



Safeguarding Sub (Community & Children's Services) Committee

Date: THURSDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2023
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue: COMMITTEE ROOMS, 2ND FLOOR, WEST WING, GUILDHALL

Members: Ruby Sayed (Chair)
Helen Fentimen (Deputy Chair)
Anne Corbett
Mary Durcan
Eamonn Mullally
Benjamin Murphy
Ceri Wilkins

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Ian Thomas CBE
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

AGENDA

Part 1 - Public Agenda

1. **APOLOGIES**

2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

3. **MINUTES**

To approve the minutes of the last meeting.

For Decision
(Pages 7 - 14)

4. **CITY OF LONDON POLICE VULNERABILITY DEEP DIVE**

Report of the Commissioner, City of London Police.

For Discussion
(Pages 15 - 34)

5. **CITY AND HACKNEY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23**

Report of the Independent Chair, City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board.

For Discussion
(Pages 35 - 86)

6. **ADULT SOCIAL CARE SAFEGUARDING PERFORMANCE REPORT Q2 2023/24**

Report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.

For Information
(Pages 87 - 90)

7. **VIRTUAL SCHOOL HEADTEACHER ANNUAL REPORT FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/2023**

Report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.

For Discussion
(Pages 91 - 92)

8. **INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER (IRO), ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022-2023**
Report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.
For Discussion
(Pages 93 - 96)
9. **CITY OF LONDON CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE AND EARLY HELP, ACTION FOR CHILDREN, ANNUAL SURVEY 2022-23**
Report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.
For Discussion
(Pages 97 - 100)
10. **CARE LEAVERS COMPACT**
Report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.
For Discussion
(Pages 101 - 132)
11. **CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE SELF EVALUATION FRAMEWORK**
Report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.
For Discussion
(Pages 133 - 136)
12. **CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE AND EARLY HELP SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-23**
Report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.
For Information
(Pages 137 - 158)
13. **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE PERFORMANCE - MONTH 6 2023/24 (SEPTEMBER 2023)**
Report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.
For Information
(Pages 159 - 166)
14. **WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**
Report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.
For Discussion
(Pages 167 - 180)

15. **THE CHILD Q UPDATE REPORT - WHY WAS IT ME?**

Report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.

For Discussion
(Pages 181 - 184)

16. **YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE ACTION PLAN**

Report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.

For Discussion
(Pages 185 - 202)

17. **QUESTIONS OF MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

18. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

19. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

MOTION, that – under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

For Decision

Part 2 - Non-Public Agenda

20. **NHS NEL ICB (CITY & HACKNEY) CARE EXPERIENCED CHILDREN ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023**

Report of the Designated Nurse and Doctor, City and Hackney.

For Discussion
(Pages 203 - 224)

21. **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) - UPDATE**

Report of the Executive Director, City and Hackney.

For Discussion
(Pages 225 - 246)

23. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE**
24. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE SUB-COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

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SAFEGUARDING SUB (COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES) COMMITTEE

Monday, 19 June 2023

Minutes of the meeting held at the Guildhall EC2 at 10.00 am

Present

Members:

Mary Durcan

Anne Corbett

Helen Fentimen (Deputy Chairman)

Officers:

Chris Pelham	- Assistant Director, People, Community and Children's Services
Rachel Talmage	- Community and Children's Services
Sacha Lewis	- Community and Children's Services
Greg Knight	- Community and Children's Services
Emma Masters	- Community and Children's Services
Keisha Nurse	- Community and Children's Services
Pat Dixon	- Community and Children's Services
Hannah Dobbin	- Community and Children's Services
Ellie Ward	- Community and Children's Services
Julie Mayer	- Town Clerks

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Ceri Wilkins, Ruby Sayed (Chair), Ben Murphy and Joanne Abeyie. Ben Murphy and Joanne Abeyie joined the meeting remotely. Helen Fentimen took the Chair.

Before commencing the business on the agenda, the Chair advised that this would be the last meeting for Pat Dixon, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), who is retiring at the end of the month. Members noted that Pat had been with the City of London Corporation for 15 years and was key to the Department's recent Outstanding Judgement in 2020 and the successful Focussed Visit in 2022. Pat has undertaken a number of senior roles; i.e. - Head of Children's Social Care, Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, Local Authority Designated Officer and Principal Social Worker. Pat has supported our children in care and care leavers through her management of the Reviewing and Participation Service. The Sub Committee thanked Pat for her hard work and commitment and welcomed Laura Demetriades, who would be taking over as LADO.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Mary Durcan advised that her son and daughter-in-law had become registered foster carers for the London Borough of Hackney and she had also been approved to provide overnight care. Whilst this did not warrant a Declaration of

Interest as such, the Assistant Director, People, thanked the Member for flagging this and offered advice and support if required.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2023 be approved.

4. **CARE LEAVER COMPACT**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services in respect of the Pan London Care Leavers Compact, which provides a framework for developing consistency, breadth and quality in the support offered to London's care leavers. Member noted progress against the Compact and areas for development in 2023–24, noting the Department's ambition to achieve an excellent outcome for every child.

A Member asked if the £300 laptop budget could be reviewed, in order to obtain a higher specification. During a discussion on ringfencing of apprenticeships, Members noted that this had not been possible in the past, due to limitations on immigration status. Whilst officers were seeking protection for this group under equality legislation, a Member asked if this could be tried first, without the need for ringfencing. Members also noted the Chief Executive/Town Clerk's interest in working with City businesses offering apprenticeships and mentoring for young people, and in re-introducing such a scheme at the City Corporation.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

5. **UNREGULATED PLACEMENT COMMISSIONING AND OVERSIGHT ARRANGEMENTS**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services, which provided an update on the Corporation's current placements activity within semi-independent supported accommodation (SISA) settings. Members noted the current and proposed programme of contract management and monitoring for 16- and 17-year-olds, in preparation for Ofsted's Regulatory Framework, and the overall programme for young people up to the age of 25.

Members noted that, whilst is this unregulated, internal feedback can be provided as part of the framework with the Commissioning Alliance. Officers confirmed that they are not aware of any concerns.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

6. **ADULT SOCIAL CARE SAFEGUARDING PERFORMANCE REPORT Q4 2022/23**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services, which provided an update on performance.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

7. **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE PERFORMANCE - MONTH 12 2022/23 (MARCH 2023)**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services, which provided an update on performance.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

8. **ADULT SOCIAL CARE INSPECTION FRAMEWORK - CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC)**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services and noted that the new Health and Care Act 2022 gives new powers to the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to provide a meaningful and independent assessment of care, at a local authority and integrated care system level, starting in April 2023.

Members noted that, in response to this requirement, Adult Social Care is undertaking a self-evaluation against the Assessment Framework for local authority assurance and its four quality themes. The officer presented headlines from a Peer Review, which had taken place the previous week and advised that, once the full report had been published, it would be used to prepare an action plan. Overall, initial feedback had been very positive.

The officer advised that 'lived experience' had been the subject of discussions with the Safeguarding Adults Board over the past few years but it had not been successful, either locally or nationally. However, those on the edge of social care might be more willing to participate. Common Councillor, Joanne Abeyie, advised that she is familiar with this area of work and offered assistance.

Members noted that full grant funding is available to meet the cost of the programme in this financial year. The Chair advised that the recent Community and Children's Services Committee Awayday had suggested a deep dive into funding pressures.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

9. **EARLY HELP STRATEGY**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services in respect of the City of London Corporation's new Early Help Strategy 2023–2026.

Members noted that, despite being widely promoted by partners, there had not been any user feedback. The Officer had met with the Housing Team, in respect of promoting the service during home visits, and had arranged a meeting at the Neaman Practice for the following week. The Deputy Chair welcomed this initiative, as the Estate Offices provide a good central location for promoting Early Help Services. Members noted that multi-agency meetings take place every 2 months with key stakeholders and include representatives from the libraries and children's centres.

