensing applications	Construction works variation Applications	S.60 Notices Issued	S.80 EPA Notices	S.61 Notices Issued	Consent
2017/18	3	415	321	0	1	12	1
2017/18	4	336	329	0	1	7	1
2018/19	1	391	284	0	0	5	8
2018/19	2	323	277	0	0	4	6
2018/19	3	450	249	1	1	6	7
2018/19	4	232	293	0	0	3	4
2019/20	1	261	307	0	1	2	3
2019/20	2	317	337	0	2	1	1
2019/20	3	326	284	0	2	3	3
2019/20	4	183	430	4	1	0	0
2020/21	1	75	168	0	0	2	2
2020/21	2	96	217	2	0	0	0
2020/21	3	134	222	0	0	1	0



17. The Team continue to supply advice to construction sites in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. Social distancing measures on site have reduced the amount of work that can be achieved and have changed working methods. Local authorities have been advised by Government to be sympathetic to applications by developers for increasing working hours and a formal process through the planning system has now been implemented through the Business and Planning Act 2020. No applications have been made through this process to date however

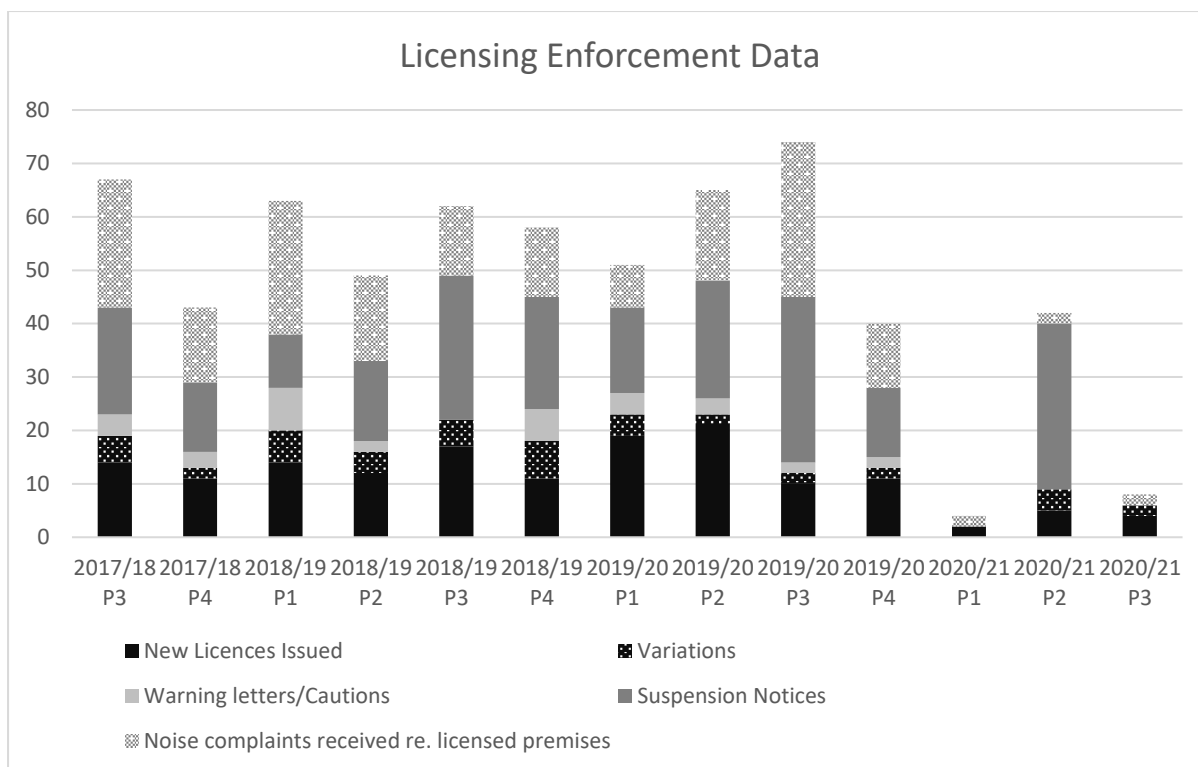
officers remain flexible to allow sites to maintain progress where the impact is not detrimental to adjoining premises.

18. The Planning and Licensing figures now also include Tables and Chairs and Pavement Licence applications. The team comment on the noise and COVID-19 aspects of the applications where appropriate.
19. Busking during the period has not been an issue from within the City, however complaints continue regarding busking close to the Tate Gallery in Southwark impacting on some of the riverside residential premises in the City. Officers continue to press Southwark Council to improve the controls on the buskers operating in that area.
20. The Pollution Team continue to predominately work from home. Although a presence in the City is maintained through the Street Environment Officers and pollution team officers. Officers are also available to attend at short notice from home if required. Visits within premises are not generally undertaken but can be if essential, subject to the necessary risk assessments.

Enforcement

21. The Licensing Team undertakes inspections and enforcement in relation to the Licensing Act 2003 and the table below shows the action taken regarding licensed premises over the last three years.

Year	Period	New Licences Issued	Variations	Warning letters/Cautions	Suspension Notices	Noise complaints received re. licensed premises
<u>2017/18</u>	3	14	5	4	20	24
<u>2017/18</u>	4	11	2	3	13	14
<u>2018/19</u>	1	14	6	8	10	25
<u>2018/19</u>	2	12	4	2	15	16
<u>2018/19</u>	3	17	5	0	27	13
<u>2018/19</u>	4	11	7	6	21	13
<u>2019/20</u>	1	19	4	4	16	8
<u>2019/20</u>	2	21	2	3	22	17
<u>2019/20</u>	3	10	2	2	31	29
<u>2019/20</u>	4	11	2	2	13	12
<u>2020/21</u>	1	2	0	0	0	2
<u>2020/21</u>	2	5	4	0	31	2
<u>2020/21</u>	3	7	1	0	180	0



22. The number of hearings and reviews remains at a low-level year on year. During the period 1st October and 31st December 2020, there have been no hearings.

23. The 'RAG' risk assessment scheme operated by the Licensing Team with information from City Police, Licensing, Fire Brigade and Pollution Team has been frozen as of 31 March 2020 due to COVID-19 with no licensable activity permitted since 23 March 2020. On 30th June, one premises was flagged as red, three as amber and the rest all green in a total of 931 premises. Once premises reopened a Licensing committee decision was taken, that was supported by the Licensing Liaison Partnership, to continue the scheme from the point it was frozen based on the usual rolling 6-month period. There is insufficient data from the premises that have been open since 23 March 2020 to alter the above figures significantly. A more meaningful update is more likely at the end June 2021 assuming Government restrictions have been lifted or eased.

24. Noise matters related to licensed premises remain low and are reported to the Licensing Committee. The number of noise complaints specifically associated with licensed premises is set out above with the Licensing Event Data to illustrate the trend over the last three years. The number is consistent with last quarter since the COVID-19 restrictions have been in place.

Safety Thirst

25. The Safety Thirst scheme is highly regarded by licensees in the City of London and many are keen to participate and to improve on their level of accreditation. All premises accredited in 2019 have been offered additional training and short seminars on relevant issues. The 2020 scheme has been deferred due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the financial challenges already experienced by the

sector, the timeline for reopening and the likely burden to be placed on the industry in complying with new safety regulations, the scheme will not be run in the same way this year. As the scheme is the City's best practice scheme linked to the late-night levy discount, accreditation period will be extended from 12 months to 24 months for those premises accredited in 2019.

26. In 2019 there were 72 premises awarded in the categories of pass, commended and Highly commended.

The three overall winners were:

- The Gable Bar & Restaurant, winning it for the second year running.
- The Steelyard Nightclub
- Mrs Foggs Bar

Late Night Levy

27. The amount of levy collected in 2018/19 was £463,000 and has provided a similar level of income to previous years suggesting there is still no disincentive against trading because of the levy. 70% of the levy, approximately £325,000 goes to the City of London Police for activities involving improving the impact of licensed activities on the night-time economy. The remaining 30% of the levy goes to the City Corporation.

28. However, during 2019/20 collection of the levy has been different due to the COVID-19 restrictions. All licensed premises have been closed for long periods during the 2019/20 levy year which runs from 1st October 2019 until the 30th September 2020. In order to assist businesses during this difficult period the Licensing Team agreed not to immediately suspend a premises licence solely on the basis that the late night levy was not paid, notwithstanding their premises licence fee was up to date. Current legislative requirements dictate that the levy will have to be paid at some time and that suspension would be mandatory for non-payment of the levy.

29. Representations have been made to the Home Office seeking a change in legislation to allow the levy to be removed during the period(s) when premises are not permitted to open. The outcome of these representations is not yet known.

30. A report on the income and expenditure is provided annually to the Licensing Committee with the latest report considered at their 3rd February 2021 meeting.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

31. The Public Protection Service contributed to the Safer City Partnership Strategic Plan 2019 - 22, and its priorities and objectives.

32. The Markets and Consumer Protection Department contributed to the One Safe City Programme, was represented on the Safer Communities Board and will be part of the arrangements for the Secure City Programme.

33. The Department is also represented on other relevant Boards and Groups, including the Serious and Organised Crime Board.

Conclusion

34. The Public Protection Service continues to support the priorities and objectives of the Safer City Partnership through routine work, but also via specific projects and contributions to plans and strategies.

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City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership

Annual Report 2019/20

Foreword

The 2019/20 period covered significant change and high levels of disruption. This began with our preparations to move to the new safeguarding arrangements and as the reporting year ended, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Whilst this annual report captures our multi-agency performance data, achievements and the lessons we have learnt, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge our present situation at this challenging moment in time. In this respect, it is important that whilst we do everything we can to support our communities, that we also pause to reflect on the debt of gratitude that we owe to everyone working in and supporting our frontline safeguarding services.

Our commitment to ensure that our children are seen, heard and helped has been tested by the imposition of restrictions that no one could have anticipated a year ago. That said, partners have risen to the challenge. They have developed contingency plans, adapted practice and pivoted to the use of digital technology to maintain vital lines of communication with one another and critically, the vulnerable children and families they support. Our oversight and scrutiny of practice has also continued and the report identifies progress made, the areas we still need to work on and outlines the focus for the year ahead. Whilst I am pleased that the report reflects improvements made by a number of sectors, I am deeply disappointed that we have failed to make progress regarding safeguarding compliance in unregistered educational settings, namely Yeshivas. Our commitment to improve our safeguarding line of sight in this area is undiminished and we are actively considering additional measures to address our ongoing concerns.

Over 2019/20, both The City of London Corporation and Hackney Council were subject to Ofsted inspections of their children's social care services. The City of London Corporation received an overall outstanding rating, with Hackney Council requiring improvement. Whilst both were inspections of local authority services, we must not forget that helping and protecting children and young people is a multi-agency responsibility. It remains our collective responsibility to ensure that safeguarding practice is effective.

Looking back, the data in the report speaks for itself. That said, I do not believe a system whereby we publish this so long after the fact is helpful. Moving forward we must ensure that information is delivered in a more contemporary sense. It is therefore our intention to refresh our approach by publishing a quarterly safeguarding threat assessment. I believe the timely analysis and delivery of safeguarding information that identifies contemporary trends, themes and patterns will enhance collective focus and decision-making.

Furthermore, over the coming year, we will seek to develop our arrangements for hearing the authentic voice of children and young people, enhance independent scrutiny and lead by example by driving a culture of Anti-Racist practice. We must ensure that all of our young people have the ability to live, learn and thrive.

Jim Gamble QPM

Independent Child Safeguarding Commissioner

The City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership

DRAFT

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Children's Mental Health

MAPP

Youth Offending

Unregistered Educational Settings

Out-of-School Settings

Safer Workforce

Learning & Improvement

The Voice of the Child, Family & Community

Reviews of Practice

Auditing

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Training & Development

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What you need to know

The CHSCP

About the Annual Report

The City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership annual report for 2019/20 provides an overview on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in the City of London and the London Borough of Hackney. It sets out the following:

- The governance and accountability arrangements for the CHSCP. This section covers details about the new safeguarding arrangements in the City of London and Hackney, progress made and the immediate actions taken following the Covid-19 lockdown in March 2020.
- The context for safeguarding children and young people in the City of London, highlighting the progress made by the City partnership over the last year.
- The context for safeguarding children and young people in the London Borough of Hackney, highlighting the progress made by the Hackney partnership over the last year.
- The lessons that the CHSCP has identified through its Learning & Improvement Framework and the actions taken to improve child safeguarding and welfare as a result of this activity.
- The range and impact of the multi-agency safeguarding training delivered by the CHSCP.
- The priorities going forward and the key messages for those involved in the safeguarding of children and young people.

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Glossary

ABH	Actual Bodily Harm
BME	Black and Minority Ethnic
CAF	Common Assessment Framework
CAFCASS	Children & Family Court Advisory and Support Service
CAIT	Child Abuse Investigation Team
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CDR	Child Death Review
CHSAB	City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board
CHSCB	City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board
CHSCP	City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership
CHYPS	City and Hackney Young People's Service
CPA	Community Partnership Advisor
CPP	Child Protection Plan
CRIS	Crime Reporting Information System
CSC	Children's Social Care
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CYPPP	Children and Young People's Partnership Panel
DBS	Disclosure and Barring Service
DfE	Department for Education
DVIP	Domestic Violence Intervention Project
EIP	Early Intervention and Prevention
ELFT	East London NHS Foundation Trust
ESOL	English for Speakers of Other Languages
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FGMPO	Female Genital Mutilation Protection Order
FJR	Family Justice Review
FRT	First Response Team
GLA	Greater London Authority
GP	General Practitioner
HCVS	Hackney Council for Voluntary Service
HLT	Hackney Learning Trust
HUHFT	Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
IRI	Independent Return Interview

LA	Local Authority
LAC	Looked After Child / Children
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
MAP	Multi Agency Panel
MAPPA	Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MASE	Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation
MAT	Multi Agency Team
MPM	Management Planning Meeting
NHS	National Health Service
NSPCC	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills
PPU	Public Protection Unit
PSHE	Personal, Social and Health Education
PSP	Pupil Support Plans
SCR	Serious Case Review
SDVC	Specialist Domestic Violence Court
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disability
SLT	Senior Leadership Team
SRE	Sex and Relationship Education
TRA	Tenant Resident Association
TUSK	Things You Should Know (CHSCB briefing)
UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children

The City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership

Background

In 2015, the government commissioned Sir Alan Wood to review the role and functions of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs). The Wood Report was published in March 2016, with the government formally responding in May 2016. The Wood Report recommendations were subsequently embedded in statute in April 2017 with the granting of Royal Assent to the Children and Social Work Act 2017. As a consequence, four important areas of change have followed.

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- Firstly, LSCBs, set up by local authorities, have been replaced. Three safeguarding partners (*local authorities, clinical commissioning groups and chief officers of police in a local area*) must now make **new safeguarding arrangements** to work together with relevant agencies (as they consider appropriate) to safeguard and protect the welfare of children in the area.
- Secondly, the current system of Serious Case Reviews has been replaced. Safeguarding partners must now make arrangements to identify and review **serious child safeguarding cases** which, in their view, raise issues of importance in relation to their area.
- Thirdly, a **National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel** has been created and is responsible for identifying and overseeing the review of serious child safeguarding cases which, in its view, raise issues that are complex or of national importance.
- Fourthly, two partners (*local authorities and clinical commissioning groups*) have been specified as 'child death review partners' and must set up new **child death review arrangements**. These new arrangements should facilitate a wider geographic footprint and respond to the statutory guidance defining how deaths will be reviewed and how the bereaved will be supported.

The City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership launched its new arrangements in September 2019. The published arrangements are available [HERE](#).

Purpose

The new safeguarding arrangements support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where:

- 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 accurate and timely decision making for children and families.

Vision

That all children in the City of London and Hackney are seen, heard and helped; they are effectively safeguarded, properly supported and their lives improved by everyone working together.

Principles

As leaders across a range of organisations, the commitment of the CHSCP is to work together to make the lives of children safer by protecting them from harm; preventing impairment to their health and/or development, ensuring they receive safe and effective care; and ensuring a safe and nurturing environment for them to live in. The CHSCP wants to make sure that everyone who works with children across the City of London and Hackney has the protection of vulnerable children and young people at the heart of what they do. In practice, this means that children are seen, heard and helped:

- **Seen;** *in the context of their lives at home, friendship circles, health, education and public spaces (both off-line and on-line).*

- **Heard;** *by professionals taking time to hear what children and young people are saying - putting themselves in their shoes and thinking about what their life might truly be like.*
- **Helped;** *by professionals remaining curious and by implementing timely, effective and imaginative solutions that help make children and young people safer.*

The CHSCP's aim is to ensure that safeguarding practice and outcomes for children are at least good, and that staff and volunteers in every agency, at every level, know what they need to do to keep children protected, and communicate effectively to ensure this happens. All of our activity is underpinned by the following principles:

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- **Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.** As a partnership, we will champion the most vulnerable and maintain a single child-centred culture.
- **Context is key.** Capitalising on the unique opportunities presented by a dual-borough partnership, we will have an unswerving focus on both intra-familial and extra-familial safeguarding contexts across the City of London and the London Borough of Hackney.
- **The voice of children and young people.** We will collaborate with children and young people and use their lived experience to inform the way we work. We will regularly engage with them as part of our core business and ensure their voices help both design and improve our local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.
- **The voice of communities.** Improving our understanding of the diverse communities across the CHSCP's footprint, we will regularly communicate with, listen to and engage local communities in the work of the CHSCP. We will harness their experience to both inform and improve the way we safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.
- **Enabling high quality safeguarding practice.** We will promote awareness, improve knowledge and work in a way that is characterised by an attitude of constructive professional challenge.
- **Fostering a culture of transparency.** We will enable the CHSCP to learn from individual experience and **continuously improve** the quality of multi-agency practice.

Key Roles & Relationships

Safeguarding Partners

The safeguarding partners agree on ways to co-ordinate safeguarding services; act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others; and implement local and national learning. All safeguarding partners retain an equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements. In situations that require a single point of leadership, safeguarding partners will decide on which partner will take the lead on relevant issues that arise. The safeguarding partners in the City of London and the London Borough of Hackney are **Hackney Council, The City of London Corporation, The City & Hackney Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)** and **The City of London Police**. The lead representatives of the safeguarding partners are:

- Tim Shields, The Chief Executive of Hackney Council
- John Barradell, The Town Clerk of the City of London Corporation
- Jane Milligan, The Accountable Officer of the City & Hackney CCG
- Marcus Barnett, The Commander of the MPS Central East BCU
- Ian Dyson, Commissioner, City of London Police

Relevant Agencies

Safeguarding partners are obliged to set out which agencies are required to work as part of the CHSCP's arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children. These agencies are referred to as *relevant agencies* and have a statutory duty to cooperate with the CHSCP's published arrangements. A defined number of relevant agencies will meet regularly with safeguarding partners as the CHSCP Executive. Others will be invited when deemed necessary and/or be included in various CHSCP sub-groups / thematic groups. Wider engagement events will also be facilitated through the City & Hackney Safeguarding Partnership which includes a much broader range of agencies, professionals and volunteers involved in safeguarding children and young people. A schedule

of relevant agencies is defined in part 4 of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency (England) Regulations 2018. Safeguarding partners can also include any local or national organisation or agency in their arrangements regardless of whether they are named in the above regulations.

The Independent Child Safeguarding Commissioner

Jim Gamble QPM is The Independent Child Safeguarding Commissioner (ICSC) of The CHSCP. The ICSC is appointed by safeguarding partners and given authority to coordinate the independent scrutiny of the local child safeguarding arrangements. The ICSC is fundamentally independent to local safeguarding partners and relevant agencies. The ICSC has significant experience of operating at a senior level in the strategic coordination of multi-agency services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

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The ICSC provides independent leadership (through engagement, commentary and lobbying) in respect of local matters relevant to the safeguarding of children and young people. The ICSC holds both safeguarding partners and relevant agencies to account for their effectiveness in safeguarding children and young people. The ICSC chairs The CHSCP Strategic Leadership Team and The CHSCP Executive to ensure fundamental independence is built into the oversight of statutory safeguarding partners and relevant agencies. The ICSC also chairs the Case Review sub-group to ensure independent decision making in respect of the commissioning and progress of reviews. Safeguarding partners delegate this decision-making function to the ICSC and ratify any decisions made. The ICSC continues to be engaged with elected officials to brief on specific issues, raise concerns and to provide an independent overview of practice. This takes place via 1:1 meetings and other forums (such as 'joint chairs' meetings) and those that engage elected members and other local boards (Health & Wellbeing / SAB / CSP). The ICSC is also engaged by the Local Authority scrutiny functions in both the City of London and Hackney.

The Strategic Leadership Team

The Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) are senior officers that can speak with authority for the safeguarding partner they represent. They can hold their organisation to account, take decisions and commit them on policy, resourcing and practice matters. The SLT is chaired by the Independent Child Safeguarding Commissioner and comprises the following:

- **Anne Canning, The Group Director of Children, Adults and Community Health (Hackney Council)**

- **Andrew Carter, The Director of Children and Community Services (The City of London Corporation)**
- **David Maher, The Managing Director (The City & Hackney CCG)**
- **Marcus Barnett, The Commander of the MPS Central East BCU**
- **Dai Evans, T/Commander, City of London Police**
- **Annie Gammon, Director of Hackney Education (Hackney Council)**

We have included the Head of Hackney Education on The CHSCP's SLT. This reflects the importance placed by safeguarding partners on having an 'education lens' within our statutory decision-making processes. Whilst the role does not represent individual schools (in either Hackney or the City of London), it occupies an important position of influence within the local safeguarding architecture. Whilst acknowledging the limitations in respect of 'decision-making' (i.e. this role cannot make decisions on behalf of the sector as a whole), it is a valuable asset for advice, challenge and support at SLT.

The CHSCP Executive

The CHSCP Executive comprises representatives from safeguarding partners and a number of relevant agencies and named / designated professionals. Other relevant agencies will be invited to participate / engage in the CHSCP Executive as and when required. The CHSCP Executive meets bi-monthly and is independently chaired by the Independent Child Safeguarding Commissioner with a nominated safeguarding partner representative being Vice-Chair (Vice-Chairs rotate annually).

Lay Members

The attendance of Lay Members at CHSCB meetings and a variety of other forums has been key to offering a different perspective and helping everyone stay in touch with local realities and the issues of concern in our communities. As part of the transition into the new arrangements, 2019/20 saw both remaining Lay Members, Belinda Blank (City of London) and Shirley Green (Hackney) step down from their positions that they had occupied for a number of years. Both helped critically influence the functioning of the partnership, engaging in a variety of different forums and offering their unique perspective based on their regular engagement in the communities with whom they remain intrinsically connected. The process to replace both Lay Members has been interrupted by Covid-19.

Lay Members continued to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to the work of the safeguarding partnership. The CHSCB is hugely grateful to both Shirley and Belinda (and Sally Glen who stepped down previously) for their dedication, time and effort in promoting improved public engagement in the safeguarding of children and young people.

The CHSCP Team

The CHSCP is supported by a dedicated group of staff. The team includes a Senior Professional Advisor, a Business and Performance Manager, a Training Co-ordinator and a Co-ordinator role.

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Relationships with other Boards

Continued engagement with the City & Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board (CHSAB) and other strategic partnerships in the City of London and Hackney continues through a 'joint chairs' meeting. There have also been additional opportunities for the CHSCP to interface with elected members through the scrutiny functions operating in both the City and Hackney. This has helped ensure that the voice of children and young people and their need for safeguarding has been kept firmly on the agenda in terms of multi-agency work involving vulnerable adults, health and wellbeing and the local response to crime.

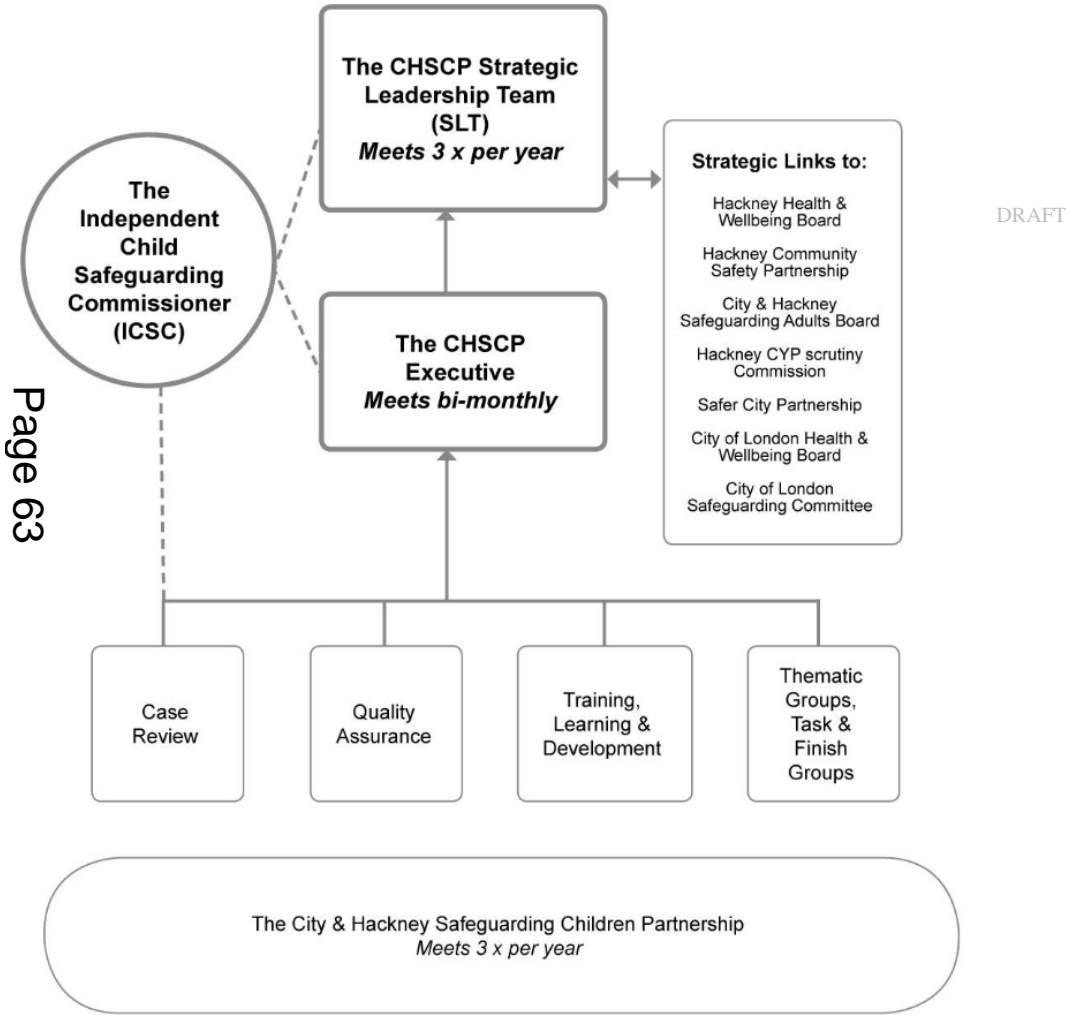
Membership & Attendance

The CHSCB and the meetings convened under the new safeguarding arrangements experience good attendance from organisations during 2019/20. The transition period resulted in the usual cycle of meetings being interrupted, although the CHSCB met twice during the 2019/20, with the SLT and CHSCP Executive meeting in November 2019 and December 2019 respectively. In March 2020, as a result of the first Covid-19 lockdown, the CHSCP pivoted to holding Contingency Oversight Planning Meetings in place of the CHSCP Executive. These were set up to support and challenge partners with the sufficiency of their contingency plans to safeguard children. Attendance rates at the CHSCB and CHSCP Executive are set out below. The x represents the number of seats per organisation.

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Independent Chair / ICSC	x	100% Attendance
Lay Members	xx	75% Attendance
The City of London Community & Children's Service	xxx	100% Attendance
The City of London Police	x	100% Attendance
Hackney Children and Families Services	xxxxx	100% Attendance
The Metropolitan Police (Child Abuse Investigation Team)	x	75% Attendance
The Metropolitan Police - Hackney Borough	xx	75% Attendance
Hackney Education	xx	100% Attendance
Hackney Housing	x	25% Attendance
Hackney Council for Voluntary Services	x	75% Attendance
Hackney Primary School representative	x	75% Attendance
The London Community Rehabilitation Company	x	25% Attendance
The National Probation Service	x	75% Attendance
Children & Family Court Advisory & Support Service	x	100% Attendance
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	xxx	100% Attendance
City & Hackney Clinical Commissioning Group	xxxx	100% Attendance
City & Hackney Public Health	x	50% Attendance

CHSCP Structure



Financial Arrangements

Partner agencies continued to contribute to the CHSCP's budget for 2019/20, in addition to providing a variety of resources, such as staff time and free venues for training. Total spending in 2019/20 totalled **£360,147**

- **Hackney Education and The City of London Corporation continued to provide access to free training venues to the CHSCB.**
- **The City of London Corporation covered the major costs for the 2019/20 Annual Conference held in March 2020.**

As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme, [Inege](#) continues to support the local partnership in the production of its annual report.

Serious Case Reviews £36,674

Staffing and Travel £260,635

Training & Annual Conference £34,534

Printing, Supplies and Equipment £12,404

Venues £15,865

Miscellaneous £35

Total expenditure £360,147

Progress on Implementation

Strategic Decision Making

At this early stage in the development of new arrangements, there is evidence that they are having some positive effect impact on multi-agency strategic decision making. We have initially experienced a good level of engagement from statutory safeguarding partners within our new arrangements; a continuation of the culture experienced when the CHSCB was in operation. Safeguarding partners have agreed four key priorities for safeguarding practice and have committed to a pledge as to the implementation of these. We believe the arrangements enable our statutory safeguarding partners to focus on the key issues and risks that require leadership attention. We also remain confident that as the arrangements evolve, this focus and operation of SLT will improve.

Accountability

We are looking to develop a more robust approach to accountability by ensuring that Chief Executives and senior leaders with safeguarding responsibilities are directly engaged with and sighted on their individual organisation's strengths and weaknesses. To do this, we are actively exploring a model used in Ireland under its safeguarding legislation - Children First 2015. This approach requires organisations to complete risk assessments and develop Child Safeguarding Statements that are required by law to be published and displayed. Statements are produced annually and authorised by the CEO declaring that their services are sufficient (and where not, the actions that will be undertaken to improve).

Independent Scrutiny

To strengthen our approach and openness to independent scrutiny, the CHSCP is planning to launch its own Scrutiny Board. It will be led by the Independent Child Safeguarding Commissioner and comprise key roles with responsibility for internal agency scrutiny. The purpose of this group will be, through participation and contributions, to develop a coordinated approach to safeguarding children scrutiny in the City and Hackney, to drive clarity and establish strategic focus relating to scrutiny of safeguarding children and to establish an approach that facilitates constructive engagement with a focus on mentoring and continuous improvement.

Pivot to Digital

We are pivoting to ensure our digital capabilities are mainstreamed into the functions of our arrangements and front-line practice. Whilst a necessity due to the pandemic, we are finding some accrued benefits of working arrangements in this context.

The CHSCP's pivot to digital has extended our reach in terms of on-line training. Since March 2020, we have trained over 700 professionals and volunteers in Level 1 and Level 3 safeguarding training. We have also launched two Apps (Private Fostering and Safer Schools) and an online self-assessment process to replace the Section 11 / Section 157/175 audits. We have created a bespoke version for smaller organisations, including out of school settings.

Safeguarding partners and relevant agencies in both The City of London and Hackney demonstrated flexibility and initiative in developing new arrangements to hold virtual multi-agency meetings and virtual home visits to children and families. Supported by developed practice guidance, in some aspects of work there has been an improvement in multi-agency engagement and the ease in which partners can communicate information rapidly and make decisions to safeguard children and young people.