In response to a question, Members noted that incidents are raised in supervision sessions before being escalated to the relevant service and recorded on 'MOSAIC', in order to track any patterns. The Partnership Board had recently received a report seeking to address proportionality in terms of needs being met.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

10. CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE AND EARLY HELP SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-23

The Sub Committee received a report of the Executive Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of the Children's Social Care and Early Help Service Development Plan, which has been fully refreshed for 2023–24. Members noted the range of work supporting resident children in need of help and protection in the City of London.

In response to a suggestion, the Sub Committee noted that BSL training for Early Help Social Workers would be offered at level 2. In respect of the travel pass initiative, the Chair of Community and Children's Services had asked for a report seeking approval for initial funding, pending confirmation of full TfL funding.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

11. PRIVATE FOSTERING ANNUAL REPORT 2022 TO 2023

The Sub Committee received a report of the Executive Director of Community and Children's Services and noted that, whilst there has been no private fostering arrangements identified in the City of London in 2022- 2023, the report advised how the City of London Corporation has met the National Minimum Standards for Private Fostering by raising awareness. Members noted that the City of London has been promoting private fostering through the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership (CHSCP) app, the distribution of leaflets to partner agencies and through multi-agency meetings. It was suggested that this subject be included in the next 'All Member Briefing' on Corporate Parenting.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

12. LOCAL AUTHORITIES DESIGNATED OFFICER (LADO) ANNUAL REPORT 2022 TO 2023

The Sub Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services, which advised Members of LADO activity between April 2022 and March 2023; as incorporated in the LADO Annual Report.

Members noted the positive dialogue with the City of London Police (CoLP) and the Assistant Director, People, advised that he would be seeking regular attendance of an officer (from COLP) at future meetings of this Sub Committee. Members also noted that, as there are many agencies based in the City of London, the LADO is often involved when incidents occur in surrounding local

authorities. The LADO also works with neighbouring authorities to address any performance issues with agencies and to share cross boundary issues.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

13. QUALITY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK - UPDATED MARCH 2023

The Sub Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services in respect of the Quality Assurance Framework, which was reviewed and updated in March 2023.

Members noted that students are often engaged on serious case reviews, as part of their career development, and senior officers produce the action learning sets. The officer confirmed that all staff will be signing up to the NSC briefing, and the City of London Police have been offered training as part of the work of the Multi Agency Safeguarding/Child Exploitation Panel (MACE).

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

14. CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23 AND CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY UPDATE

The Sub Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services in respect of the performance of the City of London Corporation as a corporate parent, and the outcomes achieved for the children in its care between April 2022 and March 2023. Members also noted that the Corporate Parenting Strategy has been reviewed, with no significant changes made.

Members noted that all Looked after Children (LAC) and Children in Care are offered a property on one of the City's estates, given the lack of available accommodation within the square mile itself. This includes young people with complex needs, as part of their lifelong transition plans.

The Assistant Director advised that there would be a celebratory event for young people in the autumn, to celebrate their success and achievements. The details would be shared in due course and all Sub Committee Members would be very welcome to attend.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

15. QUESTIONS OF MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

A Member raised safety concerns about children on Golden Lane using abandoned Lime bikes and scooters. The Members had informed the City of London Police, Streets and Walkways officers and the local Schools. As some deaths had been recorded nationally, the Member felt strongly that this should be a joined up safeguarding matter. Members noted a meeting had been scheduled with the School Youth Provider, who has been doing additional

outreach on the estates. Members noted that the Cripplegate Ward Councillors had also arranged to meet with Lime Bikes. The Assistant Director, People, agreed to explore if this had been an issue raised at the Child Death Overview Panel- which we sit on alongside other North East London Local Authorities. It would be raised during routine visits to parents where relevant .

Members asked for sensitivities around the terminology, noting that the children concerned are often around 7 or 8 years old, so it should not be categorised as 'anti-social behaviour'.

17. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED, that – under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

Item	Paragraph
18-19	1 & 2

18. ADULT PERFORMANCE REPORT - NON-PUBLIC APPENDIX

The Sub Committee received a non-public appendix in respect of agenda item 6.

19. CHILDREN'S PERFORMANCE REPORT - NON-PUBLIC APPENDIX

The Sub Committee received a non-public appendix in respect of agenda item 7. Members noted an update on the young people not in employment or training (NEET). The Officer advised that regular meetings take place with the Virtual Head, where short courses and apprenticeships are offered.

Members asked about how they could interrogate the data more effectively given the scale and scope of it. Officers advised that all performance data will be moving onto 'Power BI' which allows better visualisation, ease of use and better analysis.

20. NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

21. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE SUB-COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED

There were no items.

The meeting closed at 11.15 am

Chairman

Contact Officer: julie.mayer@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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Committee(s): Strategic Planning and Performance Committee Safeguarding Sub Committee	Date: 13 November 2023 23 November 2023
Subject: City of London Police Vulnerability Deep Dive	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1- People are safe and feel safe
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Commissioner of Police Pol 131-23	For Discussion
Report author: Detective Chief Superintendent Mandy Horsburgh - Head of Specialist Operations	

Summary

This report is provided as a 'Deep Dive' on how effectively the City of London Police (CoLP) is identifying, supporting and safeguarding vulnerable people.

This updates Members on the activity across key vulnerability strands within the City of London Police (CoLP), in partnership with colleagues within the Community Safety Team and Department for Community and Children Services.

The report will provide an oversight of strategic governance, current and future demand and collaboration taking place across the following vulnerability strands:

- A. Domestic Abuse (including Honour based abuse and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM))
- B. Sexual Violence
- C. Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Protection
- D. Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking
- E. Hate Crime

The CoLP is a statutory safeguarding partner within the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership (CHSCP) and the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adult Board (CHSAB). Both partnerships monitor the effectiveness of work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults, championing good practice and analysing data to inform service planning. The Commander Operations and Security, supported by Detective Chief Superintendent Specialist Operations, represent the CoLP on both Boards. The City specific sub-committees, meet bi-monthly, for both children and adults and report on the work of the sub-committees into the main Boards and are independently chaired and have representation from the CoLP as well as City of London Corporation (CoLC), Health, Education and other

agencies. The Safer City Partnership also receives regular updates from the various Children and Adults Safeguarding Boards supporting the City.

Internally activity across vulnerability is driven through the Strategic Vulnerability Group (SVG), chaired by the Head of Specialist Operations, Detective Chief Superintendent.

This provides strategic oversight and direction on activity across the 11 vulnerability strands. These are aligned to the National Vulnerability Action Plan actions and themes. The group also provides governance and delivery oversight for the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Plan, Op Soteria¹ and Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) working group.

Vulnerability sits within the Policing Plan as an operational priority to keep those who live, work and visit the city safe and feeling safe and is a golden thread that cuts across all aspects of policing, supporting delivery of the ambitions within the Corporate Plan. The monthly Tactical Tasking and Coordination Group (TTCG) ensures appropriate operational delivery across the vulnerability strands cognisant of threat, harm and risk and current demand.

The COVID-19 pandemic saw a decrease in the levels of reporting across all areas of vulnerability, notably domestic abuse and sexual violence. These areas however are now reporting back to pre-pandemic levels and have shown a consistent increasing trend in reporting. This however remain within the capacity and capability of CoLP, specialist teams and relevant partnerships.

Historically the City of London (CoL) receives low numbers of reports across all areas of vulnerability in comparison to surrounding boroughs. As such, the CoLP, along with partners aim to proactively understand the safeguarding and vulnerability issues affecting the CoL, focusing on prevention and raising awareness within the community. This work assists the discovery of hidden demand and with increased victim/public confidence could increase referrals/reporting.