Relevant Agencies

Whilst we have always experienced good engagement from the vast majority of organisations with safeguarding responsibilities, we believe greater clarity is required in respect of the options available to safeguarding partners should there be active and purposeful non-cooperation. Locally, safeguarding partners have taken an approach of naming all organisations that engage children and young people as relevant agencies (regardless as to whether named in the regulations or not). This has been done with the express intent of leveraging maximum cooperation from (and support to) a range of agencies that have historically operated on the periphery of core safeguarding practice. In 2020, The CHSCP sought the advice of Counsel with regards to the enforcement action available to both safeguarding partners and the secretary of state. From this advice, we understand safeguarding partners retain an option (in particular circumstances) to seek a mandatory injunction to enforce the obligation to comply with the CHSCP's published arrangements or escalate concerns through to regulators. This issue has been escalated to Sir Alan Wood as part of his phase 2 review into the new safeguarding arrangements.

Operational Impact

It is too early to quantify the impact of the new arrangements on operational activity, but in a number of areas, there has been a noted improvement in cooperation and practice. Part of this has been driven by the need for organisations to think and respond differently due to Covid-19. This has forced new ways of working and a pivot to digital solutions that have positively promoted working together as opposed to fracturing it.

The Voice of Children and Young People

New arrangements have yet to be fully developed in this regard, but the voice of children and young people is a priority of safeguarding partners. We are currently reviewing how we capture the authentic voice of children and young people. This work has been delayed as a consequence of the pandemic, but is beginning to gain some traction in specific projects (for example, we are working with the safeguarding adults board to engage young people in respect of transitional safeguarding). Safeguarding partners have committed to supporting and enabling a culture of working that routinely seeks out and reflects the voices of children and young people. This includes the CHSCP engaging directly with children and young people. The lived experience of local children and young people and their voices are evident in the policies we create and the communication channels to our wider partnership. Importantly, it is examined in our activity that reviews multi-agency casework.

Local Learning

We have retained a menu of different ways in which our reviews can be undertaken consistent with statutory requirements and those set out within our learning and improvement framework. These methods range from traditional approaches (using an independent reviewer), to ones where local practitioners are facilitated to meet and identify practice improvements. The decision on which model to use rests with the Independent Child Safeguarding Commissioner and is case dependent. Overall, we are committed to speeding up the process of reviews and cascading learning more rapidly. The new Rapid Review process has been helpful to identify early lessons, although we remain cautious not to pre-judge learning in this respect. Some of the most important practice improvements we have identified in our local arrangements were not visible at such an early stage.

Challenges

Challenges, however, remain. Whilst the contexts of safeguarding are different across the City of London and Hackney, the three biggest challenges facing multi-agency safeguarding work are considered to be the following:

- **The impact of COVID-19** creating challenges in respect of the sufficiency of current and future workforce capacity. Contingency arrangements in this regard have been scrutinised by the CHSCP. Whilst there is evidence of resilience, there remains concern as to the potential for future workforce challenges. These centre on the longer-term effects on the mental health of practitioners arising from extended periods of remote working in a highly charged and challenging area of practice.
- **Many support systems for children and young people (via school, services, friends and family) have changed, with some being reduced or removed.** Children and young people are less visible and families are under increased financial and social pressure. There is a general challenge in identifying, preventing and responding to the risks facing children and young people.
- In respect of themes, there are **continuing concerns about meeting the mental health needs of children and young people**, exacerbated as a consequence of COVID-19. Locally, an increase in **head injuries in young children, on-line harm and accidents arising as a result of hazards at home** are other issues on which The CHSCP's is focussing.

COVID-19

Contingency Planning, Oversight & Resilience

Since March 2020, the CHSCP has undertaken ongoing scrutiny of contingency arrangements relating to COVID-19 via analysis of partner contingency plans and partnership meetings. This has served to identify emerging issues throughout the crisis such as attendance at A&E, domestic violence, mental health and more recently, a local increase in head injuries to babies / toddlers and risks arising from hazards in the home. This has led to / is leading to a focused approach by safeguarding partners on targeted awareness raising, specific guidance and training.

During the pandemic, partners have also swiftly pivoted to digital solutions to ensure that partners remain engaged despite not being able to physically meet. Multi-agency processes such as strategy discussions, child protection conferences and visits to children have all been undertaken virtually where required, and supported by the partnership. The CHSCP has also prepared for further challenges by ensuring that safeguarding partners and relevant agencies have clear plans in place and are sufficiently prepared. This has been achieved by conducting a **COVID-19 Operational Resilience Audit**. A major focus of this audit activity has related to workforce sufficiency and the cruciality of safeguarding partners ensuring effective support is in place across the system. Whilst the CHSCP had already identified the health and wellbeing of the workforce as a priority, Covid-19 has accelerated reassurance work by safeguarding partners in this respect. It is positive to note that the anticipated pressures during the first lockdown did not materialise, although we maintain a watching brief on this issue, testing sufficiency and overseeing risk.

88% of organisations have either partially or fully identified best practice and agreed pathways for staff to access occupational health support. These pathways have been shared with managers.

96% have a risk assessment process which assesses the risk to individual employees from the COVID-19 virus. It identifies increased risks due to staff's age, ethnicity, gender and relevant health conditions.

93% of organisations have ensured staff who have suffered bereavement, due to COVID-19 or other reasons, are supported to access specialist support services and that they have policies and practices in place for pastoral support of staff.

Communication

The CHSCP continues to promote its digital platforms and communications reach. The CHSCP website, designed during the 2015/16 period, has allowed for user- friendly content searches and accessible resources.

www.chscp.org.uk

The CHSCP website has continued to allow for user-friendly content searches and accessible resources. Most visited pages were those relating to training and case reviews.

@lscp_chscp

The CHSCP Annual Conference held on 4 March 2020, our tweets earned over 4.5k impressions

Private Fostering APP

Following the success of the City of London Private Fostering App, the CHSCP developed and launched a bespoke App for the partnership. Alongside providing information about private fostering, the App includes a training module and other important advice for safeguarding professionals.

[TUSK Briefings](#)

The CHSCP produces e-briefings called Things You Should Know, more commonly referred to as 'TUSK briefings'. These are circulated to subscribers and also cascaded by Board members to staff within their organisations. The number of subscribers to the TUSK has increased from 570 at the end of March 2019 to 1414.

Safeguarding Children in the Context of their Access to Technology and use of Social Media

With the growing use of technology and social media, all professionals need to adopt a much more sophisticated approach to their safeguarding responsibilities. They need to reflect on the changing nature of communication and how this impact upon practice issues, particularly those focused on the identification and assessment of potential risk. To do this successfully, professionals need to recognize that children and young people do not use technology and social media in isolation. Their offline and online worlds are converged, and both need to be understood when trying to identify the type of support that a child, young person and their family might need.

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To help professionals (and parents / carers) better understand this complex environment, new Apps have been launched by Hackney Council and the City of London Corporation. The Safer Schools App provides support on topics including online bullying, mental health, sexting, media literacy, gaming and sexual exploitation online. It costs nothing to download and provides access to advice, guidance and CPD accredited training, with a specific focus on making children and young people safer in the online world.

120671

City of London Safeguarding Snapshot 2019/20

1,453 children and young people under 18

16.9% of total population

11% of children living in poverty

11.2% of children in primary schools in receipt of free school meals (national average 15.7%) (Dec 2019)

21 cases referred / stepped-down to the City's Early Help Team ↓

17 Team around the Child (TAC) meetings held ↓

5 young people going missing from care (12 incidents) ↑

0 incidents of children & young people missing from home ↔

314 contacts to the City Children & Families Team Hub ↔

100 referrals ↑

15% re-referrals ↑

67 statutory social work assessments completed by The City Children & Families Team ↑

78% of assessments completed within 45 days ↑↓

20 child protection investigations ↔

5 children on a Child Protection Plan as of March 2020 ↑

101 Children in Need episodes as of March 2020 (70 in 2018/19) ↑

24 children & young people looked after as of March 2020 ↑

1 MARAC meeting involving children ↔

8 referrals to the LADO ↑

0 Private Fostering arrangements as of March 2020 ↔

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Safeguarding in The City of London

City of London Demographics

The City of London has an estimated resident population of about 8500 and a transient daytime working population of around 330,000. Of the resident population, approximately 16.9% are children and young people. The City of London is an economically diverse area, with its population characterised by areas of affluence and poverty. Within the Square Mile, there are large disparities. The Barbican West and East residential areas are among the most affluent areas in England. Portsoken Ward, however, is among the most deprived. An estimated 78% of the City of London population is White British; however, approximately 40% of children are from black or ethnic minority groups compared to 21% nationally. The Bangladeshi community makes up 4% of the total population. Domestic abuse remains a key issue in the City with the majority of child protection investigations in the City involving domestic abuse concerns. There are no children involved in the criminal justice system currently and no teenage pregnancies. Academic attainment for City resident children is higher than the national average. The numbers of children and young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), obesity rates, infant deaths and underweight babies, hospital admissions for self-harm, deliberate injury, alcohol-related injury and the number of pregnant smokers are all low with numbers ranging from 0 to 5 in each category. Within the City, there is one maintained primary school (with a Children's Centre attached), four independent schools and several higher educational establishments. It has no maintained secondary schools. The majority of children attending these schools come from other boroughs and most of the local authority's secondary school age children go to school outside of the City.

Early Help

***'Work is appropriately held within early help, and there is evidence of good direct work with families to effect change. There is effective engagement with partner agencies to support individual families, and, strategically, to develop the early help service further.'* OFSTED 2020**

Early help services across the City of London are delivered by People's Services and a range of partners, including schools, children centres, one GP surgery and health colleagues as well as other local service providers, including the community and voluntary sector. They are effective, and some are particularly

strong. The range of services available to children, young people and their families in the City continue to adapt and evolve based on the needs of the local population. The early help arrangements in the City have been in place now for a number of years and are embedded with agencies. All children needing an early help service in the City receive a well-resourced, dedicated service, which is provided by trained staff. Over 2019/20, the Early Help Strategy for the City of London continued to drive partnership improvements. With a focus on ensuring the right help is provided at the right time and in the right place, the strategy is focussed on key strategic objectives and is coordinated by the CHSCP City Early Help Sub-Group. Through critical reflection, consultation and co-production with children and families, partners from the Multi-Agency Practitioners Forum and the City's Parent Carer Forum for children with SEND, the following progress has been made:

The City has a clear Thresholds of Need document that has been agreed with partner agencies. This is used to provide services at an appropriate stage and as early as possible to prevent higher levels of need in the future.

There is a single point of contact for referrals to Early Help services and Children's Social Care, enabling timely and appropriate decision making and allocation.

The Early Help Assessment is co-created with the family, including discussions with the child/ young person as well as with practitioners from involved agencies.

*Early help practice in the City of London is **Empowered**: evidenced through insightful assessments by highly skilled staff, that lead to robust offers of help.*

***Child-centred**: evidenced by children and young people routinely being present at meetings or represented through direct work. **Integrated**: evidenced through a strong 'Think Family Focus', and a 'top-three' (cases of concern) collaboration across children's, health, adult, housing and homeless service.*

An external audit commissioned by The City of London in 2019 found: The Early Help practice audited was purposeful and well-focused on specific outcomes for children. The quality of intervention is very good and the consistent quality of supervision by the Early Help Coordinator supports strong and reflective practice.

In 2019/20, the total number of cases referred or stepped down to early help services was 21, a small reduction from 27 in 2018/19. There were no re-referrals to early help within 12 months of closure. This has been a consistent pattern and reflects the effectiveness of the multi-agency intervention to improve outcomes for children and young people, preventing problems getting worse.

Children in Need of Help and Protection

***‘Children in need of help and protection within the City of London receive a good service that is proportionate to their needs and enables them to effect positive change. Risks to children are minimised and, where required, additional support is provided to prevent concerns from escalating.’
OFSTED 2020.***

Good practice with children and young people who are in need of help and protection can be seen when help is provided early in the emergence of a problem and there is a well-coordinated multi-agency response. Thresholds between early help and statutory child protection work are appropriate, understood and operate effectively. Risk is effectively mitigated and outcomes improved through good assessment, authoritative practice, planning and review.

The City of London Corporation undertook a virtual visit thematic audit in May 2020. This showed that social workers were aware of the potential deficits in using virtual visits to assess and manage risk. There was evidence when comparing the quality between face to face and virtual visits that social workers had taken this into consideration by following the guidance they had been given. Telephone contact did not give the same depth or quality of information required, as audits completed using this method showed that the interaction was rather one-dimensional. Where possible, video/face to face visits were used. Since August 2020, all visits have been face-to-face, unless there are risk factors which require alternative planning. Data shows a large increase in fact to face visiting for quarter 3.

Contacts, Referrals and Assessments

The Children and Families Team Hub provides responsive screening activities and ensures all contacts are immediately progressed as a referral if the threshold for a statutory social work assessment is met. Signposting activity requires staff to have a continually updated knowledge of local services alongside a comprehensive understanding of the City of London Thresholds of Need. The 314 contacts made to the Children and Families Hub reflects a minor decrease on previous years. However, referrals show an upward trend. The re-referral rate in the City of London was 15%, an increase from 8.7%8% in 2018/19. Overall, the performance data in the City continues to be indicative of a good social work response and timely access to appropriate support that helps children and their families.

The Children and Families Team Hub aims to ensure that only those children meeting thresholds for statutory assessments are progressed as referrals. Local Authorities undertake these assessments to determine what services to provide and what action to take. The full set of statutory assessments under the Children Act 1989 can be found [HERE](#).

The Children and Families Team completed 67 assessments during 2018/19, almost double the number (35 42) in 2018/19. 78% of assessments undertaken in the City were completed within 45 days or less. The rate of child protection (Section 47) enquiries in 2019/20 evidenced a slight reduction from 137.6 per 10,000 to 123 per 10,000. The threshold for Section 47 enquiries in the City is appropriate. Children are not being unnecessarily subjected to child protection intervention and practice is proportionate to the presenting need. Where a child protection response is required, these are all completed in a timely manner. 100% of Initial Child Protection Conferences take place within 15 days of the strategy meeting where the decision was taken to convene an enquiry. This means that in the City of London, children receive a swift service when safeguarding concerns are apparent. All Section 47 enquiries undertaken in the City are led by a suitably qualified and experienced registered social worker.

Children on Child Protection Plans

‘When children are identified as being at risk, strategy meetings are convened in a timely manner and are well attended by professionals, who provide relevant information to inform decision-making. Decisions following these meetings and any subsequent enquiries are clearly recorded by managers to facilitate effective interventions with families.’ OFSTED 2020

Following a child protection enquiry, where concerns of significant harm are substantiated and the child is judged to be suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm, social workers and their managers should convene an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC). An ICPC brings together family members (and children / young people where appropriate) with supporters, advocates and professionals to analyse information and plan how best to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child / young person. If the ICPC considers that the child / young person is at a continuing risk of significant harm, they will be made the subject of a Child Protection Plan (CPP).

Children who have a CPP are considered to be in need of protection from either neglect, physical, sexual or emotional abuse; or a combination of one or more of these. The CPP details the main areas of concern, what action will be taken to reduce those concerns and by whom, and how professionals, the family and the child or young person (where appropriate) will know when progress is being made. Five children were subject to a CPP in the City at the end of 2019/20. In 2019/20, 93% of CP visits took place within timescales compared to 83% in 2018/19. No children were on a child protection plan for over 12 months.

Children in Care

A child or young person who is 'looked after' is in the care of the local authority. They can be placed in care voluntarily by parents struggling to cope, they can be unaccompanied asylum-seeking children; or in other circumstances. The City of London Corporation and partners will intervene because the child or young person is at risk of significant harm. As of 31 March 2020, the City was responsible for looking after 24 children and young people, a further increase. The City of London's rate for looked after children (148 per 10,000) is well above statistical neighbours (48) and the England average (67). Proportionately, this reflects a high volume of work for the City of London social workers.

Placement Stability, Type and Location

In 2019/20, 20.8% of children looked after by the City had three or more changes of placement over the year. This is a significant increase from 3.7% 5.0% in 2018/19, although caution should be observed in analysing these figures because variations of one or two children can have a major impact on the rate and this performance can therefore fluctuate. This continues to reflect good performance and means that children looked after by the City tend to enjoy good stability and placements that meet their needs well. The local authority does not have its own fostering service due to the size of the looked after children population, but spot purchases from the Pan London consortium. Ofsted rates all independent fostering agencies used by the City either Good or Outstanding. There are sufficient suitable placements available to meet the needs of the City's looked after children and young people. All placements are outside of the local authority with no 9 young people being placed over 20 miles from the City.

Care Leavers

In some areas, particularly in relation to children in care and care leavers, services have improved, resulting in positive experiences and progress for young people. OFSTED 2020

There is a strong range of support for care leavers in the City of London. Care Leavers are well supported, workers remain in touch with them, there is availability of suitable accommodation and they are provided with health support. 22 out of 28 care leavers were in education, training or employment; one in university, 18 attending college; two in employment/training, and six Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and 1 Unknown (March 2020). For lessons identified by the CHSCP in respect of working with care leavers, with a particular focus on their mental health, see the CHSCP's review [HERE](#).

Violence against Women & Girls

Children and young people who are exposed to domestic violence and abuse can grow up in a vacuum of what is expected in terms of a positive and healthy relationship. This can create additional vulnerabilities and/or harmful behaviours. Responding proactively and in collaboration with the Safer City Partnership (SCP), violence against women and girls remains a key priority for the CHSCP, recognising both the short and long-term impact on the safety and welfare of children and young people. During 2019/20, the SCP continued its focus on developing services and a new [Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy](#).

Operation Encompass has been rolled out by The City of London Police. Five of the City's schools have completed the training which has been delivered virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions. The remaining school is due to be trained shortly once the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) has settled in post. Training material will be delivered to all schools so they can refresh staff as and when required.

MARAC

Operational arrangements for MARAC (multi-agency risk assessment case conference) processes are clearly defined in the City. The City MARAC operates a lower threshold than in other local authorities and takes cases where a preventative approach would be helpful. This is good practice and enables children with these families to have a better co-ordinated multi agency service. In 2019/20, one MARAC was held where children were involved.

Safeguarding Adolescents

Understanding the context in which children and young people live their lives is an essential feature of effective multi-agency intervention. For the CHSCP, this issue remains central to our overall approach in making children and young people safer. Context is key. During 2019/20, the CHSCP refreshed its defined strategy for safeguarding adolescents. This strategy builds on the progress made by the partnership in safeguarding children and young people at risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and those missing from home, care and education. It was developed in parallel to our improved understanding of the issues facing young people; established through focused problem profiles, national and local learning and intelligence pictures involving vulnerable adolescents.

The strategy continues draws on evidence about effective practice from contemporary research. It is a focussed document that sets the parameters for developing our understanding of the complexities of young people's vulnerabilities and finding more effective multi-agency responses to these issues. The strategy maintains a focus on making sure that professionals are getting the basics right whilst striving to develop best practice in terms of the following priorities:

- Page 79
- Knowing our Problem, Knowing our Response
 - Strong Leadership
 - Prevention and Early Intervention
 - Protection and Support
 - Disruption and Prosecution

Factors in scope within the strategy include, but are not limited to the following:

- Child Sexual Exploitation (including Harmful Sexual Behaviours)
- Children missing from home, care and education
- Children and young people exposed to risk through gang involvement, county lines, trafficking and serious youth violence.
- Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA)
- Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG)

- Adolescent Neglect
- Self-harm and Suicide
- Substance Misuse
- Radicalisation
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Child Sexual Exploitation

Understanding the nature and prevalence of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) and ensuring that partner agencies provide appropriate safeguarding responses and interventions remains a priority. In February 2017, a revised definition of CSE was issued by the Department for Education (DfE).

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.' DfE 2017

The City of London continued to experience a low number of cases relating to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), with most contacts being about non- residents. Over the last four years, the crimes relating to CSE that have been recorded by the City Police include rape, sexual activity and possession of indecent images. Cases have also included grooming by offenders via the internet / social media.

Partner agencies engaged in the City continue to share intelligence that may influence the knowledge of the profile. Of significance is the City's location as a major transport hub. A quarterly data set of over twenty indicators produced for the MASE Group supplements the information provided by the City Police. This informs understanding, and the identification of risk indicators. In recognition of the overlapping vulnerabilities adolescents face, the City Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation panel was changed to the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation panel to include all forms of abuse and exploitation that adolescents are at increased risk

of. Although few in number and type and relatively lower level risk in comparison to neighbouring LAs, the City is not complacent and maintains an 'it could happen here' stance.

Operation Make Safe (formerly Alarm Call) has been on hold due to Covid-19. Until restrictions are lifted it is not possible to use cadets to test the response of hotels, coupled with the fact that a large number of City hotels are currently closed due to a lack of trade the MPS have also placed their work on hold. A digital conference is being designed for release in January 2021 to enable engagement and education to take place even if lockdown restrictions are still place.

Children Missing from Home, Care and Education DRAFT

Responses to children who go missing are robust, and processes and procedures are followed and escalated to senior managers when required. There is a clear understanding of the additional vulnerabilities of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) who go missing, and the potential for exploitation and trafficking and significant efforts made to locate them quickly. OFSTED 2020

The City Police lead on all children who go missing from home or care and a coordinated response takes place with the City Children and Families team, working closely with the child's parents or carers. Numbers of children who go missing in the City of London are very low. A specific part of the Safeguarding Adolescent Strategy focuses on the effective management of children who are missing. The City of London has reviewed its Missing from Care Procedures and the arrangements for Return Home Interviews. There remains senior leadership oversight through the missing period with robust partnership arrangements in place. All strategy meetings have health, social care and police engagement as a minimum. This has helped with the timely response to missing episodes and alerting relevant authorities to missing episodes.

NCH Action for Children is commissioned by the City of London Corporation to give missing children a return home interview within 72 hours. These interviews are followed up with therapeutic support depending on the outcome to address risk-taking behaviour. This is in line with statutory guidance published by the Department of Education in 2014. Return home interviews are reviewed and used by the partnership to understand the reasons why children go missing and inform strategy and service delivery.

Since 2015, the City of London Corporation has implemented a rigorous system to identify all children of statutory school age and where they attend school. The City of London maintains this record of where children are placed through the primary and secondary transitions process. A school tracker is updated and reviewed regularly.

Gangs, Criminal Exploitation and Serious Youth Violence

There are a number of ways in which young people can be put at risk by gang activity, both through participation in and as victims of gang violence which can be in relation to their peers or to a gang-involved adult in their household. The City of London Drugs Profile found that the largest area of drug misuse was among affluent City workers with the supply of drugs controlled by organised criminal groups involving male 'runners' in their 20s who often deal pre-ordered drugs out of their cars. While drug related crime involving resident CYPs is low, a case involving a trafficked young person highlights this as an emerging theme that requires close attention and partnership working between Police, Adult and Children's Social Care, and businesses in the City. There is concern in the north that young adults known to be associated with Islington gangs have started to hang around Golden Lane Estate. Community safety partners are monitoring this closely and report 'no hard issues' other than gang related graffiti to date. Work with the estate and Islington is needed to understand this emerging pattern and mitigate associated risks for CYP.

The City of London has completed a Contextual Safeguarding Assessment of the Square Mile bringing together intelligence from the City's vulnerable adolescents profile, City Youth Forum, Community Safety, Neighbourhood teams, and relevant intelligence from LAs on our border. This led to changes in the City's multi-agency arrangements to improve joint intelligence and planning around risks. The Safeguarding Adolescents Forum expanded its remit to consider all child exploitation, including criminal. This work has recently been able to help partners identify children who are being exploited by criminal gangs to steal. The City of London has also commissioned a County Lines peer review. The final report on this has been delayed because of the pandemic

Work in being undertaken to implement Operation Innerste, which is a process that enables police to obtain the fingerprints and photograph of unaccompanied asylum seeking minors when they present at the police station. The aim of the operation is to prevent the minors becoming 'attractive' to traffickers or potential exploiters because they have a footprint in the UK, in effect their identity is locked in before they are placed in local authority care. Pilot schemes have also seen it greatly reduce the number of minors who abscond from their placements and present in a different local authority area.

Adolescent Neglect

Identifying, naming and responding to adolescent neglect can be challenging due to misconceptions that adolescents become more resilient because of their age alone, over-reliance on older CYP to be responsible for themselves, and the assumption that they can and would ask for help if they needed. This is further exacerbated in affluent families where material wealth and access to private services can serve to keep neglect and emotional abuse of adolescents hidden. It is also the case that CYP in affluent families where there is parental substance misuse, mental ill health, or domestic violence can be harder to reach due to the way families use their resources to block access and can hide the extent of their needs through the use of privately funded services.

The City has previously sponsored research on neglect in affluent families. Conducted by Goldsmith University, this research identified teens as a particularly vulnerable cohort with complex safeguarding needs. Research by The Children's Society has also found a potential link between emotional neglect and those children living in more affluent families. Given the City's demographics, this remains a priority, ensuring that practitioners have the necessary skills to recognise and respond to the signs and symptoms of adolescent neglect.



Self-Harm & Suicide

The partnership's focus on self-harm and suicide continued over 2019/20 as a consequence of the deaths of a number of young people from Hackney. Learning from the published reviews into these cases is set out later in this report. The City of London's Suicide Steering Group continued to provide strategic oversight and operational planning covering adults and both children.

Radicalisation

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act received Royal Assent on 12th February 2015. Prevent was placed on a statutory footing in July 2015 to ensure all specified authorities in local areas, as a minimum, understand the local threat and take action to address it, assess if local frontline staff need training to recognise radicalisation, and to ensure that all of those who need to work together to deliver the programme do so in the most effective way. The City of London has not been identified as a Priority Area and as such, receives no additional Home Office funding to deliver its Prevent programme. The Safer City Partnership (SCP)

retains overall governance of this agenda, which includes a focus on ensuring there are sufficient arrangements in place to safeguard children and young people. The City of London Police delivers Prevent training to schools, youth providers and businesses.

Private Fostering

A child under the age of 16 (under 18, if disabled) who is cared for and provided with accommodation by someone other than a parent, person with parental responsibility or a close relative for 28 days or more is privately fostered. The arrangements for managing private fostering in the City accord with statutory requirements. No notifications were received in The City of London during 2019/20. Private Fostering continues to be promoted via the CHSCP Private Fostering App.

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Children with Disabilities

Since the introduction of the special educational needs and disability (SEND) reforms in September 2014, the City of London Corporation has made good progress in implementing these. All former Statements of Special Educational Needs were transferred to Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans well in advance of the national deadline of 1 April 2018. All statutory assessments are completed within 20 weeks (the statutory timeframe). There remains a very high level of satisfaction rate amongst families accessing the City of London's services and their view of multi-agency working is good. The SEND Joint Strategy and self-evaluation form (SEF) has been developed with both partners and families to set out the City's priorities and to highlight the areas where the most progress is being made.

The City currently provides short breaks to 12 children and there are 21 children with EHC plans in place. There is a disability lead in the social work team who has specialist knowledge and supports the service when needing to progress assessment work with disabled children. During the Covid-19 pandemic, partners in the City of London have continued to offer close support to children with EHC Plans and their families through a weekly review and have a strong integrated offer between Special Educational Needs and Children's Social Care.

MAPPA

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) are the statutory measures for managing sexual and violent offenders. The Police, Prison and Probation Services (Responsible Authority) have the duty and responsibility to ensure MAPPA are established in their area and for the assessment and management of risk of all identified MAPPA offenders. The purpose of MAPPA is to help reduce the re-offending behaviour of sexual and violent offenders in order to protect the public from serious harm, by ensuring all agencies work together effectively. Across London on 31 March 2020, there were 6581 6452 Category 1 'Registered Sex Offenders' (RSOs) (an increase from 6452 in 2018/19 and 6317 in 2017/18), 3735 Category 2 'Violent Offenders' (and decrease from 4128 in 2018/19 and 3833 in 2017/18) and 37 Category 3 'Other Dangerous Offenders' (an increase from 27 in 2018/19 and 24 in 2017/18).

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Safer Workforce

Despite all efforts to recruit safely there will be occasions when allegations are made against staff or volunteers working with children. Organisations should have clear procedures in place that explain what should happen when such allegations are raised. These should include the requirement to appoint a designated safeguarding lead (DSL) to whom these allegations are reported. It is ordinarily the responsibility of the DSL to report allegations to, and otherwise liaise with, the designated officer in the local authority (referred to as the LADO). The LADO has the responsibility to manage and have oversight of allegations against people who work with children. Reporting to the Assistant Director of People Services, the LADO role in the City is held by the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service Manager. The LADO should always be contacted when there is an allegation that any person who works with children has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child.
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child.
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.

Activity

- There were eight referrals made to the LADO during 2019/2020 period, which is an increase of two from 2018/2019. Five met the LADO threshold.
- There were six referrals to the LADO in 2018/19, six in 2017/18, seven in 2016/17 and eleven in 2015/16.

Categories of Concern

- Three cases were related to incidents in the professional's person life and raised concerns in respect of their professional role working with children.
- Two were related to the individual's behaviour
- Three were related to physical abuse.

Themes

Over the last eight years, the highest number of referrals have been made relating to those in the education sector. This overall trend continues. In 2019/20, noted themes included referrals about incidents in the personal life of the professionals concerned and referrals arising from outside of the City of London.

LADO Training & Awareness Raising

Awareness raising activities by both the CHSCP and the City of London continued during 2019/20. Designated Safeguarding Leads continue to access training through the CHSCP. Part of this training focuses on the role of the LADO and the City of London LADO has been involved in delivering this training in the City. This has enabled professionals who would not necessarily meet with the LADO to gain a better understanding around the role and when they need to refer. Sessions with partners through the staff induction and Multi-Agency Forums, such as the City of London's Children's Partnership Board and Education Safeguarding Forum have also promoted awareness. The Safeguarding Lead in the Education and Early Years' Service has been integral in supporting the message around role of the LADO by briefing early years settings on the procedures in reporting professional allegations. The LADO also maintains close links with the Designated Safeguarding Leads in Schools. The City of London also hosted the National LADO conference in May 2019, this has significantly raised the profile of the City not only within Greater London but also nationally.

Hackney Safeguarding Snapshot 2019/20

Approximately 63,655 children and young people under 18

23% of total population

28% of children living in poverty

27.9% of children in primary schools in receipt of free school meals (national average 15.7%) (Dec 2019)

33% of children in secondary schools in receipt of free school meals (national average 14.1%) (Dec 2019)

459 children were subject to a CAF and MAT intervention in 2019/20 ↑

291 new early help cases identified and supported through the MAT process ↑

Young Hackney are working with 600 young people through Early Help Teams, providing tailored support.

Approximately 170,780 attendances at activities delivered by Young Hackney from young people throughout the year. ↓

108 children missing from home or care ↓ / 821 episodes of children going missing from home or care ↑

16044 contacts to Hackney CFS ↑

5031 referrals ↑

15.8% re-referrals ↓

4923 assessments completed by Hackney CFS ↑

63% of assessments were completed within 45 days ↑

924 child protection investigations ↓

251 Children on a Child Protection Plan as of March 2020 ↑

3094 Children in Need episodes as of March 2020 (2904 in 2018/19) ↑

402 children with a disability (open to Disabled Children Service as of March 2020) ↑

432 children & young people looked after as of March 2018 ↑

253 MARAC meetings involving children and young people living in families with domestic violence ↓

309 referrals to the LADO ↑

Safeguarding in Hackney

Hackney Demographics

The London Borough of Hackney is an inner-city London borough. There are over 60,000 children and young people under the age of 18 years, representing 4% of the total population. Of these, around 19,000 are aged less than five years. Over 58% of children and young people living in Hackney belong to black or other minority ethnic backgrounds, compared with 21.5% in the country as a whole. It is a richly diverse community with significant numbers of Asian, Black African, Black Caribbean, Black British, Turkish, Kurdish and Charedi Jewish children. Hackney's Orthodox Jewish Community population of around 30,000 represents more than 10% of Hackney's total population and around 50% of the community is under the age of 19 years. There are over 180 languages spoken in the borough. Hackney is ranked the second most deprived borough in England and it is estimated that 35.6% of children and young people in Hackney are living in poverty, with around 28-32% eligible for and in receipt of free school meals.

Early Help

'Children and families are helped and supported by a range of effective early help services.' OFSTED 2019

Children and young people in Hackney continue to have access to and benefit from an extremely wide range of early help services that are sharply focused on meeting the diverse needs of local communities. These services are delivered by the Hackney Children and Families Service, Hackney Education and a range of partners, including 74 schools, a network of 21 children centres delivering a range of services and working closely with schools, GPs and health colleagues as well as other local service providers, including the community and voluntary sector.

Children's Centre Family Support and Multi-Agency Team (MAT) Meetings

Family support in children's centres seeks to improve parenting capacity, protect children from harm and neglect and improve outcomes for young children. Family support is part of the early help Universal Partnership Plus offer to families with children predominantly but not exclusively, under 6 years and is

coordinated by the MAT (Multi-Agency Team meetings), underpinned by the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) early help assessment. MAT meetings have continued to occur fortnightly in each of the six strategic Children's Centres in Hackney. Chaired by a qualified social worker employed by Hackney Learning Trust, MAT meetings are attended by a range of professionals including midwives, health visitors, Children's Centre family support teams, speech and language therapists and First Steps. Early help interventions delivered include: parenting programmes; individual and small group work to address family relationships and dynamics; support with: housing; finance; child behaviour; sleeping; toilet training; routines; and the transition to nursery and school.

MAT received 291 new referrals (277 in 2018/19) and worked with a total of 459 families subject to an early help assessment and referral (447 in 2018/19). In addition to the 459 early help assessments, MAT received 66 'handoffs' from the First Access & Screening Team (FAST) in order to coordinate a response following contact.

Young Hackney

Young Hackney provides early help, prevention and diversion service for children and young people aged 6-19 years old and up to 25 years if the young person has a special education need or disability. The service works with young people to support their development and transition to adulthood by intervening early to address adolescent risk, develop pro-social behaviours and build resilience. The service offers outcome-focused, time-limited interventions through universal provision and targeted services designed to reduce or prevent problems from escalating or becoming entrenched and then requiring intervention by Children's Social Care.

The number of named individuals accessing Young Hackney universal provision decreased by 5% in 2019/20 compared to the previous year. 22,787 named individuals accessed Young Hackney provision in 2019/20, compared to 24,024 named individuals in 2018/19. There were 170,780 attendances by named children and young people aged 6-19 years during 2019/20 at the wider youth provision delivered through Young Hackney and commissioned services for young people. This is a 3.6% decrease compared to 2018/19 when there were 177,299 attendances by named children and young people. Part of this decrease may be explained by the increasing concerns from parents about the risk of COVID-19 which began in March 2020, before the Government official lockdown date of 23 March 2020. Many people began to work from home, and vulnerable children or children in families with those at risk began to be educated virtually/at home. Hackney CFS Annual Report 2019/20

Children in Need of Help and Protection

Good practice with children and young people who are in need of help and protection can be seen when help is provided early in the emergence of a problem and there is a well-coordinated multi-agency response. Thresholds between early help and statutory child protection work are appropriate, understood and operate effectively. Risk is effectively mitigated and outcomes improved through good assessment, authoritative practice, planning and review.

Contacts, Referrals and Assessments

‘Thresholds are applied consistently and effectively at the front door when concerns first arise, and children and families receive the right level of initial help when they need it.’ OFSTED 2019

DRAFT

The First Access & Screening Team (FAST) acts as a single point of contact for referrals to Children’s Social Care in Hackney and provides responsive screening activities. All contacts with FAST are immediately progressed as a referral to Children’s Social Care if the threshold for a statutory assessment is met. Related to this, ongoing activity requires staff in FAST to have a continually updated knowledge of local services at their fingertips coupled with a sound understanding of the Hackney Child Wellbeing Framework. The FAST ensures children are quickly allocated resources to meet their needs or safeguard their welfare, working on a principle of right service, first time. Like other Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) across London, FAST works alongside co-located partners from Hackney CFS, police, probation and health services to share information, jointly risk assess and promote access to services. This joined up approach enables proportionate and timely decisions about the type and level of services children need and facilitates timely access to resources. The FAST development continues to be co-ordinated by a multi-agency steering group of key partners. Hackney’s FAST also supports children and young people to access universal and targeted early help provision. In 2019/20, FAST received 16044 contacts from a range of sources of which 5031 were accepted as a referral to CFS. This is a marked increase in the number of referrals compared to 2018/19 (4190). The percentage of re-referrals decreased from 16.5% to 15.8%. Against this indicator, Hackney continues to track well below the national average and either below or in line with statistical neighbours.

Following contact, the FAST aims to ensure that only those children meeting thresholds for statutory assessments are progressed as referrals to CFS. Local Authorities undertake these assessments to determine what services to provide and what action to take. The full set of statutory assessments under the Children Act 1989 can be found [HERE](#).

4,923 assessments were completed in 2019/20, an increase on 4290 in 2018/19 and 4,438 in 2017/18. 64% of assessments were completed within 45 days. This is lower than the most recently published statistical neighbour data – 88% of their assessments were completed within 45 days over a 12 month period as of 31 March 2019. Our assessment timescales have improved since March 2020, with 80% of assessments between April-August 2020 completed within 45 days, and 94% of assessments in September completed within 45 days. There was a significant increase in the number of assessments completed in the second half of 2019-20, from November 2019 onwards that impacted on our ability to improve assessment timescales following a continued focus on this area in 2019-20. Once this high volume of cases moved through the system, the decrease in the number of assessments in 2020-21 has meant that assessment timescales have improved significantly. **Hackney CFS Annual Report 2019/20**

Strategy Discussions

DRAFT

‘Strategy discussions do not involve all relevant partners sharing agency information until the initial child protection conference stage. This means that subsequent enquiries and assessments for many children don’t include key information, for example that held by the police about adults. Better practice in information-sharing is evident in strategy discussions concerning harm to children on open cases.’ OFSTED 2019

Ofsted’s inspection of Hackney’s children’s social care services in 2019 identified that in some strategy discussions, they do not involve all relevant partners sharing agency information until the initial child protection conference stage. In response, The CHSCP has developed [this protocol](#) as a practical guide for Hackney professionals involved in a child protection enquiry. It covers details about when strategy discussions should be convened, who needs to be involved and what factors need to be considered. The protocol includes an [agenda template](#) that will help you follow the process and understand the decisions that need to be made.

Children on Child Protection Plans

Following a child protection enquiry, where concerns of significant harm are substantiated and the child is judged to be suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm, social workers and their managers should convene an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC). An ICPC brings together family members (and children / young people where appropriate) with supporters, advocates and professionals to analyse information and plan how best to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child / young person. If the ICPC considers that the child / young person is at a continuing risk of significant harm, they will be made the subject of a Child

Protection Plan (CPP). From 2011 to 2017, there has been an increasing trend in the number of children and young people subject to a CPP in Hackney. However, following a 30% increase seen between 2016 and 2017, there was a significant swing, with CP Plans decreasing by 39% as at the end of March 2018 (from 330 to 200). This reduced rate remained broadly the same as at the end of 2019 (194). Over 2019/20, there has been a growth in activity in this regard. At the end of March 2020, 251 children had a CP Plan in place.

Related to this indicator is the number of children subject to a CPP for a second or subsequent time. This measure is used as a potential indicator as to whether a CPP has been successful in effectively reducing risk. During 2019/20, the percentage of children being subject to a CPP for a second or subsequent time decreased from 23% compared to 18.6 % in 2018/19.

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Children in Care

‘Children in care and leaving care in Hackney benefit from a strong service.’ OFSTED 2019

A child or young person who is in care or ‘looked after’ is in the care of the local authority. They can be placed in care voluntarily by parents struggling to cope, they can be unaccompanied asylum seeking children; or in other circumstances, Hackney CFS and partners will intervene because the child or young person is at risk of significant harm. As of 31st March 2019, Hackney was responsible for looking after 432 children and young people compared to 405 at the end of March 2019. This is a 7% increase. Overall numbers have increased since 2011 (270), and whilst Hackney has historically had lower numbers of children in care per 10,000 population, 2018/19 saw Hackney’s rate (64) exceed Statistical Neighbour rates (60.4) for the first time. In 2019/20, the rate is 64 per 10,000.

Placement Stability, Type & Location

On the whole, stability is associated with better outcomes for children. Proper assessment of a child’s needs and a sufficient choice of placements to meet the varied and specific needs of different children are essential if appropriate stable placements are to be achieved. Inappropriate placements tend to break down and lead to frequent moves. The percentage of looked after children with three or more placements in one year decreased from 13% in 2018/19 to 12% in 2019/20. The children who experienced multiple placement moves were generally aged over 13 years; their placement changes were associated with issues

linked to higher levels of need and complexity related to adolescence. The percentage of looked after children aged under 16 looked after continuously for at least 2½ years who have been living in the same placement for at least 2 years (or placed for adoption and their adoptive placement together with previous placement lasting for at least 2 years) as of 31st March 2020 was 66%, a further improvement on previous reporting, although Hackney has historically tracked below statistical neighbour and national averages in this regard. Similar to earlier years, the vast majority of looked after children are in foster placements (75%). Of the 432 children looked after by Hackney at March 2020, 23% were placed in Hackney (26% in 2018/19). There has been an increase in the percentage and number of children placed within 20 miles of Hackney, with 329 (76%) of children placed within 20 miles during 2019/20, compared to 300 (74%) in 2018/19. This is in part due to the increased use of in-house fostering placements.

Care Proceedings

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The rate of care proceeding applications in Hackney increased 10.3 per 10,000 in 2018/19 to 16.4 per 10,000 in 2019/20 (107 applications). This rate is higher than the national average (10.8 per 10,000).

A new Strategic Plan was launched by Cafcass in autumn 2019. It has been developed with significant input and engagement from staff across all parts of the organisation, including the FJYPB, our family justice system partners and wider stakeholders. Ongoing engagement with each of these groups is a key feature of our new strategy which recognises the importance of working together to improve outcomes for all the children we work with as part of a wider family justice system.

Care Leavers

The Leaving Care Service ensures that young people are supported to develop independent living skills, offered career advice and training and educational opportunities, and supported to reach their full potential in all aspects of their life. 313 care leavers aged 17-21 were being supported by the Leaving Care Service, as of March 2020, a 2% increase compared to the 308 being supported at the same point in March 2019. This number has continued to rise and the service was supporting 326 care leavers aged 17-21 at the end of August 2020. 79 care leavers aged 22-24 were being supported in March 2020. This is a

20% increase compared to the 66 care leavers aged over 21 who were being supported by Leaving Care, as of March 2019. This number has continued to increase and the service was supporting 82 care leavers aged 22-24 at the end of August 2020.

Each year over 10,000 young people leave the care system and become care leavers . Their immediate transition to independence and the years that follow can be difficult for many. With little to no family support, the lived experience of some can be extremely challenging and isolating. In 2020, [the CHSCP published a briefing paper](#) building on our collective understanding of the challenges faced by care leavers. It provides a number of headline messages for improving multi-agency safeguarding practice. It summarises the lessons from the reviews of two cases involving care leavers who tragically died by suicide. Wherever you work, use this briefing paper to generate discussion about the vulnerability of care leavers, particularly in the context of their mental health. Talk about what you can do differently, reflect on the key messages and above all, ensure your individual practice is sufficiently attuned to them.

Violence against Women & Girls

It is estimated that 3 in 10 women (aged 16+) will have experienced domestic abuse at some point in their lives and that 1 in 5 children have been exposed to domestic abuse in the home. Applying these figures to local populations would suggest that 34,142 women have experienced intimate violence, with 5804 children and young people being either directly or indirectly affected by it. Responding proactively and in collaboration with the Community Safety Partnership remains a key priority for the CHSCP, recognising both the short and long-term impact on the safety and welfare of children and young people. The CHSCP is represented on Violence Against Women and Girls operational and strategic panels, which is comprised of statutory and voluntary sector organisations. The partnership in Hackney progressed its ambition to move from a strategy based on tackling DV to one that aims at a wider approach responding to all forms of VAWG. This development follows national and regional policy and aims to embrace all forms of violence that are committed against women and girls as they have a number of commonalities and therefore suggest a linked approach. Operationally, the Domestic Abuse Intervention Service (DAIS) in Hackney encompasses the following areas:

- **Intervention Officers.** The Intervention Officer posts allow for the recruitment of social workers, former police officers, probation officers as well as qualified domestic abuse advocates. This will build a service with a mix of skills and backgrounds who are experienced in assessing and managing risk.

- **Perpetrator interventions.** This model integrates allows for the flexibility for staff to engage with perpetrators directly as needed to deliver a responsive, holistic and victim-focused risk management service.
- **Operational and strategic management.** Managers are responsible for operational case work and for strategic / partnership working. This differs from the usual model whereby a 'VAWG co-ordinator' role sits separately from the delivery of risk management services working with clients.

From April 2017, the Domestic Abuse Intervention Service (DAIS) joined the Children and Families Service as part of the Early Help and Prevention Service. DAIS works with anyone experiencing domestic abuse who is living in Hackney, aged 16 or over, of any sex and gender, and of any sexual orientation. The service assesses need; provides information and support on legal and housing rights; supports service users with court attendance; supports service users to obtain legal protection; and works with service users and other professionals to address their needs. The service also works with perpetrators of domestic abuse to try to reduce risk.

DAIS received an average of 25 referrals per week in 2019/20, similar to the rate received in 2018/19. This followed a 61% rise in referrals between 2015/16 and 2018/19. The impact of the lockdown in response to coronavirus led to a 50% increase in referrals between 23 March 2020 and 4 July 2020 as compared to the same period in 2019. DAIS adapted its core service delivery to ensure continuity of service while at the same time leading within the Council and across the Hackney partnership on the promotion of a joined up, adaptive and resilient response. DAIS remained fully operational and the Council has allocated additional resources to expand the staff team to meet this demand. Referral numbers have now stabilised to an average of 26 between August and September 2020. **Hackney CFS Annual Report 2019/20**

MARAC

The number of cases considered at MARAC (multi-agency risk assessment case conference) continues to reflect a robust response to providing multi-agency support to victims and children at risk of domestic violence and abuse. 492 cases were heard at MARAC in 2019/20, a 9% increase from 2018/19 when 450 cases were heard. 110 of the total number of cases heard at MARAC in 2019/20 were 'repeat' referrals, a 3% decrease from 2018/19 when 113 of the total were repeat referrals. In 2019/20 of the 492 cases, 253 (49%) there were children in the household.

The Primary Care MARAC Liaison service at Homerton University Hospital received a Highly Commended Safeguarding Initiative award from the Health Service Journal. The judges felt that this team provided a comprehensive overview of the development, and demonstrated excellent outcomes in relation to improved engagement in primary care. It was great to see the multi-agency team working together to optimise the opportunity to safeguard patients. Webinars on domestic abuse have also been delivered by the Homerton Safeguarding Children Team with subject specific experts, Hackney DAIS, Safe and Together Team and the Specialist Health Visitors for Domestic Abuse.

Safeguarding Adolescents

Understanding the context in which children and young people live their lives is an essential feature of effective multi-agency intervention. For the CHSCP, this issue remains central to our overall approach in making children and young people safer. Context is key. During 2019/20, the CHSCP refreshed its defined strategy for safeguarding adolescents. This strategy builds on the progress made by the partnership in safeguarding children and young people at risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and those missing from home, care and education. It was developed in parallel to our improved understanding of the issues facing young people; established through focused problem profiles, national and local learning and intelligence pictures involving vulnerable adolescents.

The strategy continues draws on evidence about effective practice from contemporary research. It is a focussed document that sets the parameters for developing our understanding of the complexities of young people's vulnerabilities and finding more effective multi-agency responses to these issues. The strategy maintains an unswerving focus on making sure that professionals are getting the basics right whilst striving to develop best practice in terms of the following priorities:

- Knowing our Problem, Knowing our Response
- Strong Leadership
- Prevention and Early Intervention
- Protection and Support
- Disruption and Prosecution

Factors in scope within the strategy include, but are not limited to the following:

- Child Sexual Exploitation (including Harmful Sexual Behaviours)
- Children missing from home, care and education
- Children and young people exposed to risk through gang involvement, county lines, trafficking and serious youth violence.
- Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA)
- Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG)
- Adolescent Neglect
- Self-harm and Suicide
- Substance Misuse
- Radicalisation
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

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The partnership has continued to develop its understanding of exploitation and extra-familial harm including criminal exploitation, county lines and trafficking. This has been supported by the ongoing work of the Contextual Safeguarding Project. The Extra-Familial Risk Panel, a key operational component, continued to be held fortnightly to ensure consistent oversight and planning for cases where young people are at risk of experiencing, or are involved in, harmful behaviours outside the home. There is strong multi agency attendance from Police, Education, Health, Youth Offending Team, Young Hackney and the Integrated Gangs Unit. The Panel develops operational actions which looks to reduce harm and disrupt exploitation of children. Themes and strategic issues from the Extra-Familial Risk Panel are shared with the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) group for wider consideration and agency action. Both forums also report back any significant issues via the CHSCP Safeguarding Adolescents Group.

The contextual safeguarding project in Hackney has been evaluated and this was published in November 2020: <https://www.researchinpractice.org.uk/all/news-views/2020/november/evaluating-a-contextual-safeguarding-system-to-address-extra-familial-risk-and-harm/> This is an independent evaluation of the implementation of the contextual safeguarding system in Hackney published by the Department for Education (DfE). The evaluation, led by the University of Sussex in partnership with Research in Practice, was part of the second wave of DfE Innovation Programme funding. The evaluation findings indicate that:

The implementation of Hackney's new Contextual Safeguarding system is progressing well. Systems and approaches to support Level 1 work are now almost fully embedded in Hackney and further advanced than comparators' systems in most respects (based on interviews with professional leads and social workers, staff surveys, and documentary analysis in Hackney and with the comparator local authorities). While not all Level 2 interventions, or the procedures that support them or assess their impact, are in widespread and consistent use across Hackney, the Contextual Safeguarding approach means that Hackney is now much better equipped to address extra-familial risk and harm at Level 2 than comparable local authorities.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Understanding the nature and prevalence of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) and ensuring that partner agencies provide appropriate safeguarding responses and interventions remains a priority. In February 2017, a revised definition of CSE was issued by the Department for Education (DfE).

'Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.' DfE 2017

Analytical research has been undertaken to interrogate data relating to CSE and HSB and to identify emerging themes and trends which inform service development. The research has highlighted three broad CSE profiles in Hackney:

- **CSE risk resulting from peer-on-peer abuse (sexual offences/exploitation against one or more victims and usually perpetrated in a group setting)**
- **CSE risk from an adult perpetrator (typically a young person believing themselves to be in a 'relationship' with an adult after being introduced to them by a normally vulnerable friend, or through online contact)**
- **Exploitation via social media (inciting or encouraging a victim to take and send explicit images of his/herself)**

Children Missing from Home, Care and Education

The Police lead on all children who go missing from home or care and a coordinated response takes place with Hackney CFS working closely with the child's parents or carers. For those young people who repeatedly go missing this co-ordinated response often involves a lead professional from education, Young Hackney, Youth Justice Service and the Integrated Gangs Unit.

Hackney CFS has led on strengthening the partnership's understanding of and response to children and young people who go missing from home and care. Missing episodes are considered as part of a broader spectrum of vulnerabilities effecting adolescents which include CSE, harmful sexual behaviour (HSB), radicalisation and gang and youth violence.

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When a young person returns from an episode of going missing, they are offered an independent return home (IRH) interview by the Children's Rights Service. The use of Independent Return Home Interviews continues to be effective in supporting young people to share information about push and pull factors, what happens when they go missing and what support they need to reduce further episodes. The implementation of a daily meeting with Missing Police has supported better working relationships, information sharing and development of robust risk assessments and timely plans to locate children and offer the appropriate support. The most prominent themes in reasons children and young people have been going missing is 'difficulties at home or school', with overcrowding being highlighted in a number of cases. Mental health and emotional wellbeing was also a key precipitating factor for missing episodes and additional learning needs whereby young people became confused with how to get home or made poor decisions due to peer influences.

In 2019/20, 108 young people went missing from home or care on 821 occasions (compared to 144 young people on 568 occasions in 2018/19). In 66% of the occasions where a young person went missing it is recorded that they were offered an interview and in 42% of cases, the interview was accepted. A daily discussion is held with Hackney Missing and Exploitation Police to review cases of missing children and consider their vulnerabilities and support required. A fortnightly 'High Risk Case Alert' is sent to the Director and Heads of Service in Hackney CFS to ensure senior managers are sighted on young people who are presenting with the highest risk and ensure plans are in place to reduce this risk and minimise harm.

In respect of children missing education, The Children Missing Education (CME) Team continues to identify, monitor and track children missing or not receiving a suitable education. This includes liaison with FAST when there are safeguarding concerns. The work of the CME team fits closely with other strands of work to support vulnerable pupils including supporting schools and families to prevent poor school attendance, truancy, exclusions and supporting schools and families to get children back to school once absence has occurred. The team liaises closely with the Education Attendance and Admissions services.

When looking at the rolling number of cases, the overall CME figure had been relatively low before the identification of pupils previously attending independent settings. Between October 18 and January 19, the service received a high number of referrals following the closure of a school in the Charedi community. Between October and November 2019, the service also experienced a sharp rise in CME numbers, with an increase of 226 children. In addition, the service recorded a slight increase in August 19 following an intensive review of those children registered as Electively Home Educated (EHE). A significant number of children 385 children (all the Charedi community) remain open to the CME Team due to a lack of clarity on the child's circumstances, a lack of engagement or refusal to comply with Hackney's EHE services.

Gangs, Exploitation and Serious Youth Violence

There are a number of ways in which young people can be put at risk by gang activity, both through participation in and as victims of gang violence which can be in relation to their peers or to a gang-involved adult in their household. Over 2018/19, the CHSCB's focus on this aspect in the context of vulnerable adolescents was further developed. The CHSCB's annual conference in 2018/19 specifically focused on the criminal exploitation of young people, with further training rolled out over 2019/20. In late 2020, the CHSCP published a Serious Case Review Concerning Child C.

On 1 May 2019, Child C, a 15 year old male, died as a result of being stabbed whilst in the street. Child C had been permanently excluded from school and three months before his death, he had been seriously injured in another stabbing incident. There had been a noticeable increase in police contacts and concerns about deteriorating behaviour and escalating risk. Child C was going missing and local intelligence suggested he was being criminally exploited and possibly involved in county lines. On 19 December 2019, a 15-year-old boy was found guilty of his murder at the Old Bailey. A 16-year-old boy and an 18-year-old male were both convicted of manslaughter. A fourth suspect, a boy aged 16, died in custody prior to trial after becoming unwell. The [Serious Case Review \(SCR\)](#)

[of Child C](#) makes nine findings and fifteen recommendations for practice improvement. Read the statement of Jim Gamble QPM, the Independent Child Safeguarding Commissioner of The CHSCP [HERE](#). The findings of this SCR include:

Exclusion from mainstream school can heighten risk. As identified in the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's report on criminal exploitation: '*exclusion from mainstream school is seen as a trigger point for risk of serious harm*' and permanent exclusion can be '*a trigger for a significant escalation of risk*'. Both statements resonate with the lived experience of Child C.

Education settings need access to local intelligence. Pupil Referral Units (PRU) and Alternative Education Provision (AP) have minimal influence over which children are placed in their facilities. This can result in young people who live in rival gang areas being in the same classroom. Whilst staff had a good understanding of the needs of individual pupils, the risk dynamic created by the cohort of pupils was less understood.

A focus on the individual child is important. When working with children who are victims of serious youth violence, emphasis needs to be placed on their individual needs. For young people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, practitioners should explore what their racial and cultural identity means for them in the context of where they are growing up and how they live their lives on a daily basis. It is essential that practitioners are confident to explore these issues, have a good understanding of the implications and can tailor plans appropriately.

Clarity is needed about interventions to mitigate extra-familial risk. Whilst local procedures were followed, the difference this made to Child C's outcomes is less tangible. The review recognises that at the time of Child C's death, multi-agency contextual safeguarding practice in response to extra-familial risk was new and developing. It is also important to recognise that the circumstances involving Child C were complex and extremely challenging. There were no easy solutions.

Developing positive relationships with young people is important. As with many children in need or at risk, Child C is likely to have benefitted from a strong relationship with a trusted adult with whom he could build a relationship. There is a firm evidence base showing how this can make a significant difference in the lives of children, but it is acknowledged that Child C became progressively harder and harder to engage.

Involving and supporting parents is essential to effective safety planning. As noted by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's report on criminal exploitation: '*When parents are active in safety planning and implementation there appears to be a greater chance of success.*' Whilst it was good practice to engage Child C's family, the

review found that there was an over-reliance placed upon them. A curfew, increased adult supervision and adult escorts were agreed, but were all contingent on the family to action.

Inconsistent judgements about risk creates uncertainty. There was a lack of consistency in how different agencies defined risk, its implications and the responses to it. In the opinion of the lead reviewer, there was adequate information to conclude that the risk to Child C was imminent after the stabbing incident in February 2019. The collective judgement arrived at by agencies, did not equate to the actual risks facing Child C.

The use of child protection procedures. There was ambiguity about the 'status' of intervention with Child C. This led to a lack of structure and confusion about multi-agency action. The overall consequence of this lack of clarity was that planning and management oversight was weak and opportunities to intervene were missed. No agency had a sufficient grip or a true appreciation of the risks facing Child C, his interactions with other young people in his community, or where and how he socialised.

Poor case recording can directly impact on practice. Poor recording features as an issue in many reviews, although it can sometimes be difficult to see how this directly impacts on children. In Child C's case, inaccurate recording by the hospital (that Child C was going to live with his father) resulted in no onward referrals being made for community-based services. Opportunities to meaningfully engage with Child C at a critical moment after being injured were lost.

Adolescent Neglect

Like younger children, adolescents are more likely to experience neglect at home than any other form of child harm. A report by the [Children's Society](#) into adolescents and neglect found that there was evidence that professionals struggle to identify adolescent neglect and are unsure what to do when they come across it. This has partly been based on misconceptions, including that adolescents become resilient to neglect and that neglect is less harmful than other forms of maltreatment. Neglect has been linked to a variety of problems for adolescents, including to 'challenging' behaviours e.g. poor engagement with education, violence and aggression, increased risk-taking (offending or anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, early sexual intercourse). It can lead to poor physical health, difficulties with relationships (with peers and adults) and be behind 'internalised' problems – e.g. low levels of well-being or mental ill health.

Self-Harm & Suicide

The partnership's focus on self-harm and suicide continued over 2019/20 as a consequence of the deaths of a number of young people from Hackney. Learning from the published reviews into these cases is set out later in this report.

Radicalisation

Statutory guidance expects Local Authorities to assess the threat of radicalisation in their areas and to take appropriate action. The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) retains overall governance of this agenda, which includes a focus on ensuring there are sufficient arrangements in place to safeguard children and young people. The Prevent Strategy is a key part of the Government's counter-terrorism Contest strategy. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism and has three objectives - challenging ideology, supporting vulnerable individuals and working with sectors and institutions. A strategic priority for Hackney's Prevent work is to ensure the safeguarding of children and young people to prevent them becoming drawn into supporting terrorism. In Hackney a multi-agency Channel Panel, chaired by the Head of Safer Communities, works at the pre-criminal stage to support vulnerable individuals where a risk of radicalisation is assessed and a plan of action devised.

During 2019/20, there were 26 referrals to the Hackney Channel Panel (an increase from 17 in 2018/19). All referrals concerned male subjects, with the highest number being generated from the education sector. As with the previous year, eight of these referrals involved young people under 18.

Substance Misuse

Young Hackney provides specialist treatment for young people affected by substance misuse – either directly or because a family member is using drugs. The service also has a dedicated officer who provides support and interventions for young people in contact with youth justice. Over 2019/20, the team worked with 210 young people on a targeted basis – as compared to 202 in 2018/19. The service also delivered outreach sessions to young people in schools and youth hubs.

Private Fostering

A child under the age of 16 (under 18, if disabled) who is cared for and provided with accommodation by someone other than a parent, person with parental responsibility or a close relative for 28 days or more is privately fostered. Comparison with national and statistical neighbours has not been undertaken following the DfE ceasing to publish statistics on notifications and closing the private fostering data collection for local authorities. A review of all private fostering arrangements (15 in total at the time) was conducted in January 2020 and a new Private Fostering Policy was rolled out the following month. Numbers remained broadly in line with last year. As of 30 September 2020, only nine private fostering arrangements were open to Hackney. The team had been in the process of assessing a number of new arrangements but these children returned to their families due to COVID-19.

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Young Carers

Young carers are children and young people under 18 who provide regular or on-going care and emotional support to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled or misuses substances. A young carer becomes vulnerable when the level of care giving and responsibility to the person in need of care becomes excessive or inappropriate for that child, risking impacting on his or her emotional or physical well-being or educational achievement and life chances'.

48 new referrals were received for Young Carers in the first three months of the service coming in-house, a large number being made following a Young Carers Awareness Day in January 2020. At the end of March 2020, there were 290 identified young carers in Hackney. Hackney Young Carers Project provides a variety of support services which includes group work, and one to one work with children in more complex situations. **Hackney CFS Annual report 2019/20**

Disabled Children

Following this deterioration in services, senior leaders took remedial action earlier in the year and implemented a plan for improvement. This is beginning to have some positive impact in improved safeguarding practice and more robust management oversight of the progress of children's cases. OFSTED 2019

At the end of March 2020, the service was working with 402 children and young people. Of these, 267 were male and 132 were female (3 children were not yet born). This is an increase of 20% compared to 2018/19, when the service was working with 336 children and young people, In 2017/18, the service was working with 241 children and young people.

Children's Mental Health

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in City and Hackney are provide by Homerton University NHS Foundation Trust (First Steps and the CAMHS disability team, a joint service with the ELFT CAMHS); Clinicians employed by London Borough of Hackney's children's social care and the Specialist Service is provided by the East London NHS Foundation Trust (ELFT). ELFT CAMHS provides the specialist (tier 3) community based service, the CAMHS provision within the Young Hackney Service and a service for adolescents with more complex mental health needs, for example, first onset psychosis and complex eating disorders. East London NHS Foundation Trust also provides the inpatient service (tier 4) and the out-of-hours service for City and Hackney.

CAMHS did (and still does) a clinical rag rating of children who should be seen face to face for clinical reasons, but also prioritises children in terms of digital inclusion/digital poverty (i.e. those who can't connect or don't have access to privacy etc). Before schools re-opened, CAMHS were very aware that not all vulnerable children weren't being 'seen' in school or by other agencies as regularly and safeguarding was considered by CAMHS practitioners when contacting those families. The CAMHS risk assessment covers safeguarding, DV, exploitation and other safeguarding issues

Since the first Covid-19 lockdown in March 2020, there been a significant increase in the number of children and young people admitted to Homerton hospital in emotional distress. In the first 3 months of 2020/2021, there have been 11 admissions of which eight young people were transferred to the Coborn adolescent psychiatric unit. This is a 73% increase compared to the same period last year.

Kooth – A new online counselling and emotional wellbeing service for children and young people (11-19yrs) was launched from 1 April 2020. The service provides a safe and secure means for young people to access online support from a team of qualified counsellors who provide guided, outcome-focused help. The service provides additional support through moderated, scheduled forums to facilitate peer led support and self-help articles (many written by service users) to provide self-help support. Kooth has no referrals or waiting lists, and young people can access this service anonymously by signing onto the Kooth site.

MAPPA

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) are the statutory measures for managing sexual and violent offenders. The Police, Prison and Probation Services (Responsible Authority) have the duty and responsibility to ensure MAPPA are established in their area and for the assessment and management of risk of all identified MAPPA offenders. The purpose of MAPPA is to help reduce the re-offending behaviour of sexual and violent offenders in order to protect the public from serious harm, by ensuring all agencies work together effectively. Across London on 31 March 2020, there were 6581 6452 Category 1 'Registered Sex Offenders' (RSOs) (an increase from 6452 in 2018/19 and 6317 in 2017/18), 3735 Category 2 'Violent Offenders' (and decrease from 4128 in 2018/19 and 3833 in 2017/18) and 37 Category 3 'Other Dangerous Offenders' (an increase from 27 in 2018/19 and 24 in 2017/18).

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Youth Offending

Overall, Hackney has a relatively low proportion of 10-18 year olds involved in the youth justice system. The number of young people re-offending in Hackney within a 12 month period has significantly decreased over the last year, from 71 at the end of March 2019 to 47 at the end of March 2020, a 33% decrease year on year. The number of young people entering the Youth Justice System for the first time in Hackney increased from 82 in 2018/19 to 88 in 2019/20. Hackney's first time entrant rate per 100,000 has increased from 326 in 2018/19 to 349 in 2019/20, this is higher than the most recent 2018/19 statistical neighbour average (32).