In terms of crime investigation, the Public Protection Unit (PPU) provide the investigative and safeguarding response across vulnerability issues, made up of specially trained detectives in dealing with domestic abuse, sexual offences and child protection.

Following the impact across policing of the Sarah Everard murder, the CoLP remains committed in its response to Violence Against Women and Girls and continues to work with NPCC team, Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme (VKPP) and College of Policing to ensure we continue to provide an effective policing response and support victims with professionalism and vigour.

The largest proportion of vulnerability linked crime investigations within the City of London relate to sexual offences and domestic abuse. The majority of these relate to non-resident victims, visiting or working within the City. Through close partnership working with surrounding boroughs, the City of London Corporation (CoL) and the

¹ [Operation Soteria – Transforming the Investigation of Rape \(npcc.police.uk\)](https://npcc.police.uk/operation-soteria)

Vulnerable Victim Advocate (VVA), the CoLP ensures that any risks relating to both residents and non-resident victims and offenders are effectively managed. This is achieved through the array of effective multi-agency safeguarding meetings that are embedded within CoL processes, including the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) for domestic abuse, the Community MARAC or Multi Agency Risk Management (MARM), the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation meeting (MACE) and statutory child protection meetings.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. In accordance with National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) direction, the CoLP align their activity to the National Vulnerability Action Plan (NVAP) that is structured around eleven strands of vulnerability, each with a dedicated lead at Inspector/Chief Inspector. The current CoLP strands are as follows:
 - Domestic Abuse
 - Sexual Violence
 - Stalking and Harassment
 - Harmful Practices
(includes Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Forced Marriage and Honour Based Abuse)
 - Hate Crime
 - Mental Health/Suicide
 - PREVENT
 - Adults at Risk
 - Child Protection/Exploitation (includes missing)
 - Human Trafficking/Modern Slavery (MSHT)
 - Management of serious and violent offenders (MOSOVO)
2. Governance of Vulnerability is provided by Strategic Vulnerability Group, maintaining bespoke strand action plans in line with NVAP themes.
3. In addition, HQ Services provide additional oversight of plan compliance with recommendations made by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) from both local and national reviews.
4. The CoLP also feed into the Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme (VKPP). This National programme maintains an overview of Police Force Vulnerability Action Plans (VAPs) providing opportunities for peer review, the sharing of best practice and the achievement of continuous improvement.

5. The CoLP Strategic Vulnerability Group (SVG) maintain a specific Vulnerability Risk Register that aligns to the CoLP risk management process.

Current Position

6. Following the introduction of the National Vulnerability Action Plan (NVAP), and implementation of the new CoLP Public Protection Unit (PPU) Target Operating Model (commencing 6th November 2023), a review of vulnerability arrangements and the overarching CoLP VAP is taking place that is being led by the SVG. This includes a deep dive into action plans and reviewing them against local priorities and demand plus benchmarking against national activity with support from the Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme (VKPP).
7. A vulnerability dashboard is produced monthly that reports on demand and informs activity and tasking across the vulnerability strands (Appendix 1). This is complimented by the strategic threat assessment and resulting control strategy that is produced for consideration of Tactical Tasking and Co-ordination Group (TTCCG) aiding tactical alignment with threat and demand.
8. Under the current review of vulnerability arrangements, this dashboard will be expanded further to include a wider range of performance metrics across the vulnerability themes. This will include measurements to assess the impact and outcomes of policing activity against demand and drive future activity, initiatives, and focus. It will be imperative that this includes partnership data. The Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) will also be integrated in the performance framework within local policing and specialist operations performance group.
9. Vulnerability training is mandatory across frontline staff within the CoLP. The current training package has been developed including topics such as - voice of the child and professional curiosity². In addition, the CoLP is in the process of rolling out the *Domestic Abuse (DA) Matters* Training, a College of Policing and NPCC endorsed programme to police officers and staff to improve our response to DA.
10. The role of the Vulnerable Victim Advocate (VVA) is covered by two part time personnel and is revenue funded. The VVA provides a free, confidential, and independent service providing the individual with emotional and practical support to help them address their needs and work through their experience. With access to several outreach sites across the City of London, the VVA can signpost victim survivors to an array of services. Victim and public confidence are high-level objectives essential to improving the legitimacy of policing.
11. The City of London Corporation (CoL) has a dedicated Violence Against Women and Girls Forum, attended by the CoLP, key partners and stakeholders and chaired by the Assistant Director of People at the CoL. The forum reports to the Safer City Partnership (SCP). This is a key forum for driving partnership activity across the Violence Against Women and Girls spectrum. Through a Safer City Partnership

² [VKPP-Voice-of-the-child-practice-briefing-2022.pdf \(college.police.uk\)](#)

Proceeds of Crime Act bid, an independent review of Violence Against Women and Girls services was commissioned in early 2021. The review highlighted areas of good practice and challenges within our current response to DA. The recommendations are being taken forward through the Violence Against Women and Girls forum Strategic Action Plan.

12. The three identified areas for improvement are:

- i. To ensure effective strategic governance
- ii. Develop a standardised and comprehensive dataset
- iii. Enhance the multi-agency response.

13. In addition to CoL's Violence Against Women and Girls Forum, the Professionalism and Trust Team within the City of London Police also prioritise Violence Against Women and Girls as a standing agenda item as part of their 'Renewing and Rebuilding Trust & Confidence' Board (sitting once every two months) and our Equality and Inclusion Strategic Board (sitting every quarter). The Independent Advisory Scrutiny Group (IASG) also receive an update on Violence Against Women and Girls and the Police Authority Professional Standards and Integrity Committee (PSIC) and Police Authority Board (PAB) receive regular updates on activity as part of regular reporting.

14. This governance structure is used to progress actions against the National Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and its three pillars- Building Trust and Confidence, Relentless Perpetrator Pursuit and Creating Safer Spaces.

15. Our recent commitment to Op Soteria, a National programme to improve policing's response to rape and serious sexual offences, also cements our commitment to improving our supervision of Violence Against Women and Girls investigations and ensuring we are making the best use of our policing powers to protect women and girls. In conjunction with our partners, including those at the Corporation, we also continue this important work within our communities, with the ongoing success of our 'Op Reframe' initiative to create safer spaces for women during our nighttime economy and our recently launched 'Walk and Talk' campaign, to ensure voices are heard.

16. Following the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, changes were made to legislation and Domestic Abuse Protection (DAP) Orders which are civil orders obtained through the magistrates court were introduced as an additional method to protect victims. To date none of these Orders have been sought by the CoLP. This is mainly because most CoLP Domestic Abuse offenders are arrested and the recent changes in the Bail Act means that robust bail conditions can be introduced negating the need for a DAP Order. However this is reviewed on a case by case basis. The Domestic Abuse Act also created an offence in respect of "revenge porn". This legislation has been effectively utilised by the CoLP and recently charges have been obtained in respect of a revenge porn case and another case is soon to go to CPS for advice.