Unregistered Educational Settings

Unregistered Educational Settings (UES) provide 'full-time' education to children of compulsory school age, but teach a curriculum that is too narrow for the setting to constitute a 'school'. The consequence is that they cannot be registered (or regulated) and this is a significant concern for The CHSCP. Large numbers of children in Hackney attend UES and are outside the line of sight of safeguarding professionals. There is no direct mechanism to ensure that the premises within which children congregate in these settings are safe and that practice meets established minimum standards for safeguarding. Whilst the Independent Child Safeguarding Commissioner, Hackney Council and the wider safeguarding partnership have endeavoured to find a resolution to this problem (and despite continuing efforts to engage community leaders), no real progress has been made. In 2020, the CHSCP developed a protocol to help manage the response to

the identification of UES and any concerns arising in respect of them. It is disappointing that this has been necessary, but in the absence of any appetite from either community leaders or Yeshivas themselves to cooperate, this is the best we are able to do as a partnership. The Department for Education's consultation concerning the regulation of UES and other settings closed at the end of November 2020. Government need to use this opportunity to strengthen both registration requirements and regulation. Without such change, children and young people will continue to be exposed to a two-tier safeguarding system that is simply unacceptable.

To help the multi-agency safeguarding partnership respond to this issue, The CHSCP has launched The Unregistered Educational Settings Hackney Operational Protocol to provide a framework to coordinate action and make children and young people safer. It is available on the CHSCP website [HERE](#). The protocol covers two stages. Stage 1 is focused on the actions to be taken when potential UES are identified in Hackney. Stage 2 deals with the multi-agency response when safeguarding concerns are raised about UES.

Out-of-School Settings

Many children and young people participate in some form of organised activity outside of school at some point during their primary and secondary school years. There is plenty of excellent local practice which provides a wide range of activities and opportunities to young people and the community, for example improving cultural awareness, building self-esteem and encouraging our children to be active citizens within their community. In Hackney, the Out Of School Settings (OOSS) project has been launched to help parents and carers make sure that their children are happy, safe and protected in after school and extra-curricular activities. Led by Hackney Education, this DfE funded project intends to strengthen the safeguarding arrangements within Out of School Settings and work includes the following:

- The development of an OOSS portal (completion spring 2021)
- The development and launch of an OOSS app (completion spring 2021)
- The development and launch of the CHSCP Self-Assessment Audit Tool for OOSS (underway)
- Parent/carers comms (launch summer 2021)
- A piece of work to support unregistered settings within the Orthodox Jewish community (preliminary work underway)

Safer Workforce

Despite all efforts to recruit safely there will be occasions when allegations are made against staff or volunteers working with children. Organisations should have clear procedures in place that explain what should happen when such allegations are raised. These should include the requirement to appoint a designated safeguarding lead (DSL) to whom these allegations are reported. It is ordinarily the responsibility of the DSL to report allegations to, and otherwise liaise with, the designated officer in the local authority (referred to as the LADO). The LADO has the responsibility to manage and have oversight of allegations against people who work with children. The LADO should always be contacted when there is an allegation that any person who works with children has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child.
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child.
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.

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There were 309 referrals to the LADO in 2019/20, a 16% increase from 266 referrals in 2018/19. The annual increase is in line with the trajectory since the inception of the LADO database and record keeping, although there was a reduction in referrals during lockdown and the impact on referral rates after April 2020 is still to be analysed.

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There is a strong and effective working relationship between Hackney Education and the LADO service. This is particularly important as the majority of LADO referrals are from education settings. The LADO has worked extensively with the Head of Wellbeing and Education Safeguarding over the last year to address the ongoing difficulties posed by unregistered educational settings and the challenges around safeguarding in these settings.

Activity

There were 309 referrals to the LADO in 2019/20, a 16% increase from 266 referrals in 2018/19. The annual increase is in line with the trajectory since the inception of the LADO database and record keeping, although there was a reduction in referrals during lockdown and the impact on referral rates after April 2020 is still to be analysed.

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Categories of Concern

Physical abuse remains the highest category of concern.

The other three categories (neglect, sexual and emotional) are less prevalent during LADO contacts.

The second highest category is concerns in private life. Settings and employers are increasingly more aware of the potential risks the experiences or behaviour in the private lives of employees may have upon their performance and approach to working with children in their employment. The employing organisation also needs to consider potential reputational damage if the concerns are serious and warrant a criminal investigation.

The 'other' category continues to record a relatively high number of contacts (9.3%). These relate to information sharing with the police or other organisations (non-recent matters mostly), parental complaints rather than allegations of harm or concern, and notification of unregistered settings without specific harm by an individual being identified.

Themes

The increase in contacts with the LADO during 2019/20 is likely to be attributable to continued awareness raising, the LADO service being well embedded and improved professional familiarity. The role of Hackney Education encouraging referrals is also identified as a likely reason for additional activity. This is good practice.

One new theme identified relates to parents directly contacting the LADO service to make a referral. Four calls were recorded on the LADO database. In addition, we have noticed that parents have contacted the police before notifying the school of their concern or allegation or if they are dissatisfied with the outcome of a school's investigation. This has been echoed by colleagues at a number of London LADO Network meetings. Another theme relates to the involvement of the LADO service in relation to the conduct of police officers. The position as applied by the LADO service in Hackney (and for other local authorities as agreed at the London LADO Network) is that harm caused to children and young people as a result of the conduct of police officers needs to be

dealt with through police internal procedures i.e. the local professional standards unit. Police officers have a niche occupation whereby they are not in regulated activity with children, they are policing the public. Their work inevitably brings them into contact with children and young people who are arrested or in custody, which will on occasions include elements of physicality, such as restraints or managing resists to arrests.

Where complaints arise in respect of the conduct of the police, although a LADO investigation will not necessarily follow, it has been agreed that the LADO will follow up to ensure that the complaint is being dealt with and that the police will share the outcome of their investigation. This provides reassurance that a) the matter had been investigated and b) an official outcome had been reached. The MPS Child Safeguarding Development Group has attended two London LADO Network meetings to work in collaboration with the LADOs as they are in the process of refining a draft MPS LADO Engagement Protocol. This has unfortunately been placed on hold due to the current impact on services as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

LADO Training & Awareness Raising

The Safeguarding in Education Team (Hackney Education) run an extensive training programme throughout the year covering safe practice and the procedures for dealing with allegations against adults who work with children and young people. They continue to run specific training dealing with managing allegations for managers in the early years and school sector, once every academic year for schools and twice for early years managers. The training that the LADO facilitates, is set up following an identified need either by the organisation that expressed an interest/need or through referrals (either quality or number) that indicate a training session would prove helpful.

NHS Staff Training: The training was co-presented by the LADO and the Head of Safeguarding at Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. One session included staff working in Mental Health and the second session was attended by mostly health visitors. The training was well received and positive feedback was given regarding the training's applicability and the helpfulness of the case examples. The immediate feedback following the first session was applied to the delivery of the second session. One particular discussion about indecent images of children stimulated thinking about practices regarding the sharing of images of children in health settings. This generated amendments in protocol to set clear guidance on what is permissible and what the responsibilities of health staff are.

Learning & Improvement

Since implementing a revised Learning & Improvement Framework in 2013/14, there has been significant activity undertaken across both the City of London and Hackney. A range of lessons have been identified leading to tangible impact and improvement across the safeguarding system. To identify lessons, the CHSCP applies a focus on the following areas:

The Voices of the Child, Family & Community

As part of the CHSCP pledge, safeguarding partners have committed to supporting and enabling a culture of working that routinely seeks out and reflects the voices of children and young people. They have further committed to engaging directly with children and young people and that the lived experience of local children and young people will be evident in the policies we create, the practice we review and the communication channels that our wider partnership creates. Importantly, it will be evident in our multi-agency casework and our intervention to improve the outcomes of children and young people. In summary, the lived experience and voice of children and their families are central to the CHSCP's shared vision, ambition and approach to multi-agency safeguarding.

However, it is important that we respond to this issue beyond the rhetoric. Safeguarding partners have agreed the need to avoid tokenistic initiatives that do little to strengthen practice, improve outcomes and potentially replicate ongoing work. The CHSCP is currently considering a range of actions to strengthen its approach in this context and will report on progress next year.

Reviews of Practice

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR) are undertaken on 'serious child safeguarding cases' to learn lessons and improve the way in which local professionals and organisations work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. These reviews were previously known as Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) but were transitioned to a new CSPR structure from July 2019. The detailed arrangements for CSPRs are set out in the CHSCP's local protocol [HERE](#). In determining whether or not a CSPR is required, the following criteria must be considered:

- The case highlights or may highlight improvements needed to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, including where those improvements have been previously identified.
- The case highlights or may highlight recurrent themes in the safeguarding and promotion of the welfare of children.
- The case highlights or may highlight concerns regarding two or more organisations or agencies working together effectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- The case is one which the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel have considered and concluded a local review may be more appropriate.

The following circumstances should also be considered:

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- Where the safeguarding partners have cause for concern about the actions of a single agency.
- Where there has been no agency involvement, and this gives the safeguarding partners cause for concern.
- Where more than one local authority, police area or clinical commissioning group is involved, including in cases where families have moved around.
- Where the case may raise issues relating to safeguarding or promoting the welfare of children in institutional settings.

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Some cases may not meet the definition of a 'serious child safeguarding case', but nevertheless raise issues of importance to the City of London and /or Hackney. This might include cases where there has been good practice, poor practice or where there have been 'near-miss' events. The CHSCP may choose to initiate a local child safeguarding practice review in these or other circumstances.

Activity

- During 2019/20, the Case Review Sub-Group met on four occasions.
- Five serious incident notifications were submitted to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. All children were Hackney residents.
- Three notifications resulted in Serious Case Reviews being commissioned (pre-July 2019).
- One SCR and a review involving two care leavers who died by suicide remained ongoing.

- The review of the care leavers was published in November 2020. Child C was published in December 2020
- Full details of all the reviews published by the CHSCP are available [HERE](#).

One case raised at the Case Review Sub-Group related to a young mother who died by suicide (Ms A). She had two children of her own and was also caring for her two siblings as her own mother had drug and alcohol problems in another LA area. The case did not meet the criteria for a Safeguarding Adults Review or Serious Case Review however questions were raised around the rationale to place the siblings with Ms A. The CHSCP subsequently wrote to the local safeguarding partnership to bring the case to its attention. The response received noted that thoroughness in Section 20 Children Act placements (with particular regard to agency checks undertaken as part of the risk assessment/guardian suitability process) had recently been explored in a similar case ([Child LH](#)). Practice issues and learning had been embedded and multi-agency audits undertaken to review whether practice has changed. The case of Miss A preceded the Child LH review and subsequent procedural changes.

Previous Reviews

MULTI-AGENCY CASE REVIEW – CHILD E 2014

This review was initiated following a professional's visit to Child E's home that identified significant concerns regarding neglect. Questions were raised about the opportunities for earlier identification of the environment in which Child E was living; with an independent review subsequently being agreed by the Independent Chair. The following summary sets out the key areas of learning identified, some of the specific actions undertaken by the CHSCB and a range of examples of the impact that this review has had on the safeguarding system.

Key Learning

- **Children need to be seen, heard and helped, the importance of home visits and escalating concerns**
- **The importance of identifying and dealing with neglect**
- **The need for all staff to “Think Family”**
- **The importance and clarity of information sharing**

SERIOUS CASE REVIEW – FC 2015

In 2015, the CHSCB published a Serious Case Review (SCR) in respect of Case FC. The review involved a Hackney foster carer who, prior to his recruitment, was anonymously reported to the police about his use of indecent images of children. The police failed to investigate this complaint properly at the time and although information was retained about the anonymous report, it was never disclosed to Hackney Council. Over thirty children were subsequently placed by Hackney Council with this foster carer. In 2014, he received a custodial sentence after being found guilty of rape and a range of other sexual offences. Some of the victims were children in care. He is known to have sexually abused five children of primary school age, one victim in the community and one other unidentified victim abused some 30 years earlier. The SCR found that despite the police knowing about the initial allegation, on each of the occasions when the foster carer was subject to the regular criminal record checks that carers are required to undergo, a decision was made not to share that information with Hackney Council. At no time was Hackney Council given the opportunity to make an informed decision about the foster carer's employment. He escaped this scrutiny due to repeated professional judgements being made by the police on the basis of a particular understanding of legislation and case law regarding the sharing of 'soft intelligence'.

Key Learning

- The weaknesses in the guidance relating to the disclosure of 'soft intelligence' under the Police Act 1997
- The need for GP contracting of counselling services to be clear about how to handle a disclosure
 - An explicit recognition that children who are in public care need to be kept safe
 - Educational work with children and young people to reduce the likelihood of further sexual abuse

MULTI-AGENCY CASE REVIEW – CASE K 2015

In September 2013 (when they were aged 8 and 2) the police removed both children from their family home because of the extremely poor home conditions. It is now known, prior to this intervention, the family home had not been visited by any professional since late 2008. Both children were well known to a number of agencies and there were concerns about their health and development, which in the case of Child 1 were long-standing. He had a statement of special educational needs (SEN), a severe communication disability and developmental delay. Child 2 had more recently been diagnosed as having a significant developmental delay. Historically there had been concerns about possible neglect. Mother was convicted of cruelty and received a community sentence. They

have remained in the care of the local authority and there is currently no plan to return them to her care. After the children were removed the mother was diagnosed with severe depression.

Key Learning

- The importance of home visits and not only seeing families in ‘settings’
- The importance of identifying and naming neglect as a potential concern – to ensure swift action is taken to protect children.
- The importance of robust and thorough assessments of potential neglect
- The importance of joint working across children’s and adult services and ‘thinking family’
- The need for robust arrangements for safeguarding children in education settings.
- The recognition of neglect and children with disabilities – additional vulnerabilities for this cohort.

SERIOUS CASE REVIEW – CHILD H 2016

Child H was a baby girl who lived with her mother and father at the home of the maternal grandparents. Child H died at the age of six weeks. Medical advice indicated that the death had been caused by inflicted injuries. Child H’s parents, Ms M and Mr F, were arrested but subsequently no charges brought. No one has been held to account for Child H’s death. The circumstances of the death met the statutory requirement that a SCR be conducted.

Key Learning

- The importance of distinguishing between parental learning difficulties v disabilities – the thresholds for engagement by other services and the assessment of any needs in the context of parenting capacity.
- The importance of thinking family and engaging relevant specialisms (whether adult or children) as part of the assessment process.
- The importance of management oversight and supervision of case work to ensure its quality.
- Ensuring a clearer understanding of Psychosocial Meetings held at Homerton Hospital.

JOINT SERIOUS CASE REVIEW / DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEW – CHILD D 2016

Child D and her mother were murdered by mother's ex-partner (father of Child D). There was no significant multi-agency involvement prior to the deaths, although mother reported concerns regarding domestic violence to police and their response has been subject to separate investigation by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC).

Key Learning

- Professional curiosity in the context of people experiencing domestic violence and abuse.
- Accurate risk assessments of the risk of domestic abuse.
- The need for agencies to work together effectively.
- The need for robust supervision to ensure high quality work.
- The importance of sufficient resources being made available for front-line staff to do their jobs effectively

MULTI-AGENCY CASE REVIEW – CHILD L 2016

Child L was a 17 year old male who was fatally stabbed. The assailants (who were found guilty of murder) were of a similar age and were known to Child L. Child L came to the attention of statutory services in the months before he died. On two occasions he was reported missing to the police and had been arrested or had contact with the police on at least seven separate times for drug offences in a number of cities across the UK - including in the period when he had been reported missing.

Key Learning

- Seeing beyond criminal behaviours to consider if a young person, in particular young men, are potential vulnerable or at risk of harm/exploitation.
- Recognition of the increase vulnerability of young people who move across geographical areas as there is greater risk of them falling through statutory service gaps.

SERIOUS CASE REVIEW – CHILD M 2018

Child M and his sibling were subject to Child Protection Plans following injuries that Child M's sibling sustained whilst in the care of Child M's father. In 2016, Child M was taken to hospital by his mother and on examination was found to have bruising to his face and transverse fractures to both femurs. In criminal proceedings father was found not guilty in relation to the GBH against Child M. Both mother and father were found guilty of child cruelty.

Key Learning

- The recognition of avoidant behaviour & disguised compliance
- The need for professional curiosity and challenge in the context of ensuring children are safe.
- The need to guard against professional optimism

MULTI-AGENCY CASE REVIEW – CHADRACK 2018

Chadrack was 5 years old when both he and his mother were found dead at their home in 2016. Chadrack had Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and was non-verbal. From the inquest into their deaths, it was concluded that Chadrack lived alone in the family home for over a fortnight after his mother's death. He was unable to feed himself or seek help. He died of starvation and dehydration.

Key Learning

- The importance of thinking safeguarding first when dealing with absence, attendance and missing from education.
- Ensuring professionals attempt to understanding the context of the child's life and that of the parents / carers.
- The practical application of professional curiosity; beyond rhetoric.
- The need to rule safeguarding 'in or out' as an issue before anything else.
- Keeping children safe in education; proactively asking for information on vulnerabilities which may impact on the child or family network.

SERIOUS CASE REVIEW - CHILD N & CHILD O 2018

In March 2017, Child N was assaulted by his father and pronounced dead in hospital. His female twin (Child O) sustained serious injuries in the same incident. Father subsequently pleaded not guilty to murder but admitted manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility and in October 2017 was sentenced to indefinite detention.

Key Learning

- The need to consider identified or unidentified fathers in terms of potential value or risk in the context of parenting capacity.
- The need for routine enquiries to be made with respect to the possibility of domestic abuse.
- The relevance of cultural / linguistic barriers to understanding and the need to understand the context of the family.

MULTI-AGENCY CASE REVIEW – RACHEL 2019

Rachel was 16 years and 3 months when she took her own life. Her family, school and local Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) had been concerned about her well-being for some time, including a risk of self-harm, suicidal ideation and acts. She had also become known to her GP, the local Emergency Department, the London Ambulance Service, the Police and Children's Social Care.

Key Learning

- The need for professionals to have an holistic family view of support and/care.
- The importance of supporting parents/carers in safety planning and providing opportunities for engagement with professionals.
- The need to consider parents' worries and observations in the assessment process.
- The impulsivity of young people and the fact sometimes they will tell adults what they think they want to hear.
- Professionals needing to remain curious and maintain healthy scepticism in all contexts.
- The influence of social media, internet use and media.
- The importance of robust safety planning and ensuring all key agencies are alert to potential risks.

MULTI-AGENCY CASE REVIEW - X 2019

X took his own life in October 2016. He had just had his sixteenth birthday and was in Year 11 at school, preparing for GCSEs. X lived with his mother and father. His older sister had just moved away from home to university, outside London.

Key Learning

- **Drug use and alcohol use amongst young people – particularly the use of Xanax.**
- **The use of the internet and social media in self-harm and suicide.**
- **The need for professionals to support awareness of mental health in young people - Peers as Supporters.**
- **The need to create environments where boys / young men can seek help.**

Auditing

The CHSCP's Self-Assessment Framework

During 2019/20, the CHSCP designed a new Safeguarding Self-Assessment Framework to help organisations make children safer. It replaced the Section 11 audits and Section 157 / 175 audits and is intended to make the process easier to access and update. Whether an organisation is a safeguarding partner, a relevant agency or is one named within our local arrangements, there is an expectation that the self-assessment is completed.

The Safeguarding Self-Assessment process involves the completion of an on-line tool. There are three different formats depending on the size and type of the organisation. Once completed and submitted, organisations will automatically be sent a pdf report of results and identified actions. The system can be updated by an organisation at any point a change is identified or an action complete. At the time of writing, the self-assessment process is ongoing. Results will be formally reported in the next annual report. There remains work to be done, particularly with the cohort of individual out of school settings in the City and Hackney to help them understand their responsibilities to complete this assessment.

*To date, a number of organisations have queried whether returns can be submitted by 'umbrella organisations' that oversee particular settings in our area (they can't). Some have also responded stating that as they don't believe they are a relevant agency under the Relevant Agency Regulations, then there is no requirement for them to engage. We believe this is an incorrect interpretation as will be taking further legal advice. Our current position is that Section 16H Children Act 2004 resolves any debate about relevant agency status. This section contains a wide power exercisable by the safeguarding partners to request a **person or body** to provide information to them (or various other persons or bodies identified in the section). There is no limitation or definition of 'person or body' therefore the request can be made to anyone. The information in the self-assessment is being requested pursuant to enabling or assisting the performance of functions conferred to safeguarding partners by Section 16E. This information is essentially needed for making the local arrangements to safeguarding children and the need to work together to identify and respond to the needs of children in our area. In this context, organisations have an obligation to comply (s16H(2)) and safeguarding partners retain a power to enforce compliance by injunction (s16H(3)).*

Multi-Agency Case Audits

The CHSCP multi-agency case auditing identified a range of examples of good safeguarding practice being undertaken by the partnership. Lessons have also been identified that have led to tangible improvements. Multi-agency case auditing allows the CHSCP to deliver one of the best learning opportunities for front-line workers; directly engaging them in a process that reflects upon, assesses and measures the quality of professional practice. One round of multi-agency case auditing was held in 2019/20 focusing on the mental health of children and young people. All audits result in an outcome focussed action plan that the QA Sub-Group use to track and evidence improvements in front-line practice. Learning is also disseminated to agencies/front line staff via the [Things You Should Know \(TUSK\)](#) monthly briefings. Full details are available on the CHSCP auditing webpage however strengths and key messages are detailed below.

THE CITY OF LONDON (MENTAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE)

GOOD PRACTICE

Education Services were involved in the case even though there was no statutory requirement

There was a good level of professional attendance at Child in Need and Care Programme Approach (CPA) meetings.

The Children and Families Team reflected on the young person's social media usage (a component of the local assessment framework), suicide contagion and learning from recently published CHSCP Local Reviews to help assess risk and inform their approach to working with this family.

The voice of the child was confidently relayed by the CAMHS Care Coordinator and seen to help assess risk and support safety planning.

Evidence of timely interventions (strategy discussion with key partners, CAMHS intervention and a face-to-face discussion following disclosure of abuse).

Ongoing thought was given to the most appropriate professional to engage the young person.

Sensitive decision making by the social worker on whether it would be helpful to speak to the young person at the point of their being critically unwell.

Overall, the positive work undertaken by CAMHS in a challenging and uncertain set of circumstances was acknowledged.

KEY MESSAGES FOR PRACTICE

Understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

The cases audited (in both City of London and Hackney) presented a common factor in the late identification of ASD. As a partnership, there are opportunities to explore how professionals can be supported in early identification, communicating with ASD young people, working with parents (who may themselves have witnessed traumatic events) and understanding the impact ASD may have on a young person in the context of self-harming behaviour.

Information Sharing

This case highlighted areas for continued improvement in information sharing:

Sharing of safety plans with appropriate professionals (on agreement and as changes are made).

Ensuring that a core list of key professionals are invited to planned and emergency meetings.

Outcomes of meeting being consistently communicated to key professionals.

The need for increased awareness of the School Nursing Teams to ensure that the right professionals are informed of CIN meetings, sent relevant correspondence, and involved in discharge planning for school aged children.

Absent Fathers

One audited case highlighted the need for professionals to seek clarity on the identity of absent fathers or other male figures who play/have played a role in the family. This is especially important for young people who struggle with, or display self-harming behaviours linked to their identity. Continued professional curiosity around absent fathers / paternal extended families can help professionals identify the wider support network, fully assess risks and increase the young person's understanding of themselves and their emotional wellbeing.

HACKNEY (MENTAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE)

GOOD PRACTICE

Evidence of professionals working with parents to engage in services resultant in good attendance at appointments.

The use of family therapist from the same cultural background to engage family and online interpreting service to ensure mother understood conversations. When a young person attended a sexual health clinic, their named person was informed to ensure consistency of care. This avoided the young person having to retell their story (an issue fed back by the young person).

Professionals ensured a young person had access to home education and they subsequently exceeded prior expectations by completing a number of GCSEs. The young person now has plans to attend college.

Good information sharing, with CAMHS letters copied to the Adult Mental Health Consultant and evidence of good information sharing between social workers and CAMHS practitioners.

A young person was able to express insight into their condition, including warning signs and when to call the emergency services.

Evidence of effective multi-agency working. The Home Tuition Service and School worked flexibly to transition learning and support for a young person. Allegations of assaults were responded to line with standard procedures. It was agreed a young person to be seen with a paediatrician (not normal practice for over 13s). Good multi-agency working between CSC and Police to locate young person when missing.

The Child in Need plan had a clear set of contingency arrangements for escalating concerns.

Evidence of challenge and escalation, professionals meetings being convened and CAMHS use of the complex care forum to ensure the service was delivered at the right level of need.

Effective escalation with professionals recognising the parent's strengths but also identifying the extent to which they could consistently engage with the plan.

KEY MESSAGES FOR PRACTICE

Understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

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Information Sharing

Health professionals should be aware that they are able to access records outside of their caseload if there is a child protection/safeguarding concern.

If professionals experience a lack of response from adult mental health professionals (e.g. information requests) this should be escalated to the ELFT Named Professional for Safeguarding Children.

Safety plans should be shared with appropriate professionals (on agreement and as changes are made).

There is a need for increased awareness of the School Nursing Teams to ensure that the right professionals are informed of Child in Need meetings, sent relevant correspondence, and involved in discharge planning for school aged children.

Communication from Hackney's First Access & Screening Team about 'no further action' / closure letters should contain enough detail for agencies to understand the rationale for closure and clear direction for future re-referrals.

Calling Professionals Meetings

Any professional in the network who has concerns about a case can call a professionals meeting. A professionals meeting may be important: where there is uncertainty amongst professionals about the necessary steps to safeguard the welfare of a child; where there is concern that the family is undermining attempts to understand potential risks to children; where professional disagreements arise that are impacting on effective work with the family, or where professionals need an opportunity to reflect on the plans for working with a family when progress is not being made.

Social Media Footprint

One case highlighted a general reminder, where possible, for professionals to assess young people's social media footprint. This is especially important for young people with increased vulnerabilities.

Consideration of Young Carers

All young carers are entitled to a local authority carer's assessment. This is especially important for care givers who are reaching adulthood and who may not be meet the threshold for support by the community mental health team.

Wider Family

A reminder for professionals to formally include the wider family network in discussions around safety planning and to gain their views on what is happening within the family. This learning was also identified in the CHSCB Local Review on Rachel. This case highlighted the need for professionals to consider the lived experience of siblings and support from early help services in relation to traumatic experiences they have witnessed.

Performance Data

The scrutiny of key performance data continued to be a key function of the Quality Assurance Sub-Group in 2019/20, with reports on performance being regularly provided to key safeguarding leaders during 2019/20. The CHSCP has agreed to review its dataset going forward to ensure this remains proportionate and avoids duplication of metrics already captured. The CHSCP will report on progress next year, although it should be noted that the pandemic has delayed this work.

Front-Line Intelligence

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The CHSCB undertook a staff survey in 2018/19. This aligned with the partnership's focus on 'A Healthy Workforce' and was designed to measure how organisations support their staff and the subsequent impact on safeguarding practice. The CHSCP will undertake its next full survey in 2021-22.

External Learning

The CHSCP is a learning organisation and is constantly looking outwards to identify relevant learning opportunities that may help assist in its role of co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of the safeguarding systems across the City of London and Hackney. Where relevant, national reviews and inspection reports are considered by the CHSCP. Links to NSPCC thematic briefings and wider learning from other local areas continued to be disseminated to front-line staff via CHSCP training and [TUSK briefings](#).

Key Messages for Practice

Safeguarding First

For many organisations, safeguarding is one priority amongst many. Because of this, risk to children and young people can escalate when safeguarding is absent from an organisation's culture and how its professionals and volunteers discharge their duties. It is essential that leaders promote such a culture. If anyone has any doubts as to the importance of this message, read The CHSCP's review on [Chadrack Mbala-Mulo](#). To help promote such a philosophy of 'Safeguarding First', always think about safeguarding whatever you are doing, whatever policy you are following and whatever action you might be taking. Professionals should also listen to what children and young people have said they need from those who work with them (Working Together 2018).

Children have said they need

Vigilance: to have adults notice when things are troubling them

Understanding and action: to understand what is happening; to be heard and understood; and to have that understanding acted upon

Stability: to be able to develop an ongoing stable relationship of trust with those helping them

Respect: to be treated with the expectation that they are competent rather than not

Information and engagement: to be informed about and involved in procedures, decisions, concerns and plans

Explanation: to be informed of the outcome of assessments and decisions and reasons when their views have not met with a positive response •

Support: to be provided with support in their own right as well as a member of their family

Advocacy: to be provided with advocacy to assist them in putting forward their views

Protection: to be protected against all forms of abuse and discrimination and the right to special protection and help if a refugee.

Context

Context is key and understanding the context of a child's life is essential for effective safeguarding. In terms of practice, this is about how the partnership works together to better understand the lived experience of children at home, in education and in health, alongside those aspects that are typically outside of the family environment; such as peer groups, places and spaces, and the virtual world that children occupy through their use of technology and social media. Knowing about these contexts will help us determine whether they reflect pathways to harm or pathways to protection. However, it is usual that no one individual has oversight on the detail of everything. In this respect, a first and important step is to make sure that professionals are confident in sharing information and talking with each other. If you are worried about a child or young person, you are allowed to talk with other professionals without fearing you are doing something wrong. You aren't. Talking to each other and sharing information when trying to protect people from actual or likely harm or to prevent a crime is lawful and in the substantial public interest.

Curiosity

Professional curiosity is the capacity and communication skill to explore and understand what is happening within a family rather than making assumptions or accepting things at face value. This has been described as the need for practitioners to practice 'respectful uncertainty' – applying critical evaluation to any information they receive and maintaining an open mind. In safeguarding the term 'safe uncertainty' is used to describe an approach which is focused on safety but that takes into account changing information, different perspectives and acknowledges that certainty may not be achievable. Professional curiosity can require practitioners to think 'outside the box', beyond their usual professional role, and consider families' circumstances holistically. Professional curiosity and a real willingness to engage with children, adults and their families or carers are vital to promoting safety and stability for everyone.

Much has been written about the importance of curiosity during home visits and the need for authentic, close relationships of the kind where we see, hear and touch the truth of their experience of 'daily life' and are able to act on it and to achieve similar closeness with parents or carers. Practitioners will often come into contact with a child, young person, adult or their family when they are in crisis or vulnerable to harm. These interactions present crucial opportunities for protection. Responding to these opportunities requires the ability to recognise (or see the signs of) vulnerabilities and potential or actual risks of harm, maintaining an open stance of professional curiosity (or enquiring deeper), and understanding one's own responsibility and

knowing how to take action. Children in particular, but also some adults, rarely disclose abuse and neglect directly to practitioners and, if they do, it will often be through unusual behaviour or comments. This makes identifying abuse and neglect difficult for professionals across agencies. We know that it is better to help as early as possible, before issues get worse. That means that all agencies and practitioners need to work together – the first step is to be professionally curious.

Curious professionals will spend time engaging with families on visits. They will know that talk, play and touch can all be important to observe and consider. Do not presume you know what is happening in the family home – ask questions and seek clarity if you are not certain. Do not be afraid to ask questions (and difficult questions) of families, and do so in an open way so they know that you are asking to keep the child or young person safe, not to judge or criticise. Be open to the unexpected, and incorporate information that does not support your initial assumptions into your assessment of what life is like for the child or young person in the family.

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Challenge

Differences in professional opinion, concerns and issues can arise for practitioners at work and it is important they are resolved as effectively and swiftly as possible. Having different professional perspectives within safeguarding practice is a sign of a healthy and well-functioning partnership. These differences of opinion are usually resolved by discussion and negotiation between the practitioners concerned. It is essential that where differences of opinion arise they do not adversely affect the outcomes for children, young people or adults and are resolved in a constructive and timely manner. Differences could arise in a number of areas of multi-agency working as well as within single agency working. Differences are most likely to arise in relation to the criteria for referrals, outcomes of assessments, roles and responsibilities of workers, service provision, timeliness of interventions, information sharing and communication. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and front-line staff need confidence in talking with each other about decisions that have been made, discussing any concerns regarding those decisions and where there isn't agreement; escalating those concerns as appropriate. Remember, equally important is the culture of how we work; and it is vital that front-line staff are encouraged to remain professionally curious and to raise issues where they feel that their concerns for children and young people aren't being addressed. To help staff resolve professional differences, the CHSCP has issued a simple [Escalation Policy](#).

Child Death Reviews

New CDR Arrangements

Local authorities and clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) are now the named Child Death Review (CDR) partners. CDR partners must make arrangements for the review of every death of a child normally resident in the local authority area. The purpose of child death reviews is to identify and act on learning at local and national level that could prevent future deaths. Formal collaboration between regional CDR partners is in place to ensure that child death reviews are undertaken at greater scale. This covers the City of London, Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest.

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Facts & Figures 2019/20

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- At the time of writing, the CDOP annual figures remain inaccessible due to the cyberattack on Hackney Council.
- National data reflects that the rate of infant mortality (deaths of children under the age of 1) in Hackney is 4.0 per 1000 live births (2016-18). This rate is similar to the England average of 3.9 per 1,000 children but worse than the London average of 3.3 per 1,000 children.
- In 2018/19, the CHSCB reported that child mortality rates (deaths in children and young people aged 1-17) in Hackney and the City of London were 11.7 per 100,000 children for 2015-17 which is similar to both the England and London average of 11.2 and 11.0 per 100,000 children respectively. It represents the boroughs lowest rate since 2010 when rates stood at 16.3 per 100,000 children and is in line with the trend in most London boroughs, of declining rates in child mortality.

As part of its functions, CDOP is required to categorise the preventability of a death by considering whether any factors may have contributed to the death of the child and if so, whether these could be “modified” to reduce the risk of future child deaths. During 2018/19, the CDOP identified modifiable factors in a third (33% or 5) of the deaths reviewed. A national comparison is not possible as NHS Digital is yet to publish year end data 2019/20. The CDOP is confident that all cases are reviewed comprehensively, and that professional challenge remains a central part of the review process.

Training & Development

Training Summary 2019/20










The training opportunities offered by the CHSCP are designed to meet the diverse needs of staff at different levels within the wide range of organisations that work with children, young people or adult family members. Sessions range from those that raise awareness, about safeguarding and child protection to specialist topics aimed at more experienced staff. **The training programme focuses on areas of practice prioritised by the CHSCP, with learning from local and national case reviews integrated into the training material.** Based on the evidence gathered during 2019/20, The CHSCP remains confident that single and multi-agency training is of high quality. The training programme continues to improve the knowledge and skills of the safeguarding workforce and is helping contribute towards positive outcomes for children and young people.

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- **70 training sessions in total (increase from 58 in 2018/19).**
 - 50 training courses (full and ½ day sessions)
 - 11 Reducing Parent Conflict (RPC) training sessions (funded through Department for Work & Pension),
 - Two Serious Case Review Learning Seminars and Seven Masterclasses/ Seminars.
- 1459 available training places, of which 1391 (95%) were booked in advance of the course date.
- Of the 1391 booked places, 209 delegates (15%) did not attend the training or cancel their booking in advance of the course.
- 60% of attending delegates worked in Hackney, 9% in the City of London, and 31% worked across both Boroughs.
- The CHSCP also updated its core Safeguarding training presentations, which have been positively received by delegates.
- Increased the number of Safeguarding Children with Disabilities/SEND courses delivered.
- Increased the training offer in relation to FGM, Breast Flattening and Cultural Awareness training.
- Maintained an enhanced offer in relation to Exploitation, including Young People and Substance Misuse, County Lines, and Safeguarding in a Digital World.
- Delivered a bespoke Safer Recruitment course in the City of London.

Attendance

Agency	2017/18		2018/19		2019/20		% Trend*
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Cafcass	0	0%	0	0%	1	0.1%	↔↑
City & Hackney CCG	5	0.6%	10	0.9%	13	1.1%	↑↑
CoL Children's Centres/ Nursery	9	1.2%	4	0.4%	8	0.7%	↓↑
CoL Corporation	14	1.8%	23	2%	22	1.9%	↑↓
CoL Housing	4	0.5%	5	0.4%	6	0.5%	↓↑
CoL Police	4	0.5%	15	1.3%	0	0%	↑↓
CoL Schools & Further Education	21	2.7%	22	2%	43	3.6%	↓↑
CoL Other	3	0.4%	3	0.3%	3	0.3%	↓↔
ELFT – Adult Mental Health	14	1.8%	55	4.9%	52	4.4%	↑↓
ELFT – CAMHS	11	1.4%	36	3.2%	32	2.7%	↑↓
ELFT – Forensics	7	0.9%	3	0.3%	19	1.6%	↓↑
Health Other	32	4.2%	5	0.4%	20	1.7%	↓↑
Homerton University Hospital	27	3.5%	123	10.9%	100	8.5%	↑↓
LBH Children's Centre/ Nursery	42	5.4%	40	3.6%	70	5.9%	↓↑
LBH: Children & Family Services	146	18.9%	241	21.4%	320	27.1%	↑↑
LBH: Hackney Learning Trust	30	3.9%	32	2.8%	17	1.4%	↓↓
LBH: Health & Community Services	8	1%	21	1.9%	10	0.8%	↑↓
LBH Neighbourhoods & Housing	33	4.3%	25	2.2%	14	1.2%	↓↓

LBH Schools & Further Education	92	11.9 %	74	6.6 %	78	6.6%	
LBH Other	21	2.7%	14	1.2 %	10	0.8%	
London CRC	0	0%	0	0%	3	0.3%	
Metropolitan Police	7	0.9%	4	0.4 %	3	0.3%	
National Probation Service	10	1.3%	11	1.0 %	34	2.9%	
Public Health	7	0.9%	20	1.8 %	3	0.3%	
Voluntary & Community Services	137	17.8 %	125	11.1%	92	7.8%	
Whittington Health	9	1.2%	6	0.5 %	8	0.7%	
Other	78	10.1 %	207	18.4%	201	17%	
TOTAL	771	100%	1124	100 %	1182	100%	

Annual Conference: Safeguarding & The Digital Thread

The CHSCP Annual Safeguarding Conference was held on Wednesday 4th March 2020 at the Guildhall in The City of London. The theme of this year's conference was Safeguarding & the Digital Thread with a specific focus on youth produced imagery, social media apps and offenders and technology.

- The conference was attended by a total of 167 delegates.
- 229 delegates originally booked to attend the conference
- 24 cancelled before the date of the conference.
- Of the remaining 205 potential delegates 153 (75%) attended the conference and 52 (25%) did not attend the conference or did not cancel their booking.
- A further 14 delegates attended without having previously booked a place.
- Of the 167 delegates who attended the conference 25% work in the City of London, 25% work in the London Borough of Hackney and 50% work in both boroughs.
- **92% felt the conference met their expectations of the day**
- **93% felt that learning from the conference would impact upon their safeguarding practice.**
- **96% of the delegates rated the conference sessions as either EXCELLENT (56%), VERY GOOD (29%) or GOOD (11%).**

I will be more curious about how the young people I work with use online platforms, and to have more open conversations with young people regarding their online behaviours.

I have gained awareness of the many social media platforms and will consider the language we use when investigating/ supporting a Safeguarding incident.

I am now more aware of social media platforms & dangers and have increased awareness of potential avenues for exploitation.

Evaluation & Impact

Supported by its Training Evaluation and Analysis Framework, the CHSCP continues its practice in monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of training, including multi-agency training, for professionals in the area. Work undertaken to review the quality of training in 2019/20 has enabled the CHSCP to gain important insight into the difference it is making towards improved outcomes for children and young people.

- **BEFORE** training **62%** of delegates believed their knowledge was **GOOD, VERY GOOD or EXCELLENT**.
- **AFTER** training **98%** stated their knowledge was **GOOD** (19%) or **VERY GOOD** (57%) **EXCELLENT** (22%).
- **96%** of those who answered the question stated that the training would enable them to practice more effectively and **97%** stated that the trainers facilitation skills, teaching style and knowledge were **GOOD** (9%) **VERY GOOD** (31%) or **EXCELLENT** (57%). This is really excellent feedback and a testament to the skill and expertise of our internal & commissioned trainers.
- **90%** of delegates rated the content of SCR Learning Seminars as **GOOD** (6%) **VERY GOOD** (30%) or **EXCELLENT** (54%).
- **98%** stated what they had learned would be useful to them in their roles and **94%** stated what they had learned would help them safeguarding children & young people more effectively.

How will you use the experience gained in training within your work?

I feel more confident in identifying families that need to be referred & most important knowing how to complete the forms correctly. (Early Help)

I am now able to identify specific factors of the implications of neglect and abuse and how this may affect their relationships! (Neglect)

I will feel more confident to recognise & support victims. Will be able to support other staff more effectively. (DVA Seminar)

Assessment of intoxication using the signs I learnt today. (Young People & Substance Misuse)

Remembering professional curiosity/ challenge. Standing still is falling behind. Reading lessons learned from Serious Case Reviews (DSL)

I now have a better knowledge of apps & platforms that can be used when discussing issues with young people & families. (Safeguarding in a Digital world)

Feeling more confident to challenge & address things immediately and in a way that leaves everyone feeling heard. (Difficult conversations)

I now have better insight into the reality of county lines working for young people & how to break the myth. (County Lines)

Any other comments?

The delivery was exceptional. The lecturer really captured the audience. Very well delivered. (Neglect)

This was by far and away the best safeguarding course I have attended. The facilitator was EXCELLENT Thank you. (DSL Refresher)

This was as close to life changing training as it can practically get - it was uncomfortable and at times it hurt - exactly as it should be in order to learn. (BRAVE)

This is by far the most informative course I've been on for a long time. Plenty to think about and apply. (Safeguarding in a Digital world)

I have a better understanding of what young people I work with are facing every day. Also helps me think about interactions with young people affected by gangs/ county lines that I work with currently (BRAVE)

Excellent facilitators - knowledgeable, contextualised everything, kind, caring and humorous (County lines)

Priorities & Pledge

CHSCP PRIORITIES 2020/21

Priority 1: Health & Stability of the Safeguarding Workforce Outcome: Safeguarding partners and relevant agencies attract, retain, develop and support their workforce. A healthy and stable workforce contributes to high quality safeguarding practice.

Priority 2: The Voice of Children and Young People Outcome: Multi-agency safeguarding practice reflects the lived experience of children and young people. The voices of children and young people are central to all aspects of intervention. These influence action and improve outcomes.

Priority 3: Getting the Basics Right Outcome: Safeguarding practice in the City of London and Hackney is at least good. Children and young people are effectively protected from harm by early, robust, timely and coordinated multi-agency intervention and support.

Priority 4: The Appetite to Learn Outcome: Safeguarding partners and relevant agencies are actively engaged in the CHSCP's learning & improvement framework. Leaders encourage the independent scrutiny of their safeguarding arrangements by the CHSCP, challenge performance and disseminate and embed lessons across their agencies.

A key commitment for the CHSCP remains in 'making the invisible visible' and our focus on better understanding vulnerability. This reflects the importance that safeguarding partners and relevant agencies apply to ALL children and young people living in hard-to-reach groups and communities that are less engaged with public safeguarding services. It also includes a focus on improving outcomes for ALL people through close cooperation with other key strategic forums.

CHSCP PLEDGE 2020/21

Health & Stability of the Safeguarding Workforce - *Without a healthy and engaged workforce, no agency can fully participate in and support the work of the partnership. The CHSCP will therefore seek to develop a better understanding of the pressures that staff and volunteers face and the steps that can be taken to mitigate them. This work will be undertaken in the context of what we know about the current conditions - organisational change and restructure, reduced resourcing levels and increased demand. It will include regular evaluation of workforce stability, its capacity and the support available to help deliver consistently high quality practice.*

The Voice of Children and Young People - *We will support and enable a culture of working that routinely seeks out and reflects the voices of children and young people. This will include the CHSCP engaging directly with children and young people. The lived experience of local children and young people and their voices will be evident in the policies we create, the practice we review and the communication channels that our wider partnership creates. Importantly, it will be evident in our multi-agency casework and our intervention to improve the outcomes of children and young people.*

Getting the Basics Right - *Whilst committed to driving change and innovation, the CHSCP is aware that good practice begins with getting the basics right. We will maintain a focus on ensuring that such basic principles are embedded in our work. This will include an emphasis on issues such as the effectiveness of multi-agency meetings, ensuring that not only that the right agencies attend, but that they send the right people and share relevant information. We will concentrate on issues such as identifying and responding to neglect, the timeliness of engagement, maintaining good records and the application of strong visible leadership.*

The Appetite to Learn - *We are committed to maintaining our improvement journey and to that end, we will actively seek out and embrace opportunities to learn. We will refocus our quality assurance activity and ensure our commitment to undertaking local reviews is maintained, whilst capturing opportunities to learn from others. We will routinely revisit the action plans of previous reviews to ensure that identified improvements are reflected in contemporary partnership practice. Critically we will respect the independent scrutiny role of the Independent Child Safeguarding Commissioner, the right to 'roam', the right to ask difficult questions and the right respectfully challenge. Whenever required, safeguarding partners and relevant agencies will provide whatever information they can to address a relevant enquiry or concern.*

Vulnerability & Making the Invisible Visible - *The CHSCP will seek to better understand the vulnerabilities that can negatively impact on the outcomes for children and young people, particularly with those for whom oversight and engagement is limited. We will seek to develop a more complete understanding of what vulnerability looks like in the City of London and Hackney and work to mitigate and prevent harm. We will map vulnerability as we know it based on age, location, need and the context of young people's lives, at home, in care and in the public spaces and places (including the internet) they frequent. We will identify existing and emerging harms, including neglect, physical, emotional and sexual abuse, abusive relationships, CSE, CSA, peer on peer abuse, the impact of negative digital collateral and criminal exploitation, including county lines.*

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What you need to know

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Nothing is more important than making sure you are safe and well cared for.

As adults, sometimes we think we always know best...we don't..... and that's why your voice is so important.

This is about you and we want to know more about how you think children and young people can be better protected.

We want to talk to you more often and we want to know the best way to do this.....please help.

If you are worried about your own safety or that of a friend, speak to a professional you trust or speak to ChildLine on 0800 1111

PARENTS AND CARERS

Public agencies are there to support you and prevent any problems you are having getting worse...Don't be afraid to ask for help.

Tell us what works and what doesn't when professionals are trying to help you and your children.

Make sure you know about the best way to protect your child and take time to understand some of the risks they can face.

You'll never get ahead of your child when it comes to understanding social media and IT – but make yourself aware of the risks that children and young people can face.

THE COMMUNITY

You are in the best place to look out for children and young people and to raise the alarm if something is going wrong for them.

We all share responsibility for protecting children. Don't turn a blind eye. If you see something, say something.

If you live in Hackney, call the **First Access Screening Team (FAST) on 0208 356 5500**

If you live in the City, **call the Children & Families Team on 0207332 3621**

You can also call the NSPCC Child Protection helpline on 0808 800 5000

FRONT-LINE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS WORKING WITH CHILDREN OR ADULTS

Make children and young people are seen, heard and helped. SAFEGUARDING FIRST, CONTEXT< CURIOSITY & CHALLENGE

Your professional judgement is what ultimately makes a difference and you must invest in developing the knowledge, skills and experiences needed to effectively safeguard children and young people. Attend all training required for your role.

Be familiar with, and use when necessary, the Hackney Child Wellbeing Framework and/or The City of London Thresholds of Need tool to ensure an appropriate response to safeguarding children and young people.

Understand the importance of talking with colleagues and don't be afraid to share information. If in doubt, speak to your manager.

Escalate your concerns if you do not believe a child or young person is being safeguarded. This is non- negotiable.

Use your representative on the CHSCB to make sure that your voice and that of the children and young people you work with are heard.

If your work is mainly with adults, make sure you consider the needs of any children if those adults are parents.

LOCAL POLITICIANS

You are leaders in your local area. Do not underestimate the importance of your role in advocating for the most vulnerable children and making sure everyone takes their safeguarding responsibilities seriously.

Councillors Anntoinette Bramble (Hackney) and Randall Anderson (The City of London) are the lead members for Children's Services and have a key role in children's safeguarding – so does every other councillor.

You can be the eyes and ears of vulnerable children and families... Keep the protection of children at the front of your mind.

CHIEF EXECUTIVES AND DIRECTORS

You set the tone for the culture of your organization. When you talk, people listen. Talk about children and young people. Talk about SAFEGUARDING FIRST.

Your leadership is vital if children and young people are to be safeguarded.

Understand the capability and capacity of your front-line services to protect children and young people - make sure both are robust

Ensure your workforce attend relevant CHSCB training courses and learning events.

Ensure your agency contributes to the work of CHSCB and give this the highest priority. Be compliant with minimum standards for safeguarding.

Advise the CHSCB of any organisational restructures and how these might affect your capacity to safeguard children and young people

THE POLICE

Robustly pursue offenders and disrupt their attempts to abuse children.

Ensure officers and police staff have the opportunity to train with their colleagues in partner agencies.

Ensure that the voices of all child victims are heard, particularly in relation to listening to evidence where children disclose abuse.

Ensure a strong focus on MAPPA and MARAC arrangements.

HEAD TEACHERS AND GOVERNORS OF SCHOOLS

Ensure that your school / academy/ educational establishment is compliant with statutory guidance KCSIE.

You see children more than any other profession and develop some of the most meaningful relationships with them.

Keep engaged with the safeguarding process and continue to identify children who need early help and protection.

CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUPS

CCGs in the health service have a key role in scrutinising the governance and planning across a range of organisations.

Discharge your safeguarding duties effectively and ensure that services are commissioned for the most vulnerable children.

THE LOCAL MEDIA

Safeguarding children and young people is a tough job.

Communicating the message that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility is crucial - you can help do this positively.

Hundreds of children and young people are effectively safeguarded every year across the City and Hackney.

This is news.

The CHSCP

Independent Child Safeguarding Commissioner

Jim Gamble QPM

Safeguarding Partners

Tim Shields, The Chief Executive of Hackney Council

John Barradell, The Town Clerk of the City of London Corporation

Jane Milligan, The Accountable Officer of the City & Hackney CCG

Marcus Barnett, The Commander of the MPS Central East BCU

Ian Dyson, Commissioner, City of London Police

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The Strategic Leadership Team

Anne Canning, The Group Director of Children, Adults and Community Health (Hackney Council)

Andrew Carter, The Director of Children and Community Services (The City of London Corporation)

David Maher, The Managing Director (The City & Hackney CCG)

Marcus Barnett, The Commander of the MPS Central East BCU

Dai Evans, T/Commander, City of London Police

Annie Gammon, Director, Hackney Education

The CHSCP Executive

Chris Pelham, Assistant Director People, City of London

Matt Mountford, Detective Chief Inspector, City of London Police

Valeria Cadena, Community Safety, City of London

Annie Coyle, Interim Director, Hackney CFS

Lisa Aldridge, Head of Service (Safeguarding & Learning), Hackney CFS
Pauline Adams, Head of Service (Young Hackney), Hackney CFS
Dr Sandra Husbands, Director of Public Health
Ajman Ali, Director of Housing Services, Hackney Housing, London Borough of Hackney
Maurice Mason, Community Safety Partnership Manager, Hackney
Paul Senior, Assistant Director, Hackney Education
Azad Odabashian, Assistant Detective Chief Inspector, Metropolitan Police Service
Dr Nick Lessof, Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children, City & Hackney CCG
Dr Emma Tukmachi, Named GP Safeguarding Children, City & Hackney CCG
Reagender Kang, Interim Designated Nurse, City & Hackney CCG
Amy Wilkinson, Integrated Commissioning Workstream Director, City & Hackney CCG
Dr Briony Arrowsmith, Named Doctor (Community), Homerton University Hospital
Marcia Smikle, Head of Safeguarding Children, Homerton University Hospital
Catherine Pelley, Chief Nurse/ Director of Governance, Homerton University Hospital
Andrew Horobin, Deputy Borough Director, East London NHS Foundation Trust
Timothy Bull, Associate Director for Safeguarding Children, East London NHS Foundation Trust
Henry Iwunze, Associate Director for CAMHS, East London NHS Foundation Trust
Kristine Wellington, Head of Safeguarding, Hackney Council for Voluntary Services
Clare Ansdell, Head of Service, National Probation Service
Kauser Mukhtar, Area Manager - North London, London Community Rehabilitation Company
Lee Sandy, Borough Commander, London Fire Brigade

Participant Observers

Anntoinette Bramble, Deputy Mayor, Lead Member for Children's Services, London Borough of Hackney
Randall Anderson, Common Councilman, Lead Member for Children's Services, City of London

CHSCP Team

Rory McCallum, Senior Professional Advisor to the CHSCP

Sandra Reid, Business & Performance Manager

Sarah Seymour, Training & Development Co-ordinator

Silvia Kirk, CHSCP Coordinator

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CITY OF LONDON POLICE: OFFICIAL - RECIPIENT ONLY

Safer City Partnership Strategy Group Review Period November 2020 – January 2021

City of London Police Update
Supt Helen Isaac
City of London Police (Sector Policing)
February 2021

Introduction

The City of London experiences relatively low levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour. This reflects the efforts of the City of London Police, the City of London Corporation and many other partners.

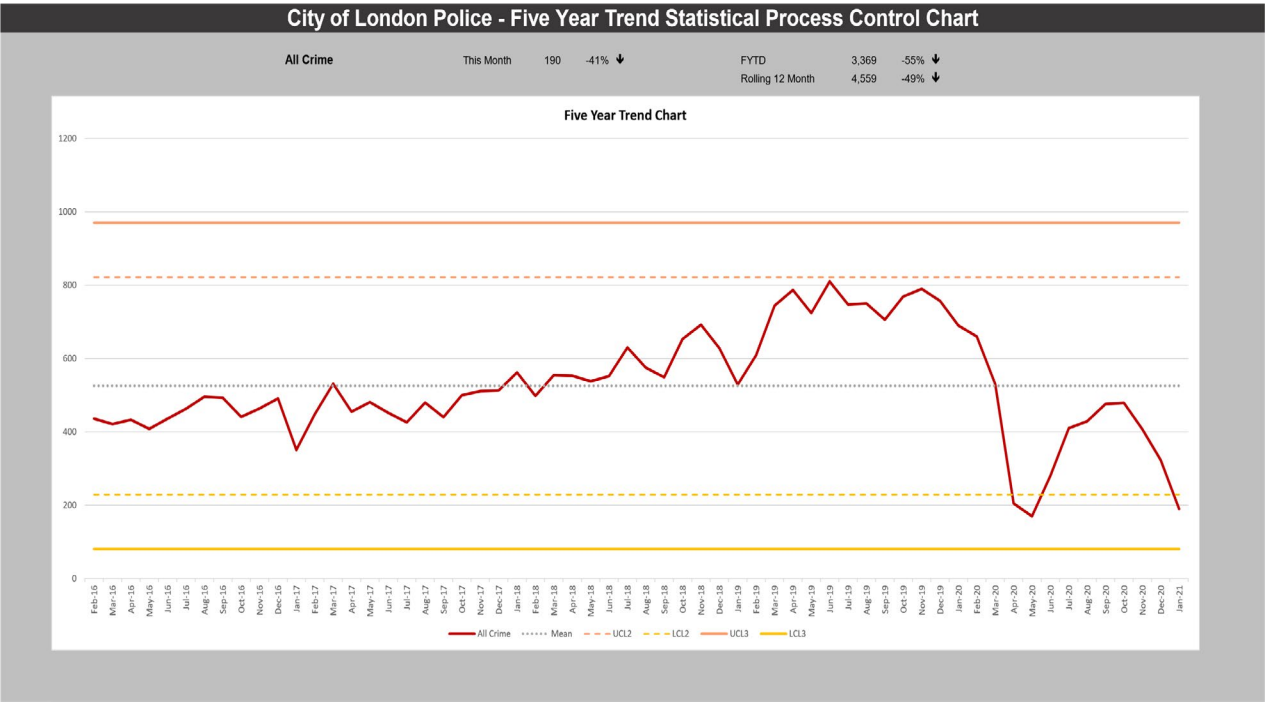
Working together we contribute to maintaining the City as the world's leading financial and business centre as well as being an attractive place to live, socialise and visit. Since its establishment the Safer City Partnership has played a key role in reducing crime and other harm.

This report identifies five main priorities, linked to the Safer City Partnership Strategic Plan:

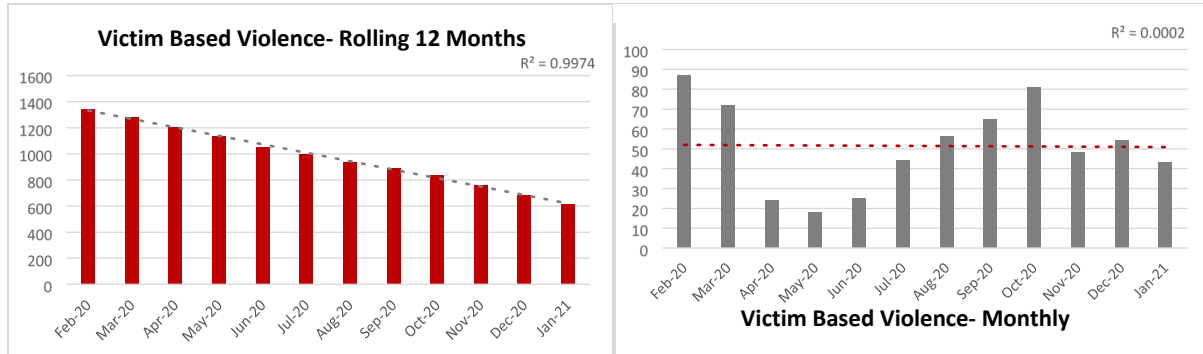
- **Violence Against the Person** – People are safe from violent crime and violence against the person
- **Night Time Economy Crime and Nuisance** – People are safe and feel safe in the night-time economy
- **Acquisitive Crime** – People and businesses are protected from theft and fraud/acquisitive crime
- **Anti-Social Behaviour** – Anti-Social Behaviour is tackled and responded to effectively
- **Supporting the Counter Terrorism Strategy through Delivery of the Prevent Strategy** – Vulnerable people and communities are safeguarded from radicalisation and the threat of terrorism.

CITY OF LONDON POLICE: OFFICIAL - RECIPIENT ONLY

Five Year Crime Trend



Violence Against the Person

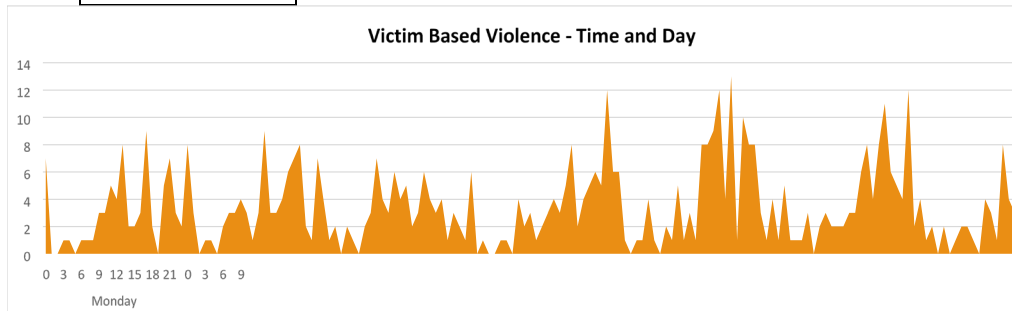


Change

* This Month -20%
* FYTD -59%
* Rolling 12 Month -54%

Detection Rate FYTD: 27%
Positive Outcome Rate FYTD: 29%

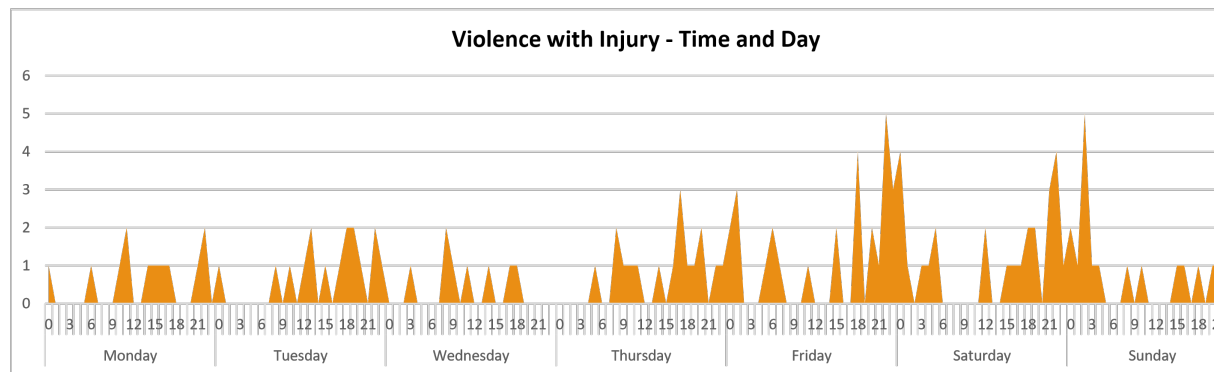
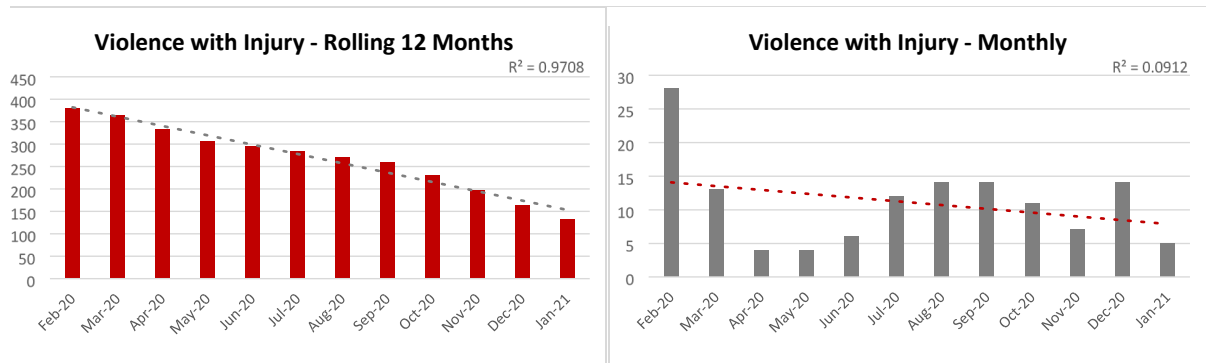
National Position: N/A



Victim based violence has fallen by 59% in the FYTD, a very noticeable impact of COVID-19, licensed premises being shut and a big reduction in footfall. With the lifting of lockdown, offences are predicted to rise again. Common assault remains the largest offence type.