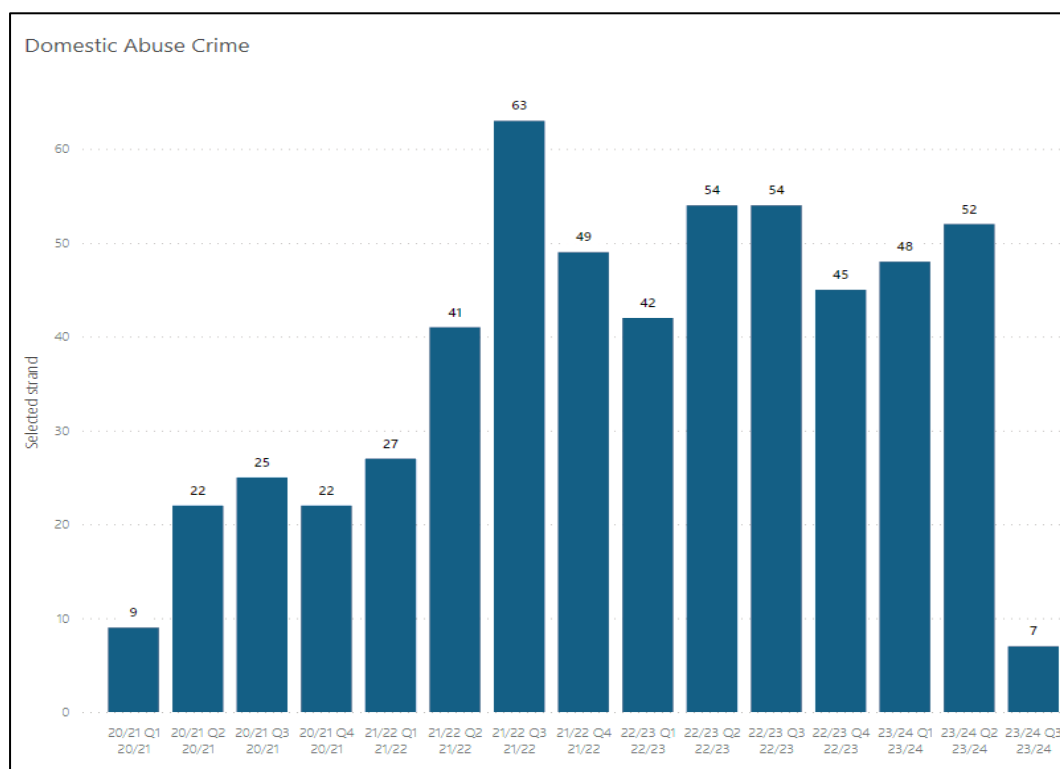
17. Domestic abuse processes are well established within the City of London. These include the recent introduction by the CoLP of a '20 Point Plan' and mandatory

supervisor attendance at all DA incidents to improve the frontline response to victims and enhance opportunities for evidence led prosecutions. This has been shared nationally as best practice.

18. All domestic abuse investigations and non-crime matters are allocated to the PPU for investigation and safeguarding. The PPU work closely with the CoL to safeguard victims and in all cases consider evidence led prosecutions. This work has been highlighted as best practice on the 2021/22 HMICFRS PEEL review.

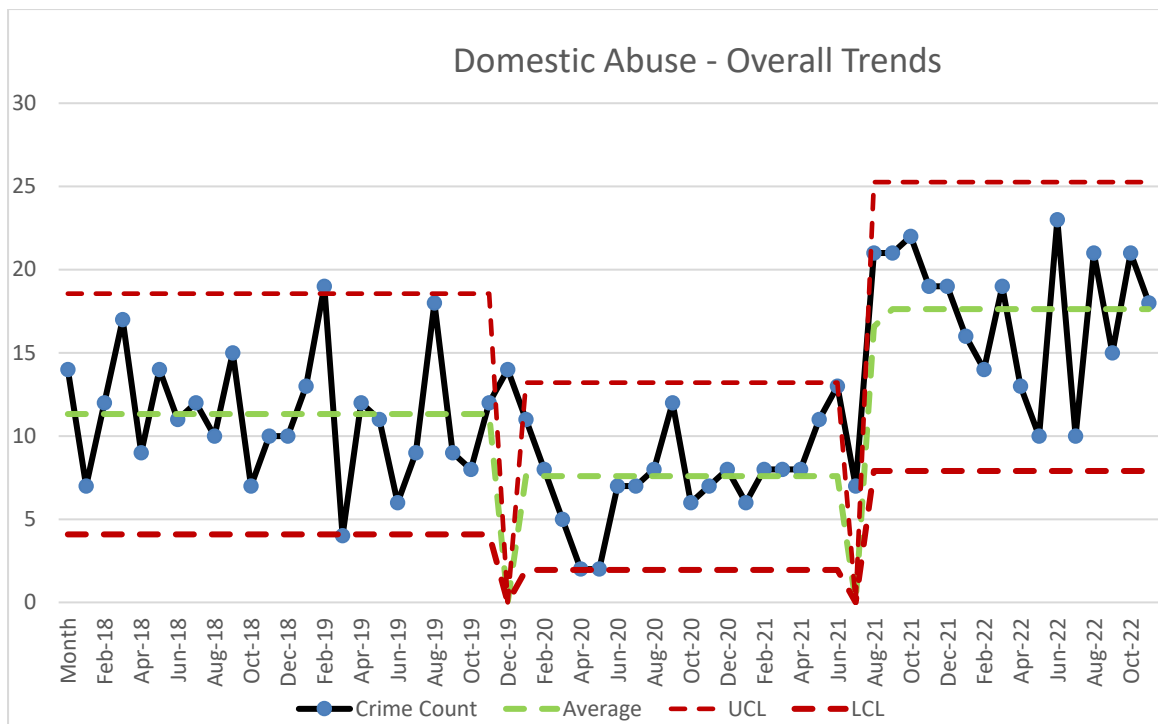
Data

19. Whilst the number of DA cases fell during the COVID-19 pandemic a trend that was reflected nationally. Levels have now gradually increased as individuals return to work and visit the City and are able to access services more readily. This has seen year on year increases in domestic abuse, however more recently the rate increases have started to steady with only a 5% (n107) increase YTD. With low residential populations the data is not comparable to other forces with overall recorded crime comparisons low. However, a large majority of CoLP crimes can be attributed to the Night time economy (NTE) rather than local residents.



Source: CoLP crime system

20. The increase can be attributed to the partnership activities since the height of the pandemic to engage with the community through social media and several awareness campaigns alongside perceived confidence in reporting. This is linked largely to the wider Violence Against Women and Girls work. This has seen awareness and education across both the public and police.



21. All officers are in process of being provided “Domestic Abuse Matters” training which is delivered by SafeLives and is a full day of in depth DA training, which myths busts preconceptions about DA and covers what to look out for. To date 800 officers have received the training. PPU officers also attended joint – Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment (DARA) hosted by the CoL. The CoLP is currently actively trying to recruit internally 70 Domestic Abuse Champions, volunteers who will receive enhanced training. Their role will be to challenge negative attitudes to domestic abuse within the work environment; Facilitate better cross strand working, ensuring learning opportunities are captured and shared; Identify and report themes of good and bad practice to the CoLP DA Champion via area leads; Be accessible to colleagues for help and guidance and to disseminate information and knowledge. Assist in identifying signs of ‘compassion fatigue’ and signpost to available support; Be knowledgeable of Force Guidance around how to support colleagues affected by domestic abuse; and to make use of networking facilities within the DA arena, including CoLP colleagues and partners.

22. All high-risk cases are referred to the CoL MARAC, chaired by the Detective Inspector (DI) PPU and attended by representatives from the Community Safety Team (CST), social care, health, housing, victim support and other commissioned and voluntary services. The MARAC allows for effective information sharing and risk management across partners, focussing on the victim, perpetrator, and children. Regular joint agency training sessions are held for MARAC members, covering areas such as information sharing, risk assessment and safeguarding.

23. A Domestic Abuse Victims Survey is now up and running and is being developed.

Honour based abuse and female genital mutilation

24. In relation to Honour Based Abuse (HBA) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), figures remain extremely low with zero reports during 19/20, 20/21 and in subsequent years. Whilst some of this is due to our low residential population, there is still considered to be an element of under-reporting and once the new Target Operating Model is in place in PPU, we will work with the VVA on initiatives to try and encourage reporting of all domestic abuse.
25. The CoLP website has a dedicated page in respect of harmful practices: HBA, Forced marriage and FGM. This educates the public on how to identify the signs of possible harmful practices and provides advice. The page also signposts available support such as IKWRO³ – IKWRO is a registered charity which provides advice and support to Middle Eastern, North African and Afghan women and girls living in the UK, who have experienced, or are at risk of all forms of “honour” based abuse, including; forced marriage, child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM), or domestic abuse. The CoLP also attends the National Harmful Practices Group to discuss the strategic response with a range of partner agencies. The PPU DI also attends the Regional Working Group with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), British Transport Police (BTP) and a wide range of partners.

Data

26. The below data includes both crime and incidents with a flag for either honour-based abuse or FGM.
27. Volumes are very low and the below data extracts data when an occurrence has been recorded. There are concerns that this area could be under-reported, and this was outlined in the HMICFRS Force Management Statement. Volumes are too low for trend analysis.
28. Further work is underway to understand if our intelligence supports this.

Year	Volume
2018/19	2
2019/20	0
2020/21	2
2021/22	9
2022/23	9

Sexual Violence

29. There has been an increased focus on sexual offences in response to the Sarah Everard murder and other high-profile cases. Serious ‘Stranger’ sexual offences

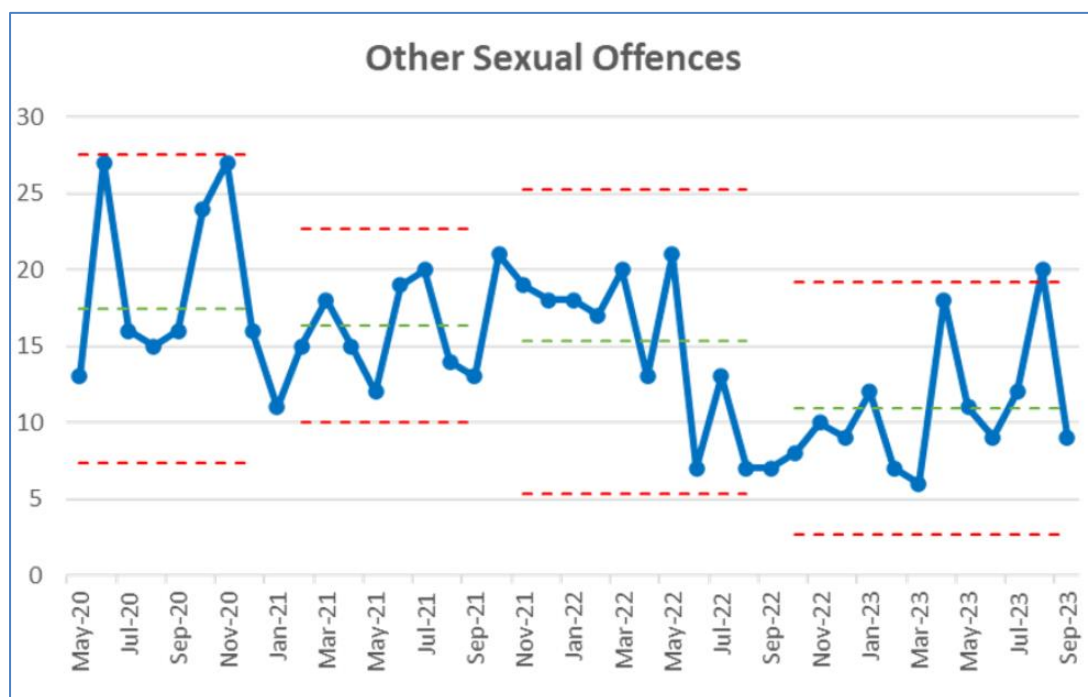
³ [IKWRO – IKWRO Women's Rights Organisation](#)

within the City of London remain low. Of the rape cases reported, the majority centre on the issue of 'consent' making investigation and prosecution challenging however, the National Op Soteria Improvement plan will seek to work across Law Enforcement agencies and CPS to improve outcomes and more importantly victim journey across the whole system.

30. CoLP is an adopter force for Op Soteria and is commencing engagement with the National Programme from October 2023. CoLP is currently undergoing self-assessment which will look to identify opportunities for improvement.

31. The majority of sexual offences reported in the City of London are lower-level sexual touching offences, often linked to the night-time economy, alongside exposure offences

Data

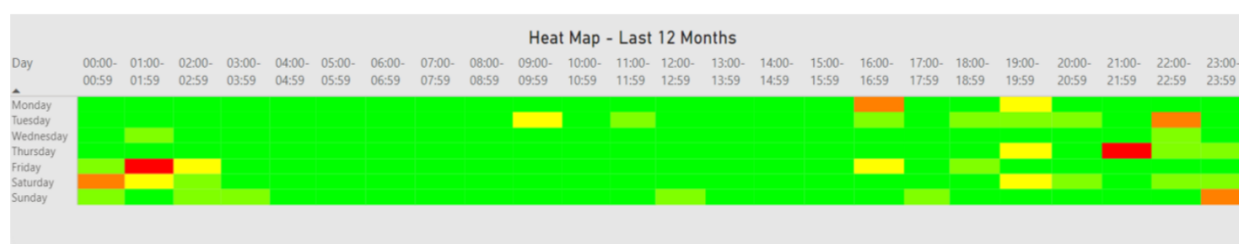


32. Rolling 12-month comparison (October 21 – September 22 vs October 22 – September 23), shows a 34% increase (n= +33). Rape Offences show a 6% increase (n= +2)

33. Volumes of other sexual offences have been slowly increasing. Whilst these are relatively low numbers for rape, they are serious and high harm offences. Other Sexual Offences can vary in terms of harm.

34. Since July 2021 it can be seen that there is less control over these offence types with much wider ranges of where volumes fall. The variability of these volumes is also much higher than what has been seen previously.

35. The Heat Map analysis shows occurrence times show peaks on Thursday evenings, and then clustering in the early hours of Friday, Saturday and Sunday.



36. The CoLP response in this respect of focus within NTE, patrols plans and initiatives.

37. Whilst figures are increasing in reported crime levels this can be attributed to the collaborative efforts across licensing, NTE and wider Violence Against Women and Girls work. This can be seen as an increased confidence and increased awareness in reporting.

38. As licensed premises have reopened and due to the heightened profile of Violence Against Women and Girls, there has been an increase in sexual offence reporting. All sexual offences are investigated within the PPU apart from 'Stranger 1' rapes which are allocated to the Major Crime Team.