CITY OF LONDON POLICE: OFFICIAL - RECIPIENT ONLY

Violence with Injury



* This Month -64%
* FYTD -72%
* Rolling 12 Month -66%

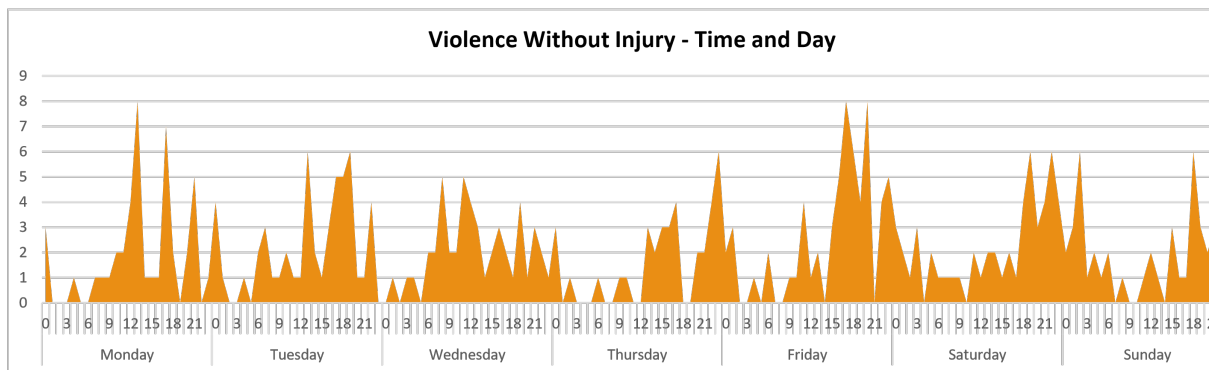
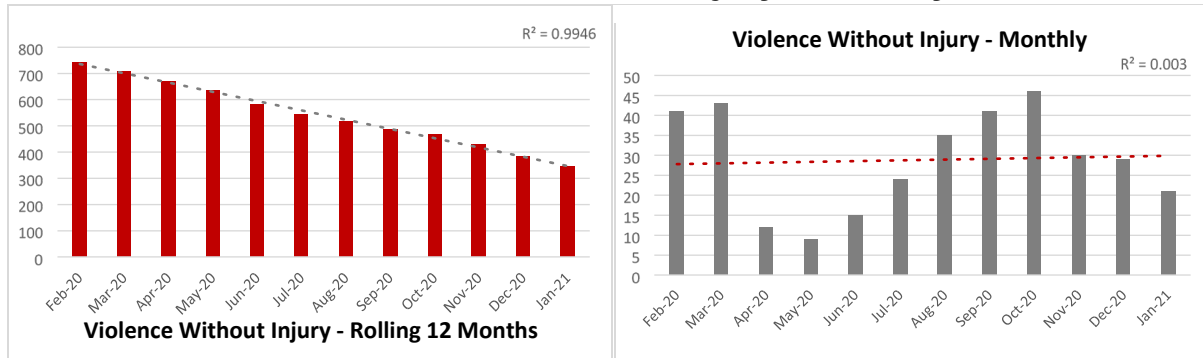
Detection Rate FYTD: 45%
Positive Outcome Rate FYTD: 48%

National Position: 1

CITY OF LONDON POLICE: OFFICIAL - RECIPIENT ONLY

Violence without Injury

Violence Without Injury Summary



* This Month	-28%
* FYTD	-58%
* Rolling 12 Month	-54%

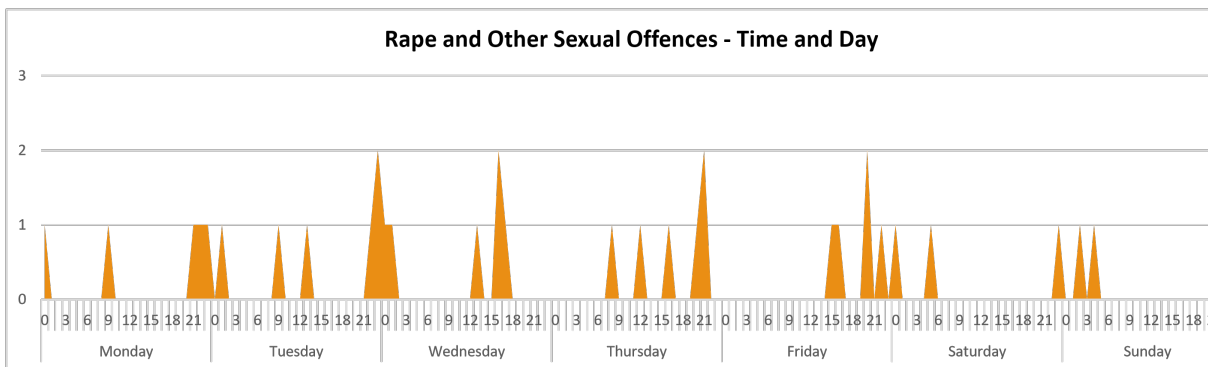
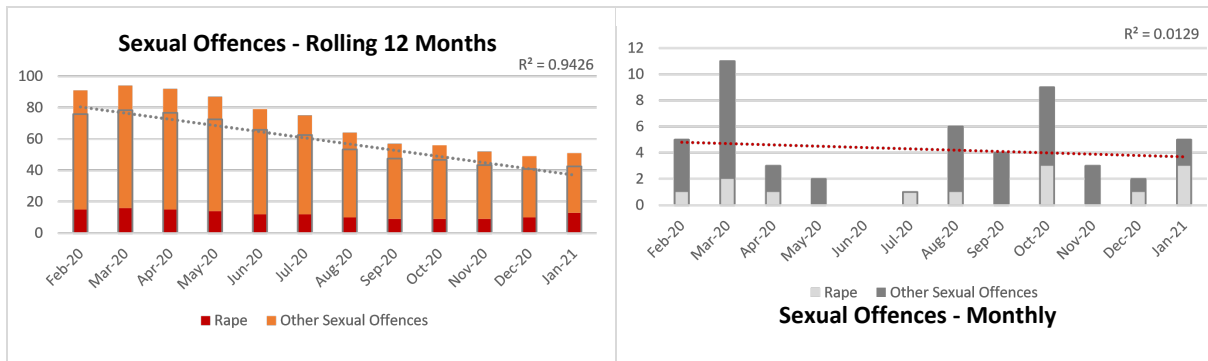
Detection Rate FYTD:	24%
Positive Outcome Rate FYTD:	26%

National Position:	1
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CITY OF LONDON POLICE: OFFICIAL - RECIPIENT ONLY

Rape & Sexual Offences

The FYTD has seen a 55% decrease in sexual offences, with an increase seen in August and again in October, most likely due to the lifting of more lockdown measures and more people being in the City.



* This Month	150%
* FYTD	-55%
* Rolling 12 Month	45%

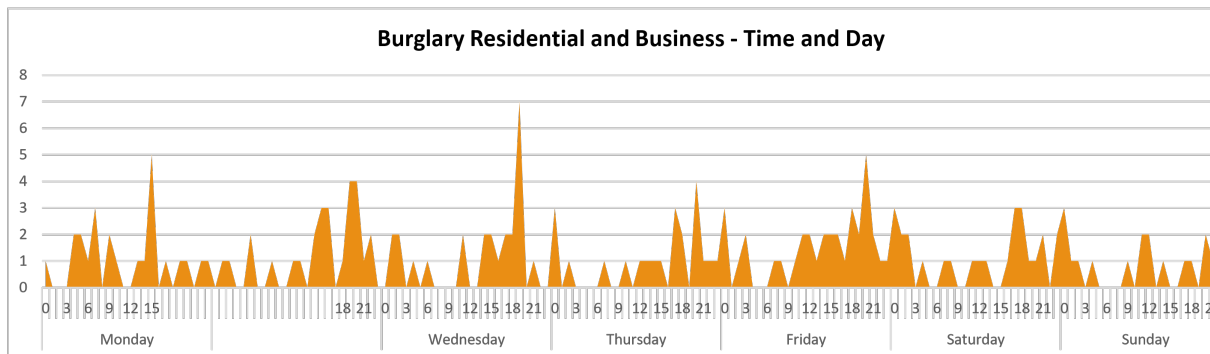
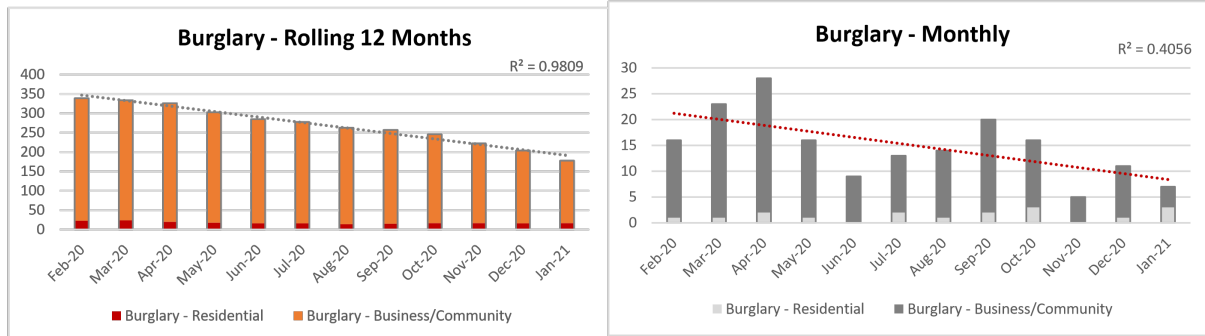
Detection Rate FYTD:	26%
Positive Outcome Rate FYTD:	26%

National Position:	1
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Acquisitive Crime

Burglary

The FYTD shows a 53% reduction with an increase in the summer months before falling back again in October. The impact of the second lockdown in November and the third in January can also be seen in the figures.



* This Month	-36%
* FYTD	-53%
* Rolling 12 Month	-49%

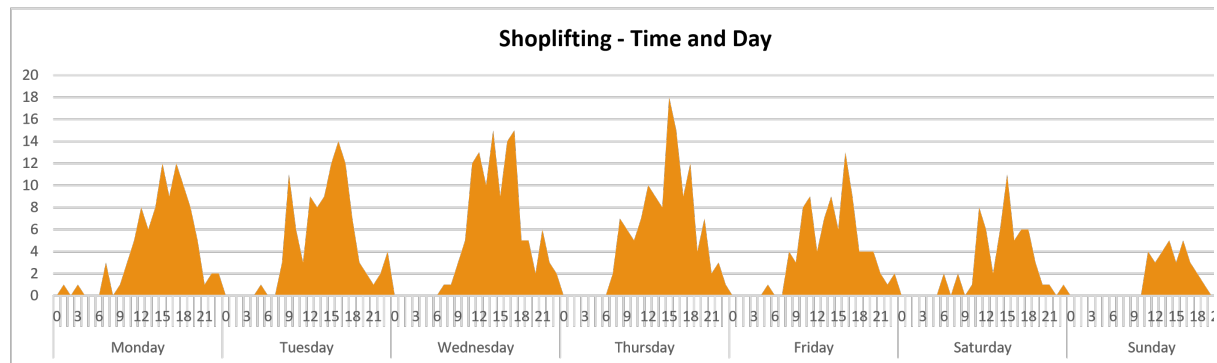
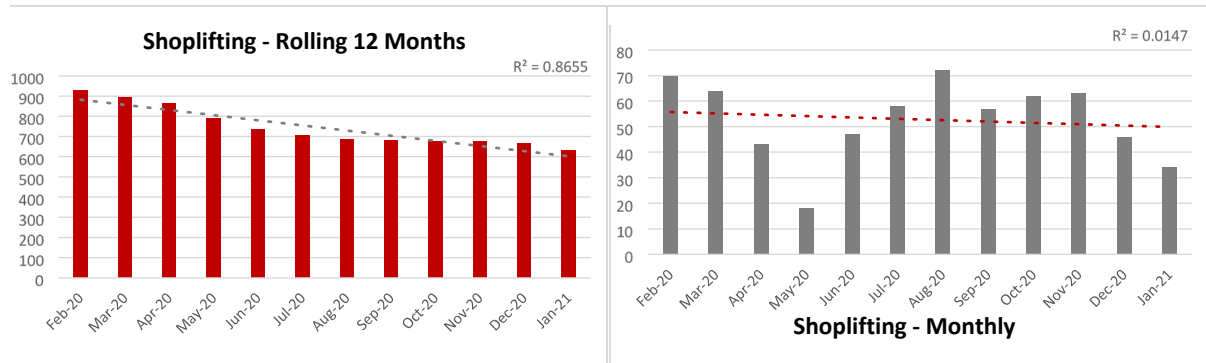
Detection Rate FYTD:	37%
Positive Outcome Rate FYTD:	37%

National Position:	1
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CITY OF LONDON POLICE: OFFICIAL - RECIPIENT ONLY

Shoplifting

City is on a 34% reduction FYTD. Seasonality shows higher levels of offending over the summer, though due to lockdown, fewer shops have been open. Alcohol, food and clothes remain the items commonly taken. After the first lockdown more shops reopened and offending continued to increase with the lifting of lockdown. The impact of the lockdown in January can also be seen in the figures.



* This Month	-26%
* FYTD	-34%
* Rolling 12 Month	-32%

Detection Rate FYTD:	32%
Positive Outcome Rate FYTD:	35%

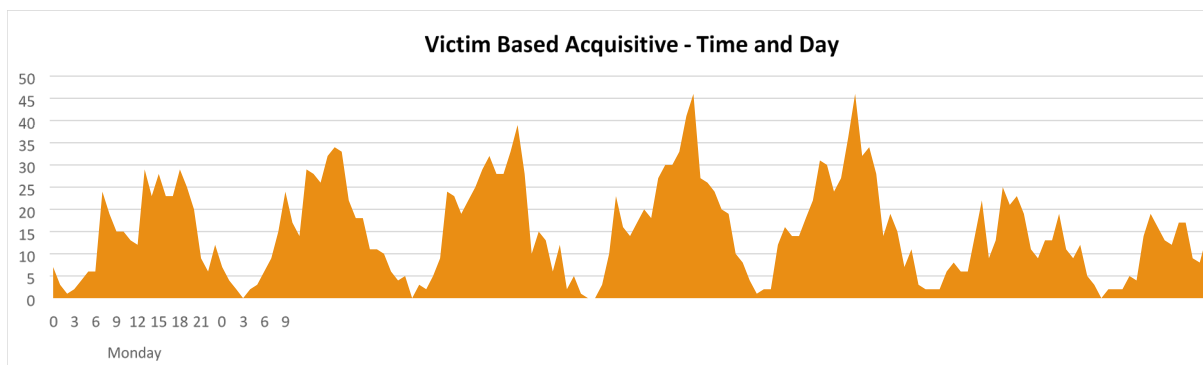
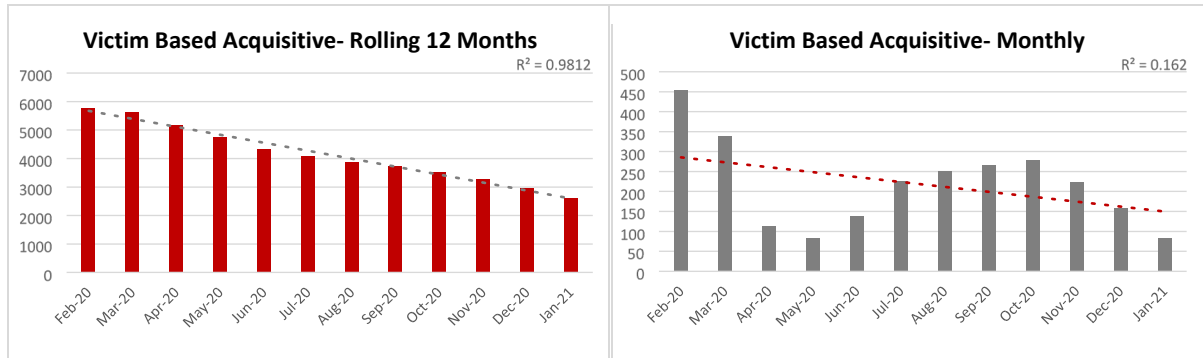
National Position:	15
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CITY OF LONDON POLICE: OFFICIAL - RECIPIENT ONLY

Theft from the Person

Offences have reduced for the FYTD by 62%.

Increase in offences since July with the reopening of shops & restaurants, followed by a decrease since the second lockdown in November.



* This Month	-47%
* FYTD	-62%
* Rolling 12 Month	-54%

Detection Rate FYTD:	16%
Positive Outcome Rate FYTD:	17%

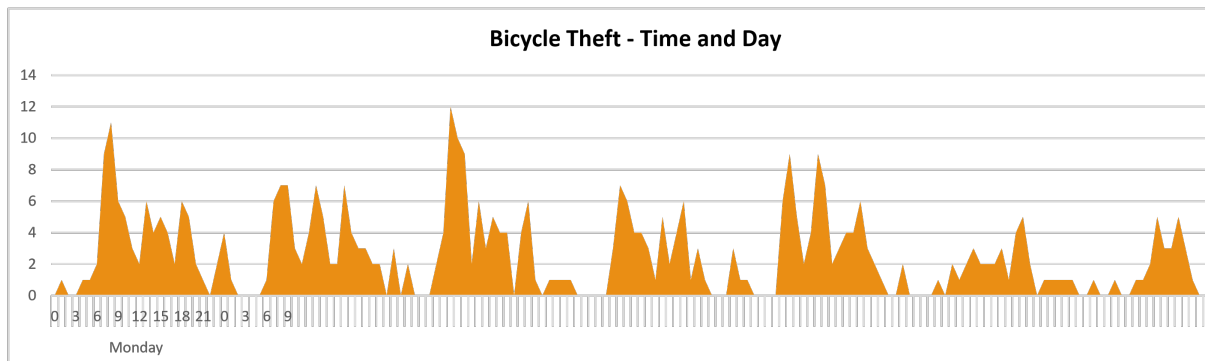
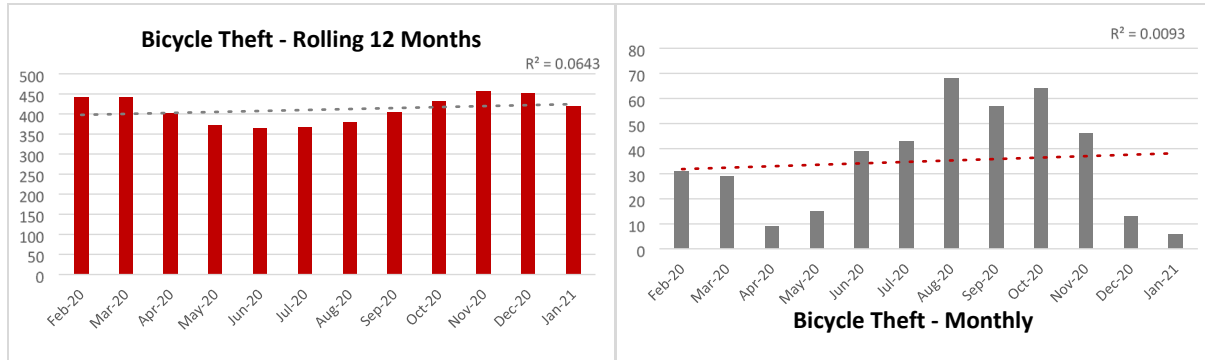
National Position:	N/A
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CITY OF LONDON POLICE: OFFICIAL - RECIPIENT ONLY

Bicycle Theft

Bicycle theft shows a 6% reduction FYTD.

Post the first lockdown, levels of offending were higher than those seen prior, with a seasonal rise in August continuing into September and October. The combined effort of a targeted police operation along with Covid restrictions are likely to be the cause of the sharp fall since December.



* This Month	-54%
* FYTD	-6%
* Rolling 12 Month	4%

Detection Rate FYTD:	5%
Positive Outcome Rate FYTD:	5%

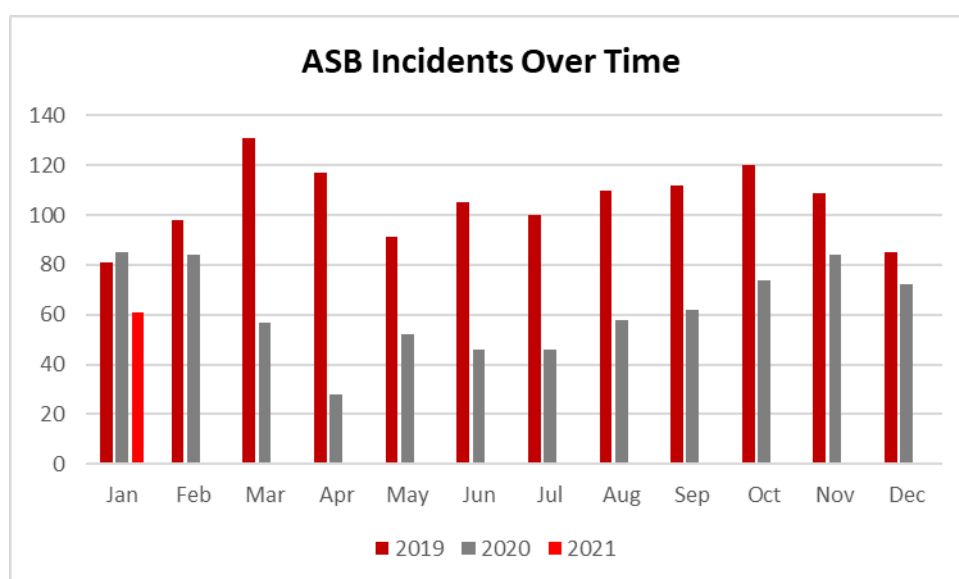
National Position:	38
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Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

1.1 Key Findings

- Levels of reporting decreased significantly during the first national lockdown and while they have increased since then remain lower than those experienced this time last year. We have not seen as sharp a decrease in December and January as we did in the first lockdown.
- The main type of ASB reported is Inconsiderate Behaviour which can cover many types of incident.
- One area that continues to be an issue from pre COVID reporting is groups (usually of young males) on bikes or skateboards behaving inconsiderately and potentially dangerously with key locations remaining in and around the Barbican and at the Castle Baynard Tunnel. Reports also now include the fact that these gatherings are in breach of COVID regulations.
- Other key incidents reported include noisy gatherings both inside and out breaching regulations and people refusing to leave buses at the end of the route.

1.2 ASB Incident Data by Month



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2019	81	98	131	117	91	105	100	110	112	120	109	85
2020	85	84	57	28	52	46	46	58	62	74	84	72
2021	61											

The number of ASB incidents reached a two year low in April 2020 when we were initially in lockdown in response to the Coronavirus pandemic, as restrictions eased levels increased again and we have not seen a similar decrease in January with the new lockdown. On average there have been 72 incidents reported a month between November and January.

These numbers remain lower than the number of incidents reported across the same period last year (23% reduction). If patterns from previous years are followed and as restrictions ease again we could see a steady increase in incidents between now and April/May.

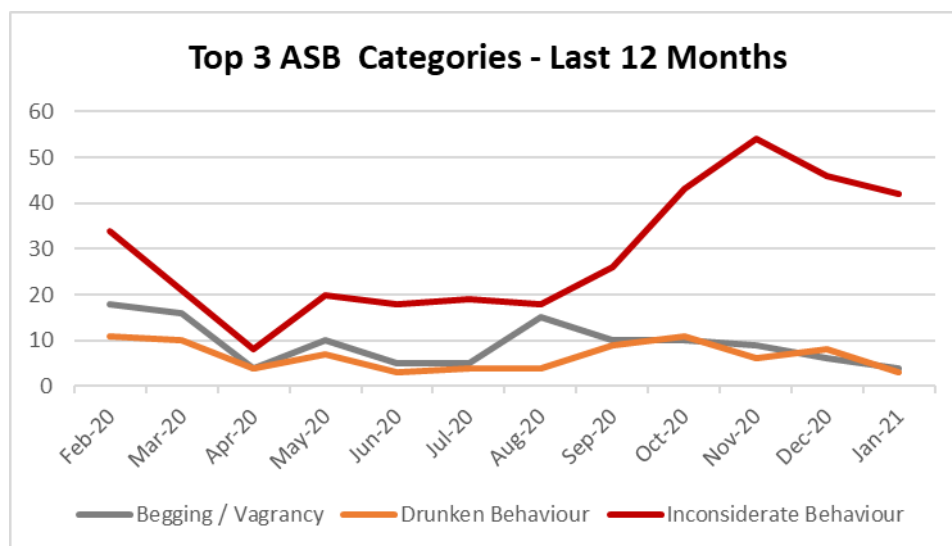
1.3 Data Breakdown November 2020 – January 2021

1.3.1 Highest Recorded Categories of ASB

In the current period **Inconsiderate Behaviour** (n=142) is the most reported category of ASB. The next most common are **Begging/Vagrancy** (n=19) and **Drunken Behaviour** (n=17). This is a return to usual categories after we saw an increase in **Noise Nuisance** complaints in and after the previous lockdown.

Noise nuisance is the fourth most reported category (n=14) followed by nuisance neighbours (n=7) suggesting that perhaps people are more aware of noises being made by their neighbours or are more sensitive to external noises during lockdown. With the last lockdown we didn't initially see these categories increase in the first month but reports began increasing as lockdown continued suggesting we could see a similar increase in coming months depending on when restrictions are eased.

After reviewing records classified as '**Inconsiderate Behaviour**' some records could have been recorded in other categories in the above table as they have referred to specific behaviours such as drunkenness, playing loud music, throwing objects etc. Categorisation is based on the recording officer's interpretation and where some incidents refer to multiple categories they may have been recorded against inconsiderate behaviour as a catch-all. This could explain why it is always the most prevalent category in data returns.

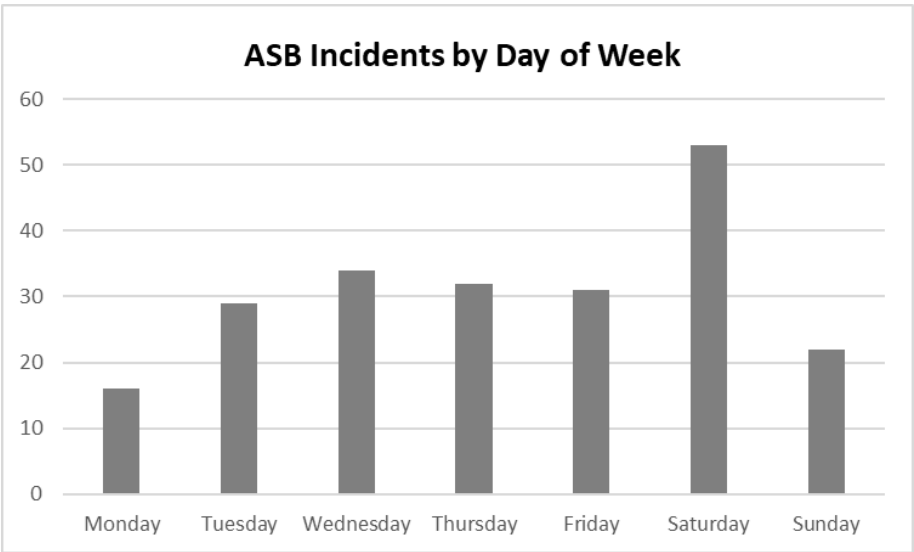


The above graph shows how inconsiderate behaviour reports saw a swift drop off as we went into the first lockdown and then a sharp increase through August-November. Whilst there has been a slight drop in December and January it is nowhere near what we saw with the previous lockdown. Both Begging/Vagrancy and Drunken Behaviour have remained at a lower level than before the initial lockdown throughout the year.

The main issue being raised in this period is groups of youths skateboarding or cycling and performing tricks either reported for noise nuisance, intimidating residents or breaching Covid regulations. People also report noisy gatherings either in the street or private residences that they believe to be in breach of regulations and there are several reports of individuals refusing to leave buses, cafes and licensed premises.

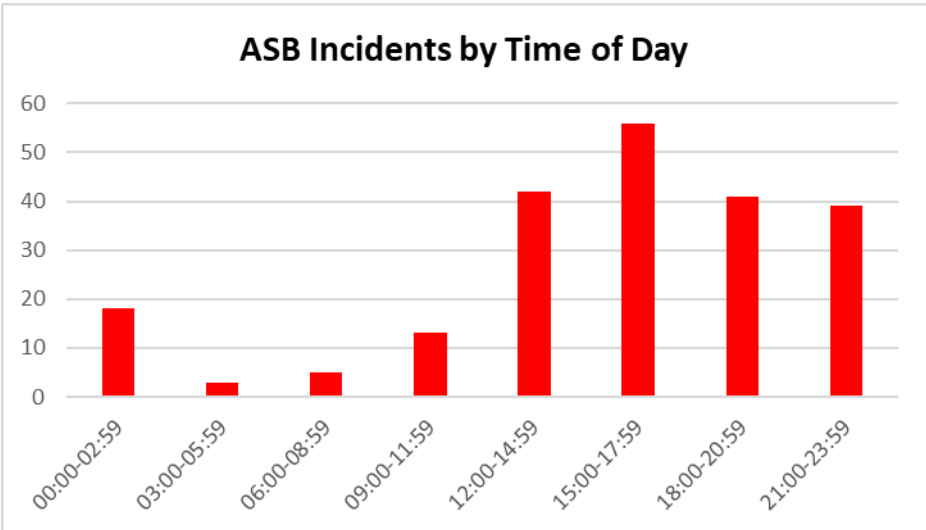
1.3.2 Days of Week

On average there have been two ASB incidents reported a day in the current period. Incidents are more commonly reported on Saturdays and lowest reporting levels occur on Sundays and Mondays.



1.3.3 Time of Day

Reporting of all ASB incidents in the current period are shown in the below graph broken down by three hour periods across the day. Incident reports occur most frequently from the afternoon into the evening peaking between 15:00-17:59.



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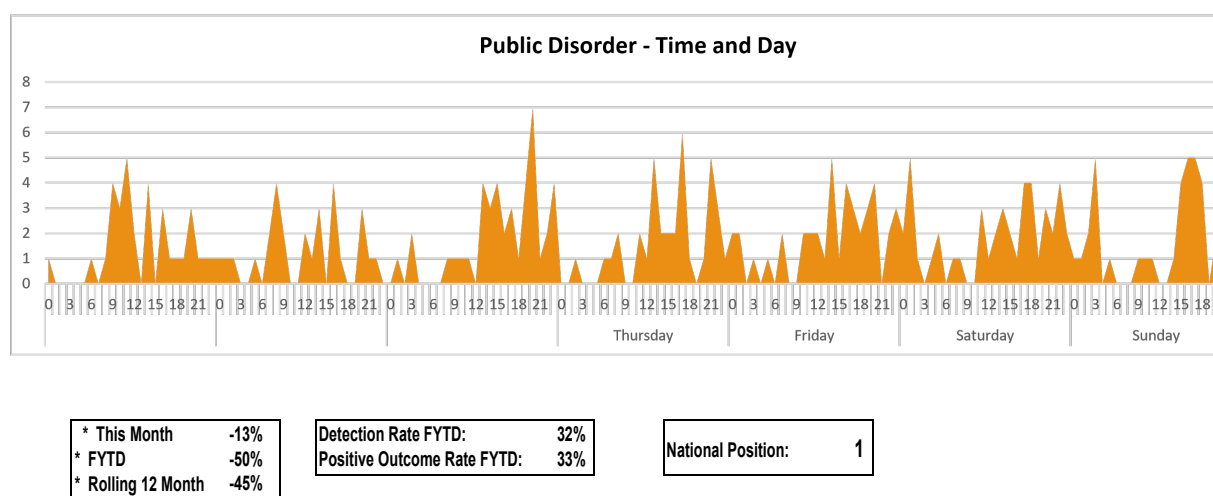
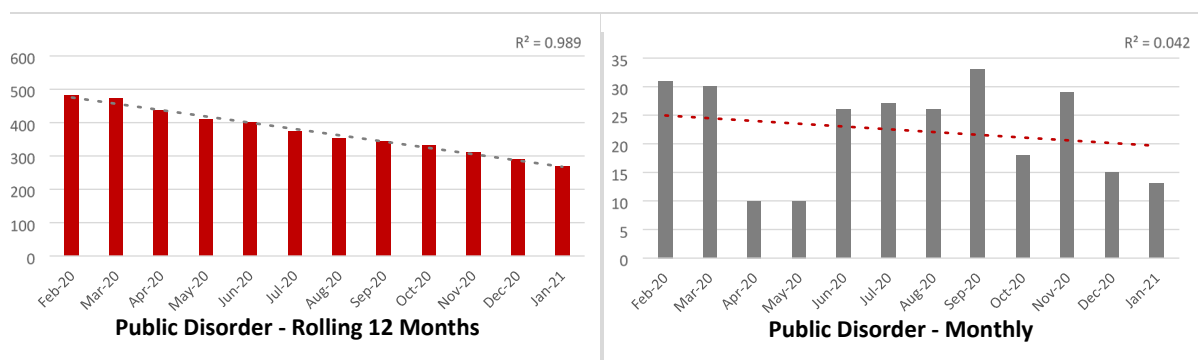
Operation Luscombe, which targets the issue of begging, is due to recommence with an intervention hub being scheduled for late February / early March. Partnership and Prevention (P&P) officers have met with new service providers to ensure their cooperation with the operation and will also be training BTP officers at Liverpool Street station.

P&P officers continue to work in collaboration with partner agencies on a joint approach to rough sleeping, ASB and MH related issues and have worked with partners to assist in mental health reviews and mental health act assessments.