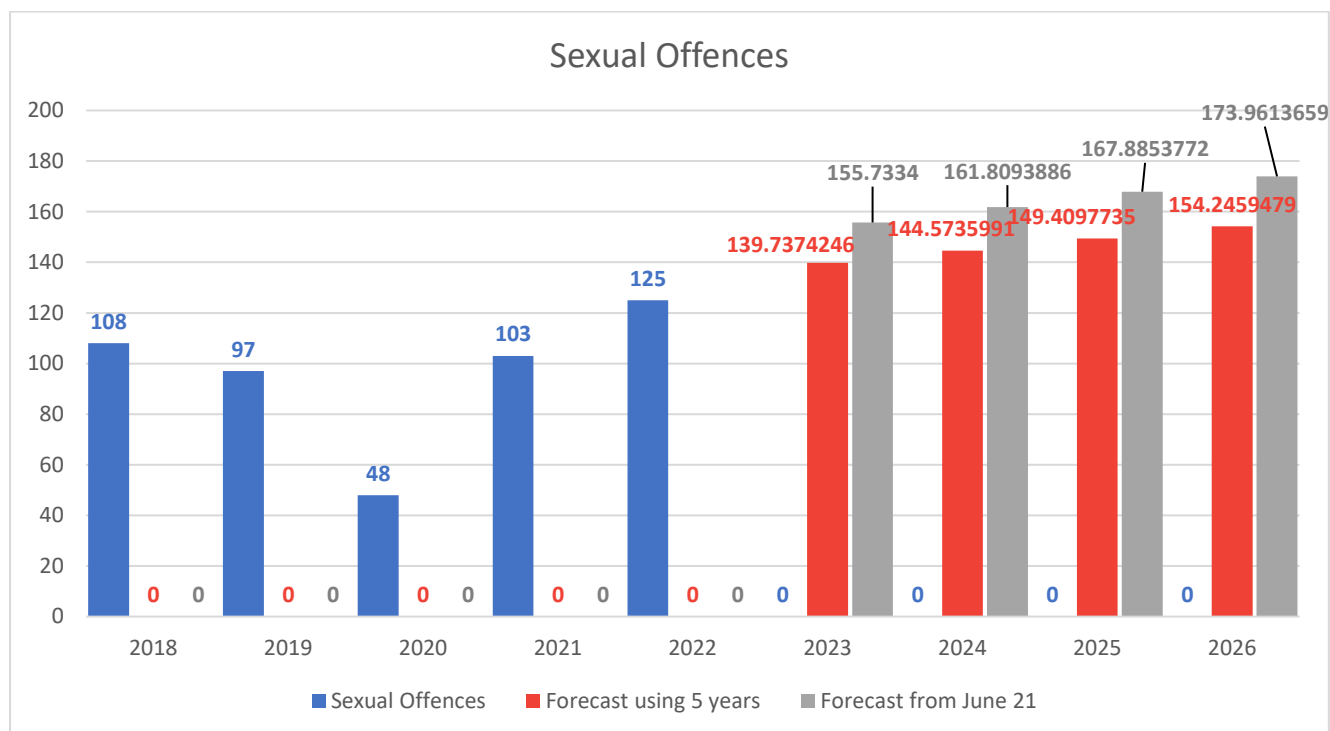
39. The VVA plays a key role in supporting victims of sexual violence, ensuring they are supported from 'report to court'. This is alongside the team of Sexual Offence Investigation Trained (SOIT) officers whose provide the single point of contact for victims throughout the investigation.

40. The PPU work closely with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) Unit to maximise opportunities for prosecution. At a strategic level, CoLP meet regularly bi-monthly with the London RASSO CPS lead to monitor trends and ensure progress is in line with the RASSO Joint Improvement Plan.

Outcomes

41. CoLP has recently achieved some significant convictions and sentences for sexual offences such as the conviction of a man for the rape of an 18-year-old woman in the street on New Years Day, the suspect received a custodial sentence of 6 years and 9 months. Another man received a custodial sentence of 1 year and 6 month and a 5-year Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO) for a series of sexual assaults on 5 female victims in the street. Recently a male was convicted for 3 sexual assaults and a strangulation at a city bar.

Predictive Analysis – Sexual Offending



42. Forecasts for sexual offences have been completed using the current process of performance and also the five years. Sexual offences have been forecasted because they are a high harm crime type, representing more serious and complex investigations, and due to the increases being seen in this area. 2022 represents the highest number of sexual offences reported, compared to the previous calendar years.

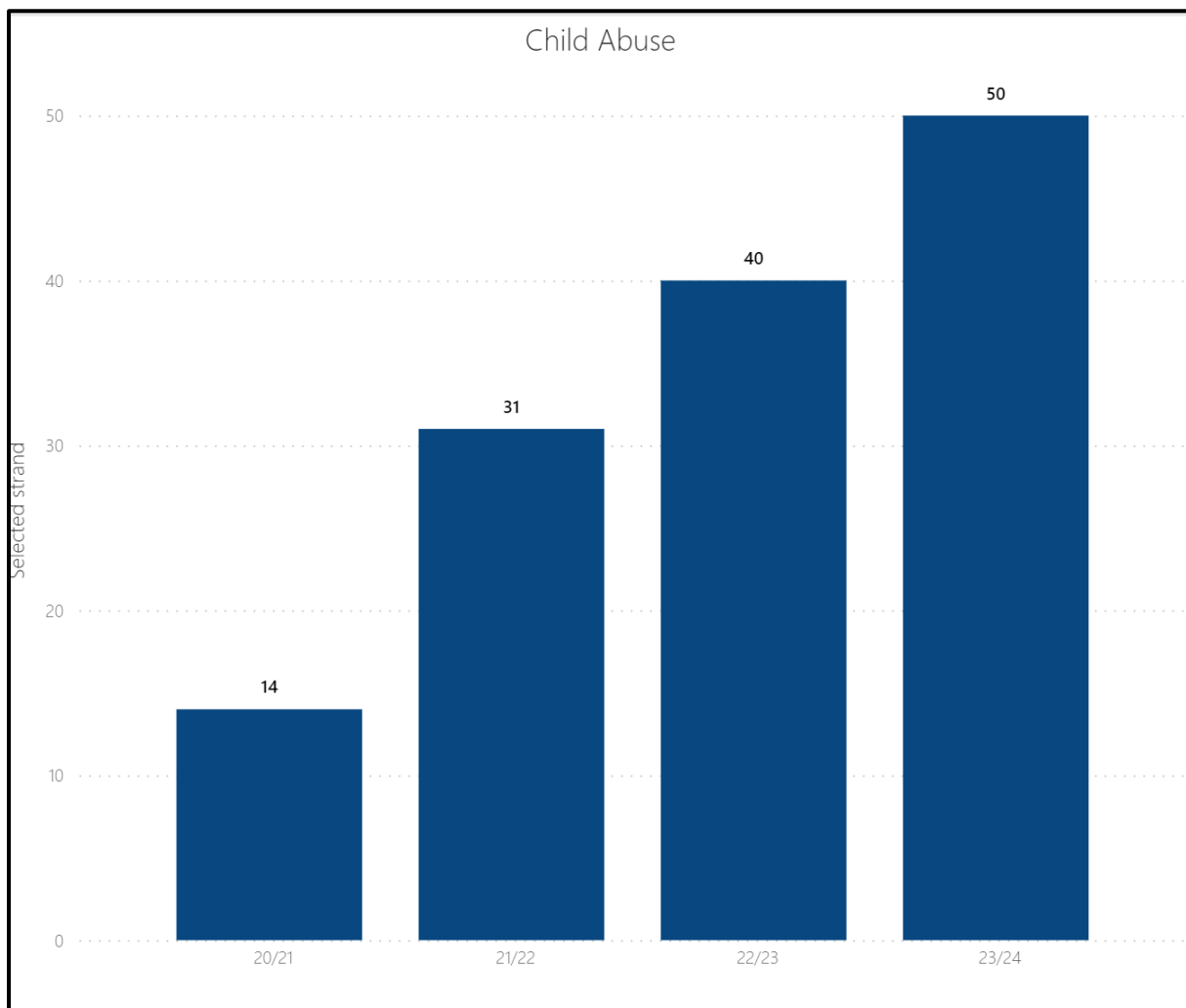
43. Based on both the current trend and also the five year trend, both sets of predictions indicate an increasing trend over the next four years. Based on the predicted increase using both methodologies it is important for the CoLP to scrutinise the resources in the PPU to ensure that they are equipped to deal with these. This is both in-terms of volumes as well as role types. Sexual offences are high harm crimes and ensuring the adequate volume of PIP 2⁴ qualified officers is key to investigating this crime type and trying to bring offenders to justice.

Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Abuse

44. The number of child sexual abuse (CSA) and child sexual exploitation (CSE) and cases within the City of London is low in terms of comparable commission rates with other Police forces. This is in part due to our low residential population and small number of educational establishments. However, we are experiencing increases in reporting. YTD this has shown a 178% increase (n32). All cases are referred to the PPU and investigated by specially trained officers and are

⁴ [Investigator PIP2 - College of Policing](#)

operating within required capacity at this time but will remain under review going forward to ensure effective capability is maintained.



45. The PPU and CoLP work closely with the CoL Children's Services Team through referral of Public Protection Notifications, and this has continued through the COVID pandemic, utilising telephone or video conferencing facilities for strategy and child protection conferences. CoLP is a statutory partner of the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership, represented by the Commander Operations to ensure statutory functions are discharged. The DCI PPU or Det. Supt of Investigations represents at the relevant executive and sub-committees.
46. The overall increase in demand is commensurate with the rise in public protection notices (PPNs) submitted by officers which demonstrates a 36% increase YTD. It is to be noted that not all PPNs attract a crime record. This may be attributed to wider societal changes with regards to vulnerability and will be linked to increases across other high harm crime types.
47. The CoLP underwent a HMICFRS inspection across Child Protection in 2019, and as a result a clear improvement action plan was developed. This has resulted in

further training for staff to embed the concept of ‘the voice of the child’, and the implementation of a crime scrutiny group to review child protection investigations and referrals to qualitatively assess the standard of reporting and investigation, and ensure the child is at the centre of any police action. These report into the Crime Standards Board. Additionally, training has been provided to Control Room staff to ensure they understand vulnerability and are utilising a series of prompts designed to ensure a standard and thorough response.

48. In relation to child exploitation, reporting continues to be low. CoLP work focuses on raising awareness and ensuring frontline staff and the community identify the signs of exploitation.

Year	CSA	CSE
2018/19	5	1
2019/20	6	1
2020/21	14	2
2021/22	12	6
2022/23	30	10

49. Operation Makesafe is a national operation focussed on recognising CSE within hotels and other businesses. CoLP rolled this out in 2015 in partnership with the MPS. This has continued to develop and CoLP is now part of a national working group to standardise the Operation Makesafe work. Previously the CoLP and MPS utilised police cadets to test hotel responses to potential CSE. However, this approach has been questioned and work is ongoing currently to establish an agreed common response.

50. The PPU DI and Children Social Care (CSC) Service Manager jointly chair the MACE (multi agency exploitation meeting), attended by a range of partners, where the City’s response to child sexual exploitation (CSE) and child criminal exploitation (CCE) is considered, in response to identified trends or future threats. The focus is on the concept of contextual safeguarding to protect individuals and the community.

51. In relation to online exploitation and abuse, CoLP receives a relatively small number of referrals from the NCA (National Crime Agency). CoLP does not have a proactive online investigation team however officers in PPU are trained to utilise the CPSy (Child Protection System online), an online system to identify those sharing indecent images of children who geolocate to the City of London. To date, no City based offenders have been identified through this system, but it is checked on a monthly basis. PPU officers have also recently been trained in the use of CAID – Child Abuse Image Database to examine suspect’s digital devices and have already had one successful case. The CoLP Cyber Crime Unit assist with any proactive online work required to target offenders.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT)

- 52. Modern Slavery and human trafficking is a growing theme which can crosscut through many crime types. The number of modern slavery reports has decreased since the start of the COVID pandemic. This is most likely due to the reduced footfall and slow return to pre pandemic levels of workers/ visitors to the City and crime within the City of London, as it is usually discovered because of interactions around other crime types such as drug supply and prostitution.
- 53. A substantial proportion of CoLP National Referral Mechanism referrals result from defences raised by individuals arrested for drug supply offences.
- 54. Where connections to organised crime groups are identified, investigations are progressed by the Serious Organised Crime Team. PPU lead on victim support and safeguarding. This enables a coordinated approach to activity across MSHT and county lines drug activity.
- 55. CoLP is closely linked with local, regional and national partners, through the CoL Modern Slavery Forum and Project Enterprise – the Pan-London practitioner meeting for police and partners. CoLP undertakes activity in line with national 'Operation Aidant' or County Lines intensification periods, each period focussing on specific area of MSHT (e.g., child exploitation, prostitution). CoLP provide a national return to the NCA following these periods of action and have ongoing investigations surrounding modern slavery and human trafficking.
- 56. CoLP has MSHT SPOCs in the force, who have completed an extensive training course in investigating MSHT and drive training across the CoLP. They can advise investigators and are also trained as Victim liaison officers. CoLP has Senior Investigating Officers trained in leading Major Crime and Serious and Organised Crime Investigations that can lead and coordinate any complex investigations.
- 57. CoLP has significantly improved its response to proactively tackling Serious Organised Crime types that impact across local, regional and national jurisdictions. CoLP has strengthened its response to tackling organised crime by embedding and collaboratively working closely with National Crime Agency Partners.

Hate Crime

- 58. Responsibility for the CoLP response to hate crime sits within Local Policing (Neighbourhoods) to raise awareness and increase reporting. This is closely linked with work focussing on and reviewing antisocial behaviour to ensure hate crime is not missed. Serious hate crime is investigated by the Public Protection Unit. Victims of hate crime are signposted to specialist support services either via the Vulnerable Victim Advocate or through organisations such as StopHate and TrueVision.
- 59. CoLP is a member of the South Eastern Regional Hate Crime Group where best practice is shared.

60. Hate crime levels within the City of London remain relatively low ranging from 17-32 a month being reported currently. Regarding the types of offences, the highest percentage of crimes being reported are low level public order or violence without injury offences. The highest category of Hate Crime recorded is racially aggravated. 64.7% - 77.7% of Hate Crimes reported this year were racially aggravated. This is illustrated in the following chart:

Month 2023	Hate Crimes Occurred	Racism	Disability	Sexual Orientation	Transgender	Religion
January	18	14	0	3	0	1
February	28	21	0	4	0	3
March	17	13	0	0	0	4
April	23	16	0	6	0	1
May	17	13	0	1	1	2
June	20	14	2	1	2	1
July	32	21	0	10	1	0
August	30	23	3	3	0	1
September	17	11	0	3	0	3
Total YTD	202	146	5	31	4	16

61. CoLP has a range of improvements/activities underway to tackle hate crime and improve our response:

- Improving the risk assessment process for hate crime incorporating a risk template that will score the level of risk to victims for a higher level of safeguarding. This score will indicate either a standard, medium or high risk level and will then be raised for supervisors to action any follow up safeguarding.
- Providing officers with a 20-point template plan so that investigations are consistent and to the highest standard. This plan will make sure officers consider community impact statements, social media enquiries to evidence hostility, possible PREVENT referrals, intelligence checks, repeat victim/offender and so on. This has been developed by actively reviewing Hate Crimes to identify where we can improve.
- The template will also tell officers to obtain Victim Personal Statement's during initial interaction/ statement taking. This is to maximise confidence for victims, that measures are being applied for. If victim refuses, a BWV link of their refusal will need to be added to the template for transparency.
- Introducing a 'support services available to victims' leaflet, which will be a mandatory handout for officers to provide to victim.

- Organising and promotion of events to raise awareness around Hate Crime e.g. Hate Crime Awareness Week. This is completed online and within the Community.
- Having an intelligence-based approach to Hate Crime, disseminating briefings to frontline officers to aid their response to incidents and prevent crime.
- Utilising social media to encourage awareness around Hate Crime. Also using this platform for 'Identification sought' to increase positive IDs and spotlighting good work.
- Piloting of a feedback survey for officers who have experienced racism on duty, to see how we as a force can best support those experiencing hate crime. This is so that we are continuously reviewing the effectiveness of policies/procedures such as Op Hampshire (Assault on police) and the internal element of the Police Race Action Plan.
- Personal Social, Health & Economic Education (PSHE) programme, which will include inputs to support City Schools in educating and protecting young people in respect of Hate Crime.
- Benchmarking across forces to develop a City External Scrutiny Process, which identifies areas for improvement in responding to Hate Crime.
- Developing a training package(s) to raise awareness of the impact of hate crime on colleagues and to ensure officers/staff (including Call Handlers) respond to it effectively.