Public Disorder

Public Disorder

Currently public disorder, which in the City is either linked to protest activity or the night-time economy, remains low. The FYTD shows a 50% reduction in offences, likely to be due to the lower footfall and the implications of lockdown. This is likely to increase with the release of lockdown measures.



Prevent

Referrals

The Prevent team has received no referrals during this period.

Engagement/Meetings/Training/Media

Prevent Induction sessions delivered monthly via Teams to transferees and new starters to the force as well as new student officers..

Prevent training/awareness session delivered to the whole of IFED within CoLP

Prevent team have provided training and awareness sessions to Adult Social Care, the Rough Sleeping and Homeless Team, Education and Early Years Providers and Nurseries all based within the CoL.

The first Prevent Forum for City of London based Higher and Further Education sites was held in November 2020, this was a collaborative approach between the City of London Police Prevent Team, the CoL Prevent officer and the regional HE/FE Prevent officer.

Prevent team have promoted the launch of ACT Early – the new Prevent safeguarding website with all police and City of London contacts including City of London schools, CoL Education Safeguarding Forum, Adults safeguarding Sub Committee, Business Healthy, CoLC social media website, Higher Education and Further Education Prevent Forum, The Buzz – CoLC internal communications platform and future newsletters.

Prevent team have continued to promote ACT Early with local schools and statutory partners due to education being closed currently and majority of the population working from home.

ACT Early has been promoted via the CoLP/CoLC social media sites to reach as many people as possible.

Prevent team have met with the safeguarding lead for Guildhall School of Music and Drama in order to plan for a number of Prevent workshops in the future months reaching safeguarding leads, all staff and students too.

Plans have been made to load Prevent related material onto the force's new digital boards when they are rolled out imminently so that we can continue to promote ACT Early and the signs of radicalisation we all need to be aware of.

Plans have been made for the Prevent team to make a short video for release on CoLP social media surrounding radicalisation, what this is and the signs to look out for in others.

Prevent team have compiled a new current Prevent presentation and plan to share this via a webinar format for schools and business in the coming weeks.

The Prevent team are in contact with the Counter Terrorism Policing HQ National Prevent team via conference calls and emails

The Prevent team are in contact with MPS and Home Office team who are developing Prevent for Businesses.

CITY OF LONDON POLICE: OFFICIAL - RECIPIENT ONLY

Prevent coordinator attending virtual London Prevent Network meeting bi-weekly, which features updates from SO15, DfE, OSCT, NHS England and NPS.

Prevent officer is taking part in virtual meetings with Equality and Diversity focus groups.

The Prevent team attending Education Safeguarding Forum (subject to change) and Adults Safeguarding Group.

Regional Meeting/Training

The Prevent Team are continuing to work with the Prevent teams from around the country looking at the best ways to develop best practice.

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Committee	Date:
Safer City Partnership	25/02/2021
Subject: Safer City Partnership Strategy Board Terms of Reference 2021	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter – Director of Community and Children’s Services	For Decision
Author: Valeria Cadena – Community Safety Manager	
<div>Summary This report provides members of the Safer City Partnership Strategic Board with a reviewed Terms of Reference to provide more details of responsibilities, purpose, membership, priorities, sub-groups of the Partnership, and chairperson criteria.</div> <div>Recommendation Members are asked to note and accept the proposals for the Safer City Partnership Strategy Board Terms of Reference 2021 (see Appendix 1).</div>	

Main Report

Background

1. The Safer City Partnership (SCP) brings together statutory and non-statutory agencies that have a role in keeping the Square Mile safe. At our last SCP Strategy Board meeting in December 2020, the members agreed to support changes to the SCP Strategy Group Terms of Reference (TOR).
2. The SCP Strategy Board is distinctive in that it consists of those deemed ‘responsible authorities’ (statutory partners) in the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) and those who are ‘invited’ or ‘invitees’ in line with the Act and subsequent regulations, including the Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 (as amended). It is in the remit of statutory partners to ‘invite’ additional members.
3. The main changes asked by the SCP Strategy board were:

- a. The new SCP Strategy Board chairperson to be City of London Corporation elected member chairperson from Community and Children's Services (C&CS) committee and a deputy chairperson an elected member from the Police Authority Board.
 - b. Review the membership of the SCP Strategy Board and expand the membership to include new invitees approved by statutory members in line with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and associated regulations. This will help to ensure a good multi-agency approach.
 - c. Expansion of the TOR to improve effectiveness.
4. Support of this first recommendation will help to provide a more joined-up approach with other work in related Committees and Sub-Committees of the City of London Corporation, the SCP and the City of London Police (CoLP).
5. Updates have been made to partnership TOR realigning its focus and highlighting some of the key responsibilities of the partners, such as working in collaboration.

Proposal

6. In line with the changes suggested in SCP Strategy Board meeting in December, the new TOR include the following updates:
- a. The new SCP Strategy Board chairperson to be the City Corporation chairperson from C&CS committee.
 - b. The new SCP Strategy Board deputy chairperson to be an elected member from the Police Authority Board, appointed by the board.
 - c. New clear responsibilities for member agencies.
 - d. An opportunity to review and expand the membership to other agencies (in line with Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and associated regulations) to ensure a good multi-agency approach.
 - e. An improved process for scrutiny and effective working.
7. To better analyse these changes, a review will take place in 12 months' time.

Conclusion

8. Through the work of its partners, the SCP Strategy Board helps ensure that the Square Mile is a safe place for people to live, learn, work and visit. These proposals will build on the strategic leadership for community safety partnership activity within the City, better reflect the work of partners, and also ensure that a joined-up approach with elements of the City of London Corporation's duties, as well as other SCP Strategy Board members.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Safer City Partnership Terms of Reference 2021

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Appendix 1



Safer City Partnership Strategy Board Terms of Reference 2021

Purpose

Our vision is that the Square Mile is a safe place for people to live, learn, work and visit.

Who we are

The Safer City Partnership (SCP) brings together statutory and non-statutory agencies that have a role in keeping the Square Mile safe. Membership is listed below.

The SCP was established in response to the duties placed on local authorities, the police and other partners by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. It also works to meet the expectations outlined within the Police and Justice Act 2006, Policing and Crime Act 2009, and subsequent Home Office regulations.

The SCP has a number of key statutory responsibilities including:

- Providing strategic leadership for community safety partnership activity within the City
- Bringing together the authorities responsible for crime and disorder strategies within the City to enable them to act in co-operation in undertaking their functions, with provisions in place for the sharing of information
- Undertake a strategic assessment of crime and anti-social behaviour within the City
- Consult with our communities to identify their concerns relating to crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), in order to inform our strategic plan and priorities
- Agree the focus and priorities for the SCP strategy and ensure that the three-year Partnership Strategy and annual delivery plan is agreed and implemented, and that agreed targets are met
- Monitor and evaluate these strategies
- To publish the partnership plan
- To oversee the function of the established sub-groups carrying out work towards the delivery plan
- To ensure an evidence-led and problem-solving approach is used within the SCP
- To ensure that expenditure of SCP funds is effectively monitored and efficiently managed

Membership

The SCP Strategy Board is appointed by the responsible authorities (statutory partners). The statutory partners have responsibility for inviting additional persons or organisations to SCP Strategy Board meetings, in line with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and associated regulations. These organisations will co-operate under this legislation and guidance:

- The City of London Corporation*
- The City of London Police*
- London Fire Brigade*
- London Community Rehabilitation Trust*
- Clinical Commissioning Group*
- City and Hackney Public Health Team
- The City of London Corporation†
- British Transport Police
- Transport for London
- The Guinness Partnership
- City of London Crime Prevention Association
- Business representatives

*The partners marked with an asterisk are deemed the ‘responsible authorities’ (statutory partners) in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (section 5(1)) and associated regulations, with responsibility for appointing the Safer City Partnership Strategy Board. Collectively, they are responsible for delivering the ambitions set out in the partnership’s strategic plan. The responsible authorities ‘shall also invite the participation in their exercise of those functions of at least one person or body of each description which is for the time being prescribed by order of the Secretary of State’ (Crime and Disorder Act 1998, section 3). This forms the criteria for invited members, named as ‘non-statutory’ or ‘additional members’ in the SCP Strategy Board.

†Environmental Health & Public Protection and Community & Children’s Services play an active role in the SCP Strategy Group (as do the many different agencies which sit within these two departments). Their areas of focus and expertise provide valuable insight into a variety of issues associated with community safety and crime reduction.

Additional representatives

- City Resident representative
- London Ambulance Service
- Victim Support representative
- Healthwatch representative
- Voluntary sector representative

Responsibilities of members

Active engagement, co-operation and collaboration between members and the SCP Strategy Group is vital in order for us to be able to meet the SCP's strategic priorities and to effect positive change. Partners are expected to engage proactively with the SCP Strategy Board, to foster dialogue and the sharing of ideas. A quarterly 'forum' (board) shall take place between all members of the Strategy Board – with appropriate prepared documentation – to demonstrate how each agency is working to meet targets and initiatives in line with the SCP's priorities. This will also provide an opportunity to highlight any challenges that have been encountered and for peer review to take place.

All partners will submit data as necessary regarding initiatives to the SCP Strategy Board. This allows the board to monitor the success of partner projects, as well as to assess the broader progress of meeting SCP aims and priorities. This information will be vital in assessment, evaluation and informing new strategic plans.

All partners are requested to contribute data, ideas and written documentation (as appropriate) to assist in the formulation of annual plans and/or strategic documents, as well as to support their implementation. This request is made to both statutory and non-statutory members, as appropriate.

Consideration of new members

The SCP Strategy Board values the insights, ideas and initiatives of its diverse membership. In an effort to ensure that we are best serving our community, we shall proactively identify and consider new members to join the Board. This will ensure that we fulfil our commitment to adopt a truly multi-agency approach and are receptive to new perspectives that can promote community safety and crime reduction. Any invitations extended to new members will be in line with legislation and be initiated by a statutory partner.

Safer City Partnership Priorities 2019–22

- Vulnerable people and communities are protected and safeguarded
- People are safe from violent crime and violence against the person
- People and businesses are protected from theft and fraud/acquisitive crime
- Anti-Social Behaviour is tackled and responded to effectively
- People are safe and feel safe in the Night-Time Economy

Chairperson

The chairperson of the SCP Strategy Board shall be an elected member for the City of London Corporation. The incoming chairperson of the SCP Strategy Group will be

the current chairperson of Community and Children's Services. The deputy chairperson of the SCP Strategy Board shall be a nominated member of the Police Authority Board.

At the end of the financial year, the SCP Strategy Board's chairperson will submit an annual report to the Community and Children's Services Committee, outlining and evaluating progress in meeting key targets during their tenure. This report will also be submitted to the Police Authority Board and any other statutory partner that request it.

Scrutiny and effective working

The submission of an annual report by the SCP Strategy Board chairperson will allow the Community and Children's Services Committee and the Police Authority Board to play an important scrutiny role through the examination of information and data presented in support of the Safer City's Partnership's strategic aims and priorities. This will improve efforts to ensure accountability, transparency and good governance.

The broader expansion of the SCP Strategy Board Terms of Reference for 2021 will help to ensure the Board's effectiveness and efficiency, as well as promote more collaborative work between members.

Key Committee linkages

The SCP is represented on relevant key committees including the Police Authority Board (by the Chairman and officers), Health and Wellbeing Board (by officer), Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee (by officer), City and Hackney safeguarding board and Partnership (by officer).

Sub-groups

Sub-groups that report to the SCP Strategy Group include: The Serious and Organised Crime Board; Domestic Abuse Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), City Community MARAC (CCM), Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Forum, and the Local Licensing Partnership (LLP) Licensing. In addition, there are task and finish groups such as the Drugs Working Group that are involved in this work.

Review

These terms will be reviewed in 12 months to ensure that they are encouraging effective working and collaboration, transparency, accountability and good governance.

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Committee:	Date:
Safer City Partnership	25/02/2021
Subject: Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA) funding – criteria for organisations to access	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter – Director of Community and Children’s Services	For Decision
Author: Valeria Cadena – Community Safety Manager	
<p style="text-align: center;">Summary</p> <p>The Safer City Partnership Strategy Strategic Plan 2019–2022 sets out the key aims the partnership seeks to achieve to increase community safety and reduce and prevent crime. An important means of accomplishing this is via the funding of initiatives for the benefit of the community. The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA) provides provisions for a portion of the value of seized criminal assets to be redistributed to fund community safety and crime reduction initiatives. Traditionally, Safer City Partnership Members have submitted proposals to secure funding for such projects, which has been allocated through a competitive application process.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Proposal</p> <p>It is now proposed that the criteria for those who can access funding is expanded, to include organisations such as charities and community groups. The aim of this is to create a more inclusive funding process, as well as to encourage new perspectives and ideas when it comes to community safety initiatives. A stringent criterion for those seeking funding has been developed to ensure transparency, accountability and efficiency.</p> <p>The renewed guidance reflects Government advice on how POCA funds should be utilised.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation</p> <p>Members are asked to review and accept the recommended funding criteria framework.</p>	

Main Report

Background

1. The Safer City Partnership (SCP) Strategy Group has agreed the following outcomes for 2019–2022. These have been developed in consultation with our partners and communities and are also informed by the data we hold, national

priorities and key documents such as the City of London Police's Strategic Assessment and the City of London Policing Plan 2020–23 (including the refreshed plan for 2021–22).

2. The SCP strategy and implementation plans are legal requirements for all community safety partnerships, to keep all members and our communities informed of the work carried out by all agencies involved.
3. The SCP strategy 2019–2022 outcomes are as follow:
 - a. Vulnerable people and communities are protected and safeguarded
 - b. People are safe from violent crime and any violence against the person
 - c. People and businesses are protected from theft/fraud and acquisitive crime
 - d. Anti-Social Behaviour is tackled and responded to effectively
 - e. People are safe and feel safe in the Night-time Economy.
4. Taking into account the City of London Policing Plan 2020–23 (and the refreshed plan for 2021–22), an additional key outcome is:
 - a. Countering terrorism
5. The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA) allows for the value of a portion of seized criminal assets to be redistributed to support community safety and/or crime prevention/reduction initiatives for the benefit of the community.
6. Safer City Partnership members only have traditionally submitted proposals to obtain funding for community safety/crime reduction projects.
7. We are committed to ensuring that we have an impact on our outcomes in the Square Mile. We will continue to closely monitor performance across a range of measures, through qualitative and quantitative measures.
8. Please find in Appendix 1 the recommended criteria for expanding the types of organisations that are able to apply for POCA funding.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Safer City Partnership Strategy: POCA funding criteria

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Appendix 1

Safer City Partnership Strategy: POCA funding criteria

The Safer City Partnership POCA fund guidance 2021

The Safer City Partnership (SCP) plays a central role in reducing crime and other harms that affect those who live, learn, work and visit the City of London. By working with statutory and non-statutory partners, we work to implement plans which help to improve the safety and wellbeing of those in the Square Mile, while tackling the key causes of crime. A multi-agency initiative, the SCP allows us to develop projects around key themes and priorities in order to effect positive change within the City. The SCP takes into account the priorities and strategies of its members when formulating SCP plans and ambitions, including documents such as the City of London Police Policing Plan 2020–23.

We are ambitious in our vision for the City of London: it should be a safe place to live, learn, work and visit.

Funding: the context

A central component of funding to support projects which help to create a safer and more pleasant City is obtained from the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA). This legislation grants the police and other public bodies the power to confiscate assets and cash from individuals who are convicted of offences or – on the balance of probability – have benefitted from their illegal activities. This also includes assets which have not been able to be returned to their original owners. A portion of the value of recovered assets is then committed to fund local crime-fighting and community safety priorities for the benefit of the community.

We are committed to ensuring that those who have engaged in criminal activity will see their assets contribute towards reducing crime and making our communities safer.

At present, the funding from POCA provides grants for initiatives proposed by SCP members, with funding allocated through a competitive application process.

We now plan to broaden the criteria for who can apply for funding. This will include community groups and charities, among other organisations. This change is being implemented with the aim of creating a more inclusive funding process, as well as to encourage new ideas and initiatives which will benefit the people and businesses of the City of London.

This renewed guidance is in line with Government guidance for how POCA funding should be distributed: namely to improve community safety and reduce crime for the benefit of the communities we serve.

Grants available

Grants available range from £1,000 to £50,000.

What should the focus of initiatives requesting funding be?

Priority areas

In line with the priorities of the SCP, applications for funding should focus on at least one of the following key areas:

- Anti-Social Behaviour is tackled and responded to effectively
- People and businesses are protected from theft and fraud/acquisitive crime
- People are safe and feel safe in the Night-Time Economy
- People are safe from violent crime and violence against the person
- Vulnerable people and communities are protected and safeguarded from crime

The SCP takes into account the strategic aims and priorities of its members, including the City of London Police (and its Policing Plan 2020–23). Consequently, the SCP's priorities are broadly aligned with those of the City Police and of other SCP members. However, given the nature and focus of some criminal activity dealt with almost exclusively by the police, the SCP will also be accepting funding requests for an additional key area:

- Countering terrorism (as specified in the City of London Policing Plan 2020–23)

In your application, you must demonstrate the **need** for your initiative, the **means** by which you will deliver it and how you will **evaluate** the outcome.

Funding will be granted on a 12-month basis. We strongly recommend that applicants seek match-funding from other sources, so that initiatives are not solely dependent on funding from the SCP POCA Fund.

You can find out more about the Safer City Partnership and view the Strategic Plan 2019–22 [here](#).

You can find out more about the City of London Policing Plan 2020–23 [here](#).

Key themes

While focusing on one of the key priorities outlined above, the SCP is eager to encourage applications which also consider at least one of the key themes set out below:

- Combatting and reducing youth crime and knife crime
- Ensuring the most vulnerable are protected
- Promoting community engagement and cohesion
- Promoting respect and fostering dialogue
- Protecting individuals and communities from exploitation (including sexual exploitation and modern slavery)
- Protecting individuals and communities from the threat of radicalism
- Tackling hate crime
- Tackling the causes of anti-social behaviour
- Tackling violence and domestic abuse
- Victim and perpetrator intervention and prevention
- Youth inclusion in creating safer communities

Who can apply?

- Not-for-profit or voluntary organisations, community groups, charities and community interest companies (CICs) registered with Companies House or the Charity Commission
- Organisations which work to improve the safety and the reduction of crime in the City of London (including issues which may lead to the committing of crime)
- Organisations which provide a free-of-charge and confidential service
- Organisations which provide a service regardless of whether a crime has been reported to the police

What will my organisation require to be eligible for funding?

- A Diversity, Inclusion and Equality policy (or equivalent) which you are able to produce and demonstrate your organisation's commitment to
- A governing/founding document which articulates the organisation's charitable/community aims (including provision – such as a dissolution clause – in the event that the organisation ceases to exist)
- A management committee with at least three unrelated members; CICs should have at least three unrelated Directors registered with Companies House
- Implementation of appropriate Safeguarding procedures for organisations working with vulnerable individuals and/or children
- Organisations must have a bank account, with a minimum of two signatures (of unrelated persons) for withdrawals, together with a constitution/articles of association/trust deeds, or similar document
- The ability to provide annual audited accounts and/or financial records which illustrate balance of funds and a breakdown of income and expenditure (N.B. organisations which have been established in the last financial year will not be excluded from the application process on the basis that they lack a set of annual accounts).

What can't the Safer City Partnership provide funding for?

- Consultancy fees and feasibility studies
- Core running costs alone (although funding for a portion of core running costs will be considered in order to support the initiative seeking SCP funding)
- For profit endeavours or applications made by profit-making organisations
- General fundraising appeals
- Grant-making organisations
- Individuals
- Loan or debt repayments
- National or regional organisations, unless the grant is ring-fenced for use within the City of London/a City of London branch exists within the organisation
- Overseas travel
- Projects of a political nature or that promote a particular political view
- Recurring funding for initiatives beyond 12 months (projects may run for longer than 12 months, but the SCP will only provide funding for a 12-month period)
- Retrospective funding
- Statutory services

Evaluation and monitoring

A vital aspect of your application will be the procedures you plan to implement to monitor the success of your initiative over its lifetime. This may include: reaching key milestones by agreed dates; targets for outreach with particular groups; or the delivery of a set number of workshops within a particular timeframe.

All projects which are successful in receiving Safer City Partnership funding will be subject to assessment or review by the SCP, select partners or local police bodies throughout the lifetime of the initiative. The SCP will also require the completion of an evaluation document at the end of the funding period.

All funding granted must be spent in line with the proposals made in your application and the agreement made with the SCP in relation to the funding remit. Evaluation by your organisation must demonstrate this and will be a focus of SCP monitoring. Any improper use of funds may require the partial or total repayment of the grant to the SCP. Any unused funds after 12 months must be returned to the SCP.

You must inform the Safer City Partnership immediately of any significant changes in the nature or focus of your initiative over the funding period. You must seek the permission of the SCP before any changes are made to how grant funding can be utilised. Failure to do so may result in the withdrawal or requested repayment of funds.

Local networks and your project

It is recommended that you reach out to the City of London Crime Prevention Association and/or your local community police (as well as other appropriate community representatives) in relation to your proposed initiative. This can be helpful in building support and developing ideas in relation to your project, not only during the application process, but also during the implementation stages. Additionally, it is useful to develop a local network in order to avoid your project duplicating pre-existing services.

Application process

Stage One: Expression of Interest

Stage Two: Presentation

Stage Three: Completion of formal Application Form

Assessment criteria

1. The initiative is in line with at least one of the Safer City Partnership's 'priority areas'
2. The initiative considers at least one of the Safer City Partnership's 'key themes'
3. The need for the initiative is clearly demonstrated with supporting evidence
4. The initiative benefits the people and/or businesses of the City of London
5. The budget is cost-effective and all aspects of requested funding provisions are eligible under SCP POCA Funding criteria
6. The initiative will increase community safety and/or enables crime prevention/reduction

7. The initiative will have a positive and long-term impact on the City of London
8. The initiative demonstrates clear tools for evaluating and monitoring metrics for success

Please note: During these unprecedented times, assessment for 2021–22 will also consider the ability of initiatives to operate during the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions, such as lockdown and social distancing. We understand the challenges this will pose for a number of applicants seeking funding. While we will take this context into account, we would encourage all applicants to clearly demonstrate how their initiatives will be able to operate during the pandemic and adapt to potential changes in Government advice.

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Committee:	Date:
Safer City Partnership	25/02/2021
Subject: Domestic Abuse Vulnerability and Risk Policy Update	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter – Director of Communities and Children Services	For Information
Report author: Ayesha Fordham - Domestic Abuse, Vulnerability and Risk Policy Officer	
Summary This report updates Members on the City of London Corporation’s domestic abuse COVID-19 response plan for the third national lockdown. The Community Safety team has been working with partners across the City of London throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to promote available services for domestic abuse/Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). The COVID-19 response plan has continued to be delivered throughout the pandemic and the current national lockdown, including promoting the government campaign, ‘Ask for ANI’ (Action Needed Immediately). The report also provides an update on the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA) funding for the specialist VAWG Bangladeshi post, the review of domestic abuse services and the Vulnerable Victims Advocate (VVA) post. Finally, the report provides a brief update on the Domestic Abuse Bill.	
Recommendation Members are asked to note the report.	

Main Report

Domestic Abuse COVID-19 Response Plan

1. The City Corporation's webpage on domestic abuse is regularly updated to ensure that the page includes current and up-to-date information on local support services and initiatives available to victims.
2. An article on domestic abuse has been included in both the Barbican and City of London estates' newsletters. Articles have been written for these newsletters throughout the pandemic and have provided a variety of information for victims of abuse. The most recent article included information about the Government's Ask for ANI (Action Needed Immediately) campaign. The Community Safety team contacted all the pharmacies located within the City to make sure they had relevant materials and training on the campaign. The pharmacies taking part were then promoted through online channels.
3. An article has been included in the *Business Healthy* newsletter to promote support services available to people who work within the City of London. City workers who are currently working from home are still able to access services within the City of London, even if they are not currently based within the City. The article also includes information about the Ask for ANI campaign.
4. A domestic abuse campaign has been updated to include information about Ask for ANI on the City Corporation intranet page. This is important to ensure that employees are aware of support services available to them, even when working from home.
5. Posters have been distributed across the Barbican and City of London estates, signposting victims of domestic abuse to relevant support services.
6. Domestic abuse refresher training will continue to be delivered as and when partner agencies request them. These sessions are promoted through the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Forum.
7. The City Police, Community Safety team and external partners are working together to develop ongoing work with hotels around vulnerability. The Hotel Engagement Group are delivering a virtual conference covering a range of vulnerability issues, such as domestic abuse, sexual violence, child sexual exploitation, modern-day slavery and human trafficking. The conference has been postponed from March to May to ensure that hotels are open and representatives are able to attend. The conference is being delivered alongside an electronic newsletter distributed to hotels.
8. The City Police and Community Safety team have created videos around awareness of sexual abuse, domestic abuse, mental health and Prevent to promote support and services that are available to victims. The videos will be promoted through online channels such as social media and YouTube, as well as newsletters via the City Police and the City Corporation. The videos will also

be available on the City Corporation website. The sexual abuse awareness videos have been promoted during Sexual Abuse & Sexual Violence Awareness Week 2021 in support of the #ItsNotOK campaign.

9. The City Corporation and City Police are working in partnership with CrimeStoppers to deliver a campaign funded by the City Bridge Trust. Part of the campaign will be aimed at the Bangladeshi community, encouraging the community to report domestic abuse. The campaign will also include information on hate crime and modern-day slavery.
10. The City Police have been conducting welfare checks, when safe, on City residents previously known to them as victims of domestic abuse.
11. An article will be published in February's edition of the DCCS newsletter, *The Buzz*, stating that domestic abuse is a reason people can leave their homes and employees can work from the office if they need to. If they would like to report the abuse while they are at work, the article includes a direct number for the City Police so they can speak to an officer face-to-face.

Domestic Abuse Data

12. The City Police data on domestic abuse indicates a decrease in reports of domestic abuse during the first national lockdown period. Between April and June 2020 there were nine reports of domestic abuse, which is a significant decrease compared to April to June 2019, when there were 27 reports of domestic abuse. The number of reports started to increase again post the first national lockdown, with 21 reports from July to September 2020. This data aligns with the anticipated surge in reports as the lockdown restrictions eased. City Police data for October 2020 indicated that domestic abuse continued to increase, with 16 reports recorded. The reports decreased again during the second national lockdown, with six reports recorded during November. This figure stayed the same during December, with six reports recorded. This data indicates a general decreasing trend over the last year, with a significant decrease in reporting of 14% from October to December 2020 in comparison to October to December 2019. This decrease in reports could be due to the small residential population in the City, or due to victims feeling unable to access help while in lockdown. The increase in reports in October 2020 was mainly related to crimes occurring in hotels and some repeat incidents with residents.
13. The decrease in reports during the COVID-19 pandemic is also reflected within the VVA domestic abuse referrals. Between April and September 2020, the VVA received 19 domestic abuse referrals from a range of sources, such as the City Police, partner agencies and self-referrals. This is a significant decrease to April to September 2019 when the VVA received 32 domestic abuse referrals. This figure decreased again during October to December 2020, when the VVA received 11 domestic abuse referrals, in comparison to 19 domestic abuse referrals from October to December 2019.

14. Solace Women's Aid provide advice and advocacy support to City residents and workers. From April 2019 to March 2020 they received 16 referrals to the service. The service received nine referrals from April to September 2020 and six referrals from October to December 2020, indicating that Solace are starting to see an increase in referrals.
15. The City of London has not seen the same levels of increase in domestic abuse as other London Boroughs and national services, with a 49% increase in calls to the National Domestic Abuse Helpline during the first national lockdown, and a 22% increase in referrals to domestic abuse services across London. This is due to a significant decrease in the number of people working within and visiting the City of London, and therefore it was expected that the levels of crime would decrease during COVID-19. However, it should be noted that the number of domestic abuse reports do not reflect the level of abuse taking place, due to victims not being able to leave their homes to access support. The domestic abuse COVID-19 response plan highlights ways the City Corporation have tried to promote support services.

POCA Funding Update

Specialist Bangladeshi Domestic Abuse/VAWG Post: Extension Request

16. The specialist Bangladeshi post is currently going through the procurement process, with the contract being awarded to the chosen organisation by 23 February. An estimated start date of 1 April 2021 has been set for the post, allowing adequate time for the recruitment process and for the post holder to start the role. An extension of the POCA funding is needed to allow time for this process and to ensure that the service is delivered for the full two years.

Review of Domestic Abuse Services

17. Standing Together Against Domestic Violence (STADV) have provided a consultancy proposal to conduct the review of domestic abuse services. The consultancy proposal will be approved by members of the City's VAWG Forum before being agreed with STADV.

Vulnerable Victims Advocate (VVA): Extension Request

18. The three-days-a-week post for the VVA has been advertised by Victim Support and the closing date for applications was 10 February. Assuming that one of the applicants is suitable for the post, the successful applicant will be in post as soon as possible. An extension of the start date of the POCA funding is required to ensure that the service is delivered for the full year.

Domestic Abuse (DA) Bill

19. The Domestic Abuse (DA) Bill is currently at the Committee stage in the House of Lords. The DA Bill will include a statutory duty on local authorities to provide safe accommodation provision for victims fleeing domestic abuse. The City Corporation does not currently fund any refuge provision and the Sanctuary

Scheme is the only form of funded safe accommodation provision. The new statutory duty should give City residents better access to refuge across London.

20. There are eight key issues with the DA Bill that the DA Commissioner has raised. These are:

- No recourse to public funds and immigration status is currently a barrier for some victims/survivors accessing support.
- There is currently no statutory duty on local authorities to provide community-based services. There are concerns that local authorities will redistribute their current provision to meet the new statutory duty to provide safe accommodation.
- There is currently no legal distinction between non-fatal strangulation, (which is used to exert power and control over the victim), and strangulation, which is the second most common method of killing in female homicides. A distinction between the two is needed.
- The DA Bill gives the opportunity for a new statutory defence to be created for those whose offending is driven by their experience of DA.
- The DA Bill should include guidance for employers to support employees affected by DA, in addition to Domestic Violence Protection Orders and Notices to cover the workplace.
- The coercive control legislation does not currently protect victims/survivors post-separation, yet coercive control is often used by the perpetrator post-separation.
- It is currently illegal to share intimate images without the person's consent; however, it is not illegal to threaten to share intimate images. This gap in the law allows perpetrators to threaten the use of these images to further control and abuse.
- Statutory change is needed within the family courts to stop the perpetrator from being able to use the court system to further abuse the victim.

Conclusion

21. The Community Safety team and partners have adapted to continue to protect people from domestic abuse/VAWG while working remotely. The Domestic Abuse COVID-19 Response Plan is constantly being updated and reviewed to ensure it is meeting the needs of the City of London's community and aligns with current Government guidance.

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Committee:	Date:
Safer City Partnership	25/02/2021
Subject: Strategy 2019–2022 Progress Monitoring and Proposals for Future Safer City Partnership Strategy Implementation Plans	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter – Director of Community and Children’s Services	For Decision
Author: Valeria Cadena – Community Safety Manager	
<div>Summary</div> <p>The Safer City Partnership’s (SCP’s) current strategy implementation plan is a progress monitoring tool that collects information about all the work that SCP partners have completed in order to achieve our strategy priorities.</p> <p>To ensure that the SCP priorities are relevant to our communities and promote collaboration between all partners, we will develop a new Implementation Plan that can reflect the work we do and also how it impacts our communities and the City.</p> <div>Recommendation</div> <p>Members are asked to note and accept the proposals for future SCP Implementation Plans.</p>	

Main Report

Background

1. The SCP Strategy Group has agreed its outcomes and priorities for 2019–22. These have been developed in consultation with our partners and communities and are also informed by the data we hold, national priorities and key documents such as the City of London Police’s Strategic Assessment and the City of London Policing Plan 2020–23 (including the refreshed plan for 2021–22).
2. The SCP strategy and implementation plan are legal requirements for all community safety partnerships, to keep all Members and our communities inform of the work carried out by all agencies involved.
3. The SCP’s priorities for 2019–2022 are:

- a. Vulnerable people and communities are protected and safeguarded
 - b. People are safe from violent crime and any violence against the person
 - c. People and businesses are protected from theft/fraud and acquisitive crime
 - d. Anti-Social Behaviour is tackled and responded to effectively
 - e. People are safe and feel safe in the Night-time Economy
4. The SCP Implementation Plan helps to create a framework for delivery of key priorities and associated initiatives.
 5. New proposals for future Implementation Plans that focus on partner and community engagement, accountability, the contribution of robust data sets for analysis, and ensuring that the communities we serve are benefitting from SCP undertakings, will help to strengthen and inform future SCP priorities and strategies.
 6. We are committed to ensuring that we have an impact on our outcomes in the Square Mile. We will continue to closely monitor performance across a range of measures, through qualitative and quantitative measures.
 7. To ensure that the SCP is meeting its targets to deliver on the strategic aims and key priorities of the SCP Strategic Plan 2019–2022, it is essential that a clear framework with metrics for success is developed. This should include a focus on: ensuring effective working; promoting community and stakeholder engagement; monitoring and evaluating ongoing initiatives; scrutinising data; and ensuring that the SCP's work is having its desired impact on the communities it serves. More broadly, this will help to achieve key principles important to the entire City of London Corporation, including accountability, transparency, good governance and collaboration.

Proposals

8. **Annual Reports:** In line with each of the 'key actions' identified (please see Appendix 1) for each of the above priorities, it is proposed that an SCP annual report is produced to assess the success of achieving targets. Drawing on information from SCP Members and initiatives, this may include: assessment of the achievement of key milestones; analysis of data; feedback from stakeholders/community groups targeted; monitoring of finances; long-term viability of initiatives and next steps. The aim of this proposal is not to lead to exhaustive annual reports, but rather yearly reviews that will provide succinct analysis of projects, taking into account success against the SCP's priorities and – importantly – the impact initiatives are having on our communities.
9. **Partner Engagement:** It is vital for the SCP to function as a multi-agency initiative that engagement levels are consistent. As such, it is proposed that a quarterly 'forum' for agencies takes place, with the appropriate preparation of documents. These documents should provide details of what each partner

agency is achieving in line with their remit as part of the SCP, as well as provide an opportunity for peer review. The quarterly meetings will also allow for open discussion of actions necessary to improve workstreams to meet SCP targets. Ultimately, this forum will provide an opportunity to bolster multi-agency co-operation and communication, as well as to recalibrate plans as necessary to improve effectiveness in achieving SCP priorities.

10. Community Impact: It is vital that the priorities of the SCP are: (a) relevant to the community; (b) making a positive impact in the communities we serve.

(a) It is proposed that the annual Residents' Meeting serve as a model for direct engagement with the City of London's communities. This serves as the central means by which communities may express their views verbally and via a survey. It is proposed that an SCP survey be submitted at the Residents' Meeting, with the possibility of distributing such a survey bi-annually. This survey will directly address residents' priorities and concerns, as well as provide some insight into pre-existing initiatives/services that members of our communities are aware of or have come into contact with. This information will provide important insight and feedback, although we must remain vigilant that such measures alone will not provide an accurate cross-section of the communities we serve. Additionally, COVID-19 will cause challenges in distribution and collection of information, particularly to communities that are at risk of digital exclusion.

(b) (i) This can, in part, be achieved by the analysis of data. New guidance for Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA) funding emphasises monitoring and evaluation of initiatives, both from applicants and the SCP. This will provide us with raw data and analysis to assess the success of initiatives aimed at improving community safety and reducing crime. Data should also be forthcoming from the SCP's partners to allow for assessment of initiatives and work underway to achieve SCP priorities.

(ii) Quantitative data – where available – should be collated and reviewed to assess the impact of initiatives on our communities.

(iii) Qualitative data – including case studies – should be collated and reviewed to assess the impact of initiatives on our communities. This type of information is often more widely available in the assessment of local initiatives but can be more challenging to develop into statistical models.

(iv) Outreach – speaking directly with our communities, both through the SCP and our partners. As outlined in point (a), greater outreach should be a priority and we will be exploring new initiatives to achieve this with SCP Members.

11. Please find in Appendix 1 the current SCP Implementation Plan (Progress Monitoring) for information of our current working, delivery and monitoring methods.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Safer City Partnership Strategy 2019–2022 Progress Monitoring

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Appendix 1

Safer City Partnership Strategy 2019–2022 Progress Monitoring

Key: Blue= Complete, Green= Progressing, Amber= On Hold, Red= Not Started.

All actions are assigned a RAG rating which relates to whether they are on target for the 'Delivery deadline'. Once an action is complete, this will be noted in the 'comments' section and the action greyed out.

Completed actions will be reported to the Safer City Partnership and, where appropriate, other Committees e.g. Health and Wellbeing and Safeguarding Boards.

1. Vulnerable people and communities are protected and safeguarded				
Key actions	Delivery	Responsibility/ Lead service	RAG	Comments
1.1 Engage and support City of London Corporation staff to deliver the Prevent duty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) Prevent Input training to partners/staff focusing on the referral process • Attend CoL forums to highlight the work of Prevent • Promotion of the 'Act Early' campaign, which focuses on educating family and friends of the radicalisation process and how to support loved ones • Production of consistent Prevent messages via social media, newsletters and leaflet distribution • Delivery of Prevent forums/information drop-ins • SPOC for Corporation staff who have concerns about individuals becoming radicalised. 	CST CoLP		Community Safety Team (CST) City of London Police (CoLP)

1. Vulnerable people and communities are protected and safeguarded				
Key actions	Delivery	Responsibility/ Lead service	RAG	Comments
1.2 Engage with our resident community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation (July 2021) • Domestic abuse COVID-19 response plan • Regular articles on domestic abuse included within both the Barbican and the City of London estate newsletters • Providing domestic abuse training to all City of London estate staff and managers • Producing consistent Prevent/Community Safety messages via social media, newsletters and leaflet distribution • Attending resident/community forums, groups and events to distribute crime prevention information 	CST City of London Housing		
1.3 Engage the business community in helping us deliver Prevent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of Prevent messages via Skyline • Delivery of WRAP/Prevent input training • Delivery of information sessions using the 'Act Early' campaign messages • Continued engagement with CoL forums to reach businesses and offer training/information 	CST CoLP		
1.4 Continue to work with partners to protect the most vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic abuse refresher training has been delivered to internal and external partners • City and Hackney GPs can offer City of London residents counselling through IAPT • Harmful practices/Prevent training to be delivered to St Paul's Cathedral staff and volunteers • The Sanctuary Scheme guidance and referral form has been updated and made user-friendly 	CST CoLP Children's Social Care & Early Help Service CHSAB		Other agencies involved: Health Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS)

1. Vulnerable people and communities are protected and safeguarded				
Key actions	Delivery	Responsibility/ Lead service	RAG	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-ordination of the monthly Domestic Abuse MARAC and work to train professionals in spotting the signs and making referrals Delivery of Prevent training to partners in the education sectors Co-ordination of the multi-agency 'Channel Panels' Regular partnership working in multi-agency groups such as the City of London VAWG Forum and the rough sleeping Task and Action and HIRSS panels. This also includes Safeguarding Adult Reviews and safeguarding meetings on a case-specific basis Attending the pan-London VAWG Co-ordinators Network The Transitional Safeguarding Task and Finish Group is developing a strategy to support young people aged between 16 and 24 A virtual conference will be held in March 2021 for all City hotels to provide support and awareness to assist in safeguarding vulnerable people CoLP and Liaison and Diversion (L&D) are developing a training package to be delivered in early 2021 to increase officers' understanding of all vulnerability strands and how they impact on victims, suspects and witnesses 			
1.5 Reduce the risk of financial/economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MARAC Co-ordinator and DA Policy Officer have completed training on 	CST DCCS		

1. Vulnerable people and communities are protected and safeguarded				
Key actions	Delivery	Responsibility/ Lead service	RAG	Comments
exploitation and abuse by connecting people to communities	<p>'Recognising and responding to economic abuse'. Information will be cascaded to partners to ensure this is a focus with cases going forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Corporation has continued to engage with the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy Plan, and supports this action by engaging with the City-specific safeguarding partnerships for children and adults 			
1.6 Protect children from sexual exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holding the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) Engagement with the CHSCP safeguarding arrangements The implementation of statutory duties set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children and the London Child Protection Procedures Receive updates on this area of work at the VAWG Forum Operation Make Safe – hotel testing with Police Cadets 	Children's Social Care CoLP CST		
1.7 Raise awareness on modern slavery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training courses are being provided to CoLP officers regarding Modern Day Slavery A priority for the SOC Board which will liaise with CoLC MDS Group Delivery of Operation Innerste to protect unaccompanied asylum-seeking children from labour exploitation and trafficking 	CoLP SOC Board CST		Operation Innerste training will be delivered to all frontline CoLP officers by January 2021. Children's Social Care will also be provided with a streamlined training package for awareness.

2. People are safe from violent crime and any violence against the person				
Key actions	Delivery	Responsibility/ Lead service	RAG	Comments
2.1 Improve our understanding of the nature of violence against the person within the City by undertaking research and using all available data to support evidence-based and targeted responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development and implementation of the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Action Plan. This includes collating and analysing data from health, Police and local authorities to grasp a complete picture of domestic abuse within the City. Serious and Organised Crime Board – action plan and terms of reference are in progress 	CST VAWG Forum CoLP SOC Board		
2.2 Increase understanding of the issues around domestic abuse and how to access help and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic abuse awareness refresher sessions delivered virtually to internal staff and external partners Training delivered to City of London estate staff and managers. Compulsory training as part of DAHA Hotel vulnerability conference delivered in February 2020, covering domestic abuse, sexual violence, CSE, modern day slavery and human trafficking The Corporation is represented at the pan-London VAWG Co-ordinators network meeting 	CST City of London Housing City of London Police		
2.3 Train City of London Corporation frontline staff in risk assessment and safety planning for domestic abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic abuse awareness training has been delivered to 31 staff within DCCS. The training was delivered to staff across Children's Social Care, Early Help, Adults Social Care, Housing, Homelessness, No First Night Out and Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School. 	CST		Training continues to be promoted to all staff.

2. People are safe from violent crime and any violence against the person				
Key actions	Delivery	Responsibility/ Lead service	RAG	Comments
2.4 Support pan-London action to reduce knife crime and response to acid attacks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LFB have provided acid attack training to CoLP and Corporation staff. There are plans to extend this to the City's night-time economy in early 2021 The Roads Policing Unit lead the CoLPs delivery of Operation Sceptre – a nationwide Police campaign focused on tackling knife and violent crime 	CST CoLP LFB		
2.5 Strengthen our understanding and responses to domestic abuse and sexual violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training on awareness of domestic and sexual abuse has been offered to internal and external partner agencies. The training covers a range of issues such as harmful practices, sexual violence and the LGBT+ community, and economic abuse. Training is constantly being promoted and delivered to partners. The VAWG Strategy and Action Plan has been implemented The CoLP and L&D are developing a sexual violence awareness training package to be delivered in early 2021 	CST VAWG Forum CoLP L&D		CoLP – under the remit of the Public Protection Unit
2.6 Engage with our communities to raise awareness of hate crime and how to report it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with the City of London Anti-Racism Task Force. 	CST		

3. People and businesses are protected from theft/fraud and acquisitive crime				
Key actions	Delivery	Responsibility/ Lead service	RAG	Comments
3.1 Protect our residents, City workers and businesses from online fraud	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cyber and intellectual crimes are priorities for the SOC Board Delivery of the Cyber Griffin initiative which supports businesses and individuals in the Square Mile to protect themselves from cyber crime 	LFB CST CoLP		
3.2 Promote the City as a safe place to cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CoLP are offering and promoting the 'Bike safe register' scheme to residents and city workers The CoLP continue to engage with the City community to offer advice around the use of bike locks 	CST CoLP		
3.3 Reduce the theft of motorbikes and scooters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is monitored through the monthly Tactical meeting chaired by the Commander for the CoLP 	CoLP		
3.4 Raise awareness of associated risks of cyber-enabled crime through City of London Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cyber Griffin offers free training and resources to employees and businesses within the City to keep themselves safe from a cyber attack 	CoLP		
3.5 Reduce acquisitive crime within the night-time economy over Christmas and other peak periods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Campaign 2019 and 2020 Operation Snowball – a multi-directorate approach to all crime types 	CoLP CST		

4. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) is tackled and responded to effectively				
Key actions	Delivery	Responsibility/ Lead service	RAG	Comments
4.1 Improve the management of ASB with a greater emphasis of the impact of individuals and communities and reduce the risk of harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of a revitalised monthly City Community MARAC (CCM) with a revised TOR and creation of 'Core' and 'Non-Core' stakeholders CCM training provides to all new and existing stakeholders as per the Community Trigger recommendations Promoting the use of ECINS as a multi-agency information-sharing platform between all partners Promotion of the Community Trigger case review via the Corporation website 	CST		
4.2 Ensure injunctions and other enforcement powers are used in appropriate areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ratification of the City of London's London Marathon PSPO Use of civil Injunction Order by the Corporation to forward manage the behaviour of prolific offenders of ASB Use of Criminal Behaviour Orders on the City's most prolific offenders of criminal and ASB Use of Injunction Orders and Possession Orders against those City of London tenants perpetrating ASB 	CST CoLP City of London Housing		
4.3 Engage with our communities to raise awareness of services available and the legal obligations of different partners tackling ASB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formalised ASB Action Plan between the City of London Police and the City of London Corporation Preparation and promotion of the National ASB Awareness Week to be held in 2021 Creation of a public-facing webpage on the Corporation website which provides information for professionals on the CCM 	CST CoLP		

4. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) is tackled and responded to effectively				
Key actions	Delivery	Responsibility/ Lead service	RAG	Comments
4.4 Address ASB on estates within the City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployment of Parkguard on the Golden Lane and Middlesex Street estates • Safeguarding referrals made to Early Help or Children's Social Care if there are concerns about potential escalation • Referrals to the CCM by Estates staff • Utilisation of Streetwise by the City of London Housing as an ASB case management system • Use of the Noise App for residents to report noise nuisance to the City Estates Offices 	City of London Housing Children's Social Care/Early Help		Parkguard
4.5 Continue to address the problem of street begging on City streets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation Luscombe and the use of Community Protection Warnings/ Notices/ CBOs for prolific beggars • Extensive partnership working between the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Team, CoLP plus other Corporation and commissioned services 	CoLP CST Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Team		
4.6 Provide training on existing and new legislations and trends to all relevant staff and partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refresher training and advice on the powers within the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 continues to be offered to all partners 	CST		

5. People are safe and feel safe in the Night-time Economy				
Key actions	Delivery	Responsibility/ Lead service	RAG	Comments
5.1 Work to understand the nature and scope of the City's Night-Time Economy and its associated problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A mapping and analysis of the Night-Time Economy in the City of London was commissioned and published in 2019. The report provided an evidence base for the development of policy, strategy, interventions and the targeting of resources 	M&CP Licensing Team		
5.2 Promote the Safety Thirst scheme to more premises and maximise its potential as a vehicle to promote community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CoLP Licensing team will continue to conduct education visits to licensed premises to promote the scheme All licensed premises accredited in 2019 have been offered additional training and short seminars on relevant issues affecting licensed premises 	CoLP M&CP Licensing Team		<p>The 2019 scheme awarded 72 premises in the categories of 'pass', 'commended' and 'highly commended'</p> <p>The 2020 scheme has been deferred due to the COVID-19 pandemic</p> <p>The scheme is linked to the late-night levy discount. There will be an accreditation extension from 12 to 24 months for those premises accredited in 2019.</p>
5.3 Explore and develop new approaches to address problems associated with our Night-Time Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ten sexual harassment training sessions for licensed premises have been funded through the Late-Night Levy; three of these sessions were delivered by Good Night Out (GNO) in February 2020. The remaining seven sessions will be held in 2021 	CST		Cooperating agencies: Greater London Authority (GLA) Hackney Council GNO Culture Mile

5. People are safe and feel safe in the Night-time Economy				
Key actions	Delivery	Responsibility/ Lead service	RAG	Comments
during periods of peak demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of 'Reframe the Night', a joint campaign with Hackney Council and GNO to raise awareness of sexual harassment in the NTE A night-time surgery was delivered in March 2020 in partnership with the GLA to speak directly to people working in the NTE, to identify how safe they feel at night 			
5.4 City of London Street Pastors	No information available			No information available at the time of publication

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London Fire Brigade City of London Safer City Partnership Update as of 15th February 2021

Incidents of Note.

The London Fire Brigade at Dowgate responded to 272 incidents during the period of this paper covers The following extract from incidents of note attended by Dowgate's crews on their own station's ground

- **FOUR PUMP FIRE**

Thames Tideway Tunnel Construction Site Blackfriars Bridge

Extract:

ONE INDUSTRIAL COMPRESSOR IN ISO CONTAINER 10M BELOW GROUND LEVEL 100% DAMAGED BY FIRE. A QUANTITY OF CONCRETE ADDITIVE ADJACENT TO CONTAINER LEAKING BEING DEALT WITH BY ON SITE STAFF. TWO JETS ONE HOSE REEL. BREATHING APPARATUS AND THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA.

Attendance Times.

Choose date range below or use Filters for specific dates Last 3 Months 14/11/2020 - 13/02/2021		Average Attendance Times (MM:SS)	
		1st Appliance (Target: 6 mins)	2nd Appliance (Target: 8 mins)
Brigade [Filter Icon] [Reset Icon] [More Icon]	→	04:58	06:15
Area North East	→	04:51	06:12
Borough City of London	→	04:31	06:05
Attending Station Dowgate	→	04:31	06:05

This note is to provide the most up to date lines on key LFB corporate issues.

Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 recommendations and HMICFRS

- In August the Home Secretary commissioned HMICFRS to review the governance and progress of LFB's action plan to implement the Phase 1 recommendations. The [report](#) was published on 12 February.
- We have made significant and effective changes over the year in response to the Grenfell Tower recommendations. We have introduced new and improved operational equipment, improved our training and made changes to our operational response.
- We know there is more we can do and must do to keep Londoners safe and we will continue to work hard to not only complete all of the recommendations, but to continue our learning so that we can adapt and reduce the number and impact of fires.
- Progress so far includes:
 - The provision of fire escape hoods.
 - Updating the policy for the management of operational risk information to include 7(2)d information - familiarisation visits.
 - Training associated with the above policy.
 - Urgent work required to update Command systems ensuring that the Command Support System is fully functioning and providing training for staff.
- By the end of March 2021, a further 17 inquiry recommendations applicable to the Brigade are due to be completed (15 directed at LFB + one directed to building owners + one directed to LAS/MPS, both of which have knock-on impacts on LFB).
- The Commissioner has met with a number of Grenfell Tower families, building on those relationships already established with local fire crews based in the area.

Covid-19

- **Covid-19 has had a significant impact** on public services including London Fire Brigade, but we **responded quickly and effectively** to the challenges it presented.
- Our **response to Covid-19 has been [recognised](#)** in a by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS).
- They were impressed with our preparedness and found that we were quick to review our plans, recognising our readiness to work with others, while continuing to 'satisfy core statutory functions'. It found that the **Brigade could respond to emergencies and take on a greater role in the community by supporting other blue light services and partner agencies.**
- London's firefighters have been delivering food and medicine to vulnerable residents, distributed over **20 million items of Personal Protection Equipment** and helped make over **40,000 face shields for hospital staff.**
- Since April 2020 nearly **500 firefighters have volunteered to drive ambulances to support the London Ambulance Service** – firefighters have now **responded to 100,000 incidents whilst driving ambulances.**
- Nearly **100 members of staff also volunteered to recover the bodies of Londoners who sadly died from Covid-19 in their homes.**

Budget

- The Mayor published budget guidance in June which set out proposed reductions to the GLA Group of £493 million in response to the coronavirus crisis. For LFB this amounted to a £10 million reduction in funding in 2020/21 and **£15 million reduction in 2021/22**. This is in addition to the existing budget gap of £44 million over the next four years.
- Since then the Mayor announced that he would use GLA reserves to **reduce LFB's savings target from £10 million to £5 million in 2020/21**.
- Our priorities during this process are to **continue to deliver the Transformation Delivery Plan** including to: continue our work after the Grenfell Tower fire to improve leadership, training and equipment; make changes to help improve fire safety in all buildings, including high rise, and preparing for major incidents, such as acts of terrorism.
- LFB responded to the budget guidance in November and the Mayor's Draft Consolidated Budget for 2021-22 was published on 19 January. The Mayor will be quizzed on the budget by Assembly Members at a Plenary on 25 February and the final budget agreed in March.

Transformation plan

- The [Transformation Delivery Plan](#) (TDP) sets out LFB's priorities in response to the Grenfell Tower Phase One Inquiry Report, the HMICFRS assessment of LFB, and other areas for transformation so that the organisation is **trusted to protect and serve London**.
- The Transformation Plan is the beginning of this process, but work is progressing. The plan has been **refreshed in light of delays caused by Covid-19** but LFB remains fully committed to delivering all actions in the plan and meeting all recommendation made by the Grenfell Tower Inquiry and the HMICFRS report.
- Our staff will be **trained and equipped to respond to high-rise incidents to an enhanced level** through incident command and high-rise training..

Government announcements on building safety

- LFB **supports the Fire Safety Bill** which is currently progressing through Parliament and is expected to receive Royal Assent (when it becomes law) in February. The Bill will amend the **2005 Fire Safety Order and provide clarity** on application of the law and who is responsible for external walls and individual front doors which open onto escape routes used in common by several flats. It will assist fire and rescue services in taking action against those responsible to ensure that people are safe in their homes. It is **expected to come into effect in spring 2021**.
- LFB **wrote to all major housing providers in London in the summer** to remind them of both their existing responsibilities under the fire safety order and the need to have plans in place for the new legislation and how that will change what LFB can enforce.
- **LFB provides a highly proactive and wide-ranging protection function:**
 - 1000 calls to the fire safety phone line each month
 - 200 Enforcement Notices and Notices of Deficiency each month
 - 25 per cent of audits lead to enforcement action.
- The **Draft Building Safety Bill** was published in July for scrutiny by a parliamentary Committee, which LFB submitted evidence to. The Bill will implement the recommendations of Dame Judith Hackitt's review and bring the new regulator of building safety into being.
- The **Building Safety Bill** (not in draft) is expected to be published and enter Parliament soon.

Former LFB Headquarters 8 Albert Embankment

- Includes a permanent **home for the LFB Museum** which will welcome tens of thousands of visitors a year and will be unique, with views into a working fire station. The Museum has secured £200k funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to help develop the plans for the fit out and how it will run and apply to access a further £1.7m from the fund.

Recruitment

- One of the measures put in place to meet the funding reduction and subsequent budget gap in 2021/22 is an operational and FRS **recruitment freeze**. This, alongside additional savings identified by Heads of Service, and the use of reserves, has **enabled us to balance our budget until March 2022**. Establishment is something we monitor continuously and the recruitment freeze is something that can be reversed quickly if we need to.

Committee:	Date:
Safer City Partnership	25/02/2021
Subject: Community Safety Team Update	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter – Director of Community and Children’s Services	For Information
Author: Valeria Cadena – Community Safety Manager	
<div>Summary</div> <p>To update SCP members on Community Safety Team (CST) activity not otherwise addressed.</p> <div>Recommendation</div> <p>Members are asked to note the report.</p>	

Main Report

Domestic Abuse (DA) Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

1. Since lockdown measures were imposed on 23 March 2020, the City of London DA MARAC has successfully operated virtually via Microsoft Teams.
2. Since the last Safer City Partnership (SCP) meeting, one case has been heard at MARAC. The case was referred by an outside local authority, based on professional judgement. A robust action has been agreed and there has been excellent partnership working from a range of organisations. The case will be closely monitored and closed when the MARAC is satisfied that the risk has decreased. The next DA MARAC is scheduled for 3 March 2021.
3. The CST has not received any MARAC-to-MARAC (M2M) referrals from City of London Police since the last SCP meeting. This is unusual; however, this could be a result of the lockdown of the night-time economy and small numbers of workers travelling into the City. M2M referrals are when domestic abuse incidents take place within the City, however, the victim and perpetrator reside in another

borough. The MARAC team in the borough where the individuals live are given details of the incident so they can assess whether it meets the MARAC threshold.

City Community Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (CCM)

4. The CST co-ordinates the CCM – the City of London’s monthly MARAC, whereby information is shared on vulnerable victims and perpetrators of anti-social behaviour (ASB), to forward manage risk and safeguard individuals. Since March 2020, the CCM has effectively operated via Microsoft Teams.
5. Between December 2020 and February 2021, the CCM panel received three high-risk and complex referrals from City Outreach, a local Estate Office, and the City of London Police. One case necessitated a cross-county conference with a neighbouring Community Mental Health Team, to safeguard a vulnerable individual at risk of harm within the City. The next CCM is scheduled to be held on 11 March 2021.
6. The CCM is now co-chaired by Joseph Easterbrook – the City of London Police’s new Inspector for Local Policing and the Partnership & Prevention Hub. As the former Chair of the Surrey County Council Community Harm and Risk Management Meeting, he brings a considerable amount of experience to the role, with an in-depth working knowledge of the multi-agency problem-solving function of the CCM.
7. To increase further awareness of the conference, the CST provides training sessions to statutory and voluntary organisations, to promote the CCM as a valuable partnership and multi-agency tool in solving complex community safety issues. In addition, the CST section of the Corporation’s website has been updated with a page displaying information and advice for professionals on the CCM and the referral process.

Prevent activity

8. There have been no Prevent Channel Panel cases since the December SCP meeting. The CST has the capacity to operate meetings virtually and will liaise with partners accordingly should a referral come to our attention.
9. A CST representative attends a bi-weekly virtual forum with the London Prevent Network, which includes all London Prevent co-ordinators and updates with partners such as, SO15 Counter Terrorism Policing, Department for Education, NHS England Prevent, and National Probation Service. Best practice, support for co-ordinators in delivering Prevent activity, and national updates are the focus of this forum.

10. The CST continues to work jointly with the City of London Police's Prevent Officer to actively promote Prevent training packages and awareness sessions to businesses, community groups, partner agencies and the education sector. Due to COVID-19, all face-to-face training sessions have been replaced by virtual sessions. Additionally, the Home Office online package has been suggested as a temporary alternative. Training has been delivered to City of London Police new starters and transferees. Additionally, several teams within the City Corporation, including Education and Early Years, Children's Social Care, Rough Sleeping and Homelessness Prevention and all Early Years Providers, have received Prevent training.
11. The CST continue to promote the Counter Terrorism Policing national safeguarding website www.actearly.uk which was launched in November 2020. The campaign is a regular feature on the Prevent training presentation and the City Corporation and City of London Police social media channels. Furthermore, it is promoted at various forums. This campaign aims to encourage family and friends to share concerns that a friend or loved one might be vulnerable to radicalisation.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

12. In January 2021, the Home Office updated the statutory guidance for frontline professionals on the use of powers defined within the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Many of the recommendations related to the Community Trigger – which gives victims of persistent anti-social behaviour reported to any of the main responsible agencies (such as the council, police, housing provider) the right to request a multi-agency case review of their case where a local threshold is met – with greater consideration to be given to inviting victims (or representatives) to case review meetings. While the activation of Community Triggers are rare and many of the latest reforms are already implemented in the City, future panels will ensure that greater emphasis is placed on hearing victims (where appropriate) to assist the panel in understanding their perspective.
13. The CST continue to endorse Empowering Communities Inclusion and Neighbourhood Management System (ECINS) as the multi-agency information-sharing platform for community safety-related issues and casework in the City. ECINS was recently chosen as the IT provider to facilitate two Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) funded Pan-London projects:
 - Rescue and Response County Lines project, to support young people (at risk of) being criminally exploited, through county lines activity
 - Persistent Vulnerability Pathway Matrix to monitor London's 4,000 Integrated Offender Management (IOM) nominals (most prolific offenders).
14. The CST offers ECINS user training to all internal and external partners licensed within the City scheme. All City Street Enforcement and Environmental Health

Officers now have access to the system and are being encouraged to utilise ECINS to avoid duplication of work, particularly where enforcement has been undertaken.

15. The CST is continuing to assist the City Police's Local Policing and Integrated Offender Management teams, as well as the Corporation Housing department, with information and assistance to construct Community Protection Warnings/Notices, Community Behaviour Orders and trespass letters against prolific perpetrators of ASB in the City.

16. In addition, in a bid to address safeguarding concerns regarding rough sleepers in the vicinity of the Liverpool Street Station during the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP), the CST facilitated a meeting between:

- British Transport Police (BTP)
- City of London Police
- Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Team
- City Outreach
- Parkguard

The multi-agency session clarified the services and accommodation available to rough sleepers in the City during SWEP and actioned joined-up and targeted outreach patrols.

Serious and Organised Crime

17. The CST, along with the chair of the group and a representative from City of London Police, met on 16 February to establish the future of this group. A future meeting date was set, and a robust agenda and action plan will be produced to set a clear direction.

CST Staff Updates

18. Daniel Barry joined the CST at the start of February, appointed as a Community Safety Policy and Strategy Officer.

19. Daniel's primary focus will be in relation to the SCP, including analysis and recommendations for policy, stakeholder and partnership engagement, and governance. He will work to help deliver the current SCP strategy and contribute towards the development of future plans. The monitoring and evaluation of initiatives to improve community safety and reduce crime – and how the SCP ensures that there is a positive community impact – will be a central aspect of Daniel's work.

20. There will also be consideration of best practice when it comes to procedural issues, including funding criteria, the improvement of democratic processes and questions of governance to ensure that the SCP is operating in line with expected conventions to promote accountability, transparency and efficiency.

21. Daniel will be in contact with you and with your agencies to make sure our strategy is relevant. Please provide him with honest feedback of what you would like to see in our plan and future agenda

Forthcoming Activity

22. The CST and City of London Police Prevent Officer are working with City of London Police Communications to construct a short video to raise awareness of Prevent and how to support someone who may be vulnerable to radicalisation. The City Corporation's Communications team will support the distribution of this via social media channels and our website.

Valeria Cadena

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Committee:	Date:
Safer City Partnership	25/02/2021
Subject: Safer City Partnership Information Sharing Agreement Update	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter – Director of Community and Children’s Services	For Decision
Author: Valeria Cadena – Community Safety Manager	
<div>Summary</div> <p>To update Safer City Partnership members on the progress of the Safer City Partnership Information Sharing Agreement.</p> <div>Recommendation</div> <p>Members are asked to note the report and assign a representative for the consultation process.</p>	

Main Report

Background

1. The Community Safety Team requested assistance from the City of London Corporation's Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department to update the Safer City Partnerships Information Sharing Agreement (ISA) and produce Subject Specific Information Sharing Arrangements (SSISA).

Information Sharing Agreement Update

2. The work on the updated ISA has started an initial update from the Comptrollers is cited below:

The Safer City Partnership strategy group is required under The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to have in place arrangements for the sharing of information between responsible authorities and prepare a protocol setting out those arrangements.

The current protocol is in need of review and will need to be updated to:

- *reflect current data protection legislation;*
- *encompass the duty to share prescribed depersonalised information under section 17A of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998;*

- *provide for the sharing of information for the purpose of formulating and implementing a strategic assessment and partnership plan for the area;*
- *ensure other legislative references are up to date; and*
- *reflect current security and data management practices, for example the use of the Empowering-Communities Inclusion & Neighbourhood management System.*

The current protocol is being updated by the City of London Corporation's Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department and will be circulated between the responsible authorities for consultation before being presented to the strategy group (which has the responsibility for preparing the data sharing protocol) for approval.

Consultation process

3. A consultation process will take place to provide all partners with the opportunity to contribute and agree to the draft ISA. The consultation process requires that all agencies provide a point of contact from their organisation's legal department or an individual who is responsible for sharing information to assist with the consultation process. We request that all partners provide the contact details of the responsible team or individual to Ali Burlington in the Community Safety team, who will be coordinating this process. Please send contact numbers and emails addresses to: ali.burlington@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Next steps

4. After the consultation process, the final ISA will be presented to the SCP for approval.
5. Once the overarching ISA is in place, the team will work throughout 2021 with the Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department to update and produce Subject Specific Information Sharing Arrangements for Domestic Abuse Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), Community MARAC, Prevent Channel Panel and any other relevant areas.

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