Mental Health

62. Mental Health and Suicide are a separate strand under the vulnerability priority. Whilst this report does not focus on these areas, it should be noted that this is a cross cutting issue across many of the other vulnerability areas. For example, many domestic abuse victims and perpetrators present with mental ill health, which is often an underlying issue in many of the high-risk MARAC cases discussed.
63. A detailed report was submitted to the Police Authority Board in September 2023 on Mental Health demand and response (Right Care Right Person approach) (Pol 102-23 refers).

64. The thematic lead for Mental Health and Suicide sits within Neighbourhood Policing. The table below shows the number of Mental Health incidents responded to by CoLP since January 2023 and some of the outcomes:

Month 2023	Mental Health Incidents	S.136's	Other plans	Completed Suicide
August	120	4	15	0
July	132	12	28	1
June	102	14	22	2
May	104	10	16	0
April	97	10	5	1
March	78	9	4	1
February	107	15	6	0
January	90	9	4	0
Totals	830	83	100	5

65. The CoLP, CoL & NHS fund the Mental Health Street Triage (MHST) nurses who proactively support frontline staff by providing on the street assessment of individuals presenting with mental health issues/in crisis. They ensure appropriate signposting and use of mental health detention powers, freeing up valuable police time whilst providing the right care and improved outcomes for individuals. Additionally, there is effective partnership working through the Community MARAC, chaired jointly by CoLP and the Community Safety Team where complex cases of antisocial behaviour or those with repeat mental health issues can be discussed. Where an officer acting on their own may have detained a person under S136, the MHST nurses using their skills and experience have avoided the use of a S136 detention 87 times since May, enabling the right care to be given quicker for those in crisis and reducing police involvement.

66. There is considerable work ongoing with CoL & NHS partners to provide mental Health support to those in the CoL area and reduce suicide. There is an NHS pilot scheme to help streamline the S136 process across the London Region and assist officers and Mental Health Street Triage clinicians when on duty, with finding a Hospital Based Place of Safety (HBPOS). There is also a scheme like the Street Pastor project, to be trialled using volunteers to patrol the main bridges at key times within the City. These volunteers will provide a first point of contact and support to those experiencing a mental health crisis. Additionally there are several options being explored with partners to expedite the right care and transportation to the right place for those who find themselves in crisis.

67. Future investment in mental health initiatives and support across the partnership is imperative in reducing the burden that mental health places on the police service.

Conclusion

68. Vulnerability is 'golden thread' that weaves through all aspects of policing. CoLP and CoL work closely together to deliver activity across strategic objectives in line with the National Vulnerability Action Plan and CoLP Policing Plan 22-25. Whilst crime levels remain relatively low, partnership work to raise awareness, increase reporting and provide public reassurance is paramount to improving the effectiveness of our response that in turn will enhance trust and confidence within the community we serve.

Background Papers

Pol 102-23- City of London Police Mental Health Response- update- September 2023 PAB

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Vulnerability Dashboard – October 2023
- Appendix 2 - SPC and Forecasting Methodology

Mandy Horsburgh

Detective Chief Superintendent
Head of Specialist Operations

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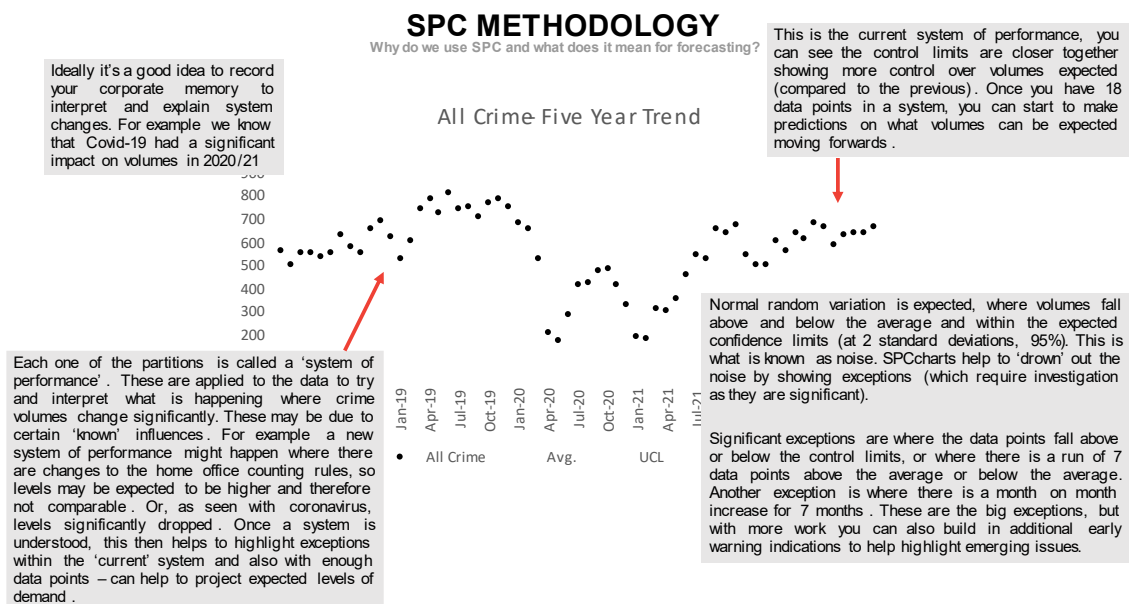
Appendix 1 Vulnerability Dashboard – High level Overview

CITY OF LONDON POLICE Vulnerability											
FYTD 22/23				FYTD 23/24				09/10/2021 - 08/10/2022			
Strand	Previous FYTD	Current FYTD	Frequency Change	% Change	FYTD 19/20	Frequency Change	% Change	Previous Rolling 12 Months	Current Rolling 12 Months	Frequency Change	% Change
Adult At Risk PPNS	448	590	142	32%	302	288	95%	800	1037	237	30%
Child At Risk PPNS	339	462	123	36%	180	282	157%	510	796	286	56%
Domestic Abuse Crime	102	107	5	5%	60	47	78%	204	202	-2	-1%
Hate Crime	71	118	47	66%	91	27	30%	160	215	55	34%
Magpa Nominals	4	3	-1	-25%	7	-4	-57%	4	4	0	0%
Mental Health	607	729	122	20%	385	344	89%	1039	1294	255	25%
Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking	0	5	5		7	-2	-29%	0	8	8	
Prevent	5	0	-5	-100%	9	-9	-100%	6	3	-3	-50%
Stalking and Harassment	62	88	26	42%	62	26	42%	112	160	48	43%
Child Protection, CSE/A & Missing Children	18	50	32	178%	12	38	317%	28	72	44	157%
Child Abuse	13	31	18	138%	6	25	417%	20	50	30	150%
Missing Children	2	7	5	250%	7	0	0%	5	13	8	160%
Harmful Practices	0	0	0		0	0		0	0	0	
FGM	1	0	-1	-100%	0	0		1	0	-1	-100%
Forced Marriage	1	0	-1	-100%	0	0		1	0	-1	-100%
HBV	1	0	-1	-100%	0	0		1	0	-1	-100%
Rape and Other Sexual Offences	47	83	36	77%	47	36	77%	95	133	38	40%
Other Sexual Offences	17	16	-1	-6%	11	5	45%	33	35	2	6%
Rape											
Suicides & Attempted Suicide	87	78	-9	-10%	70	8	11%	131	140	9	7%
Attempted Suicides	1	4	3	300%	4	0	0%	1	6	5	500%
Suicides											

Direction Symbols: ↑ Increase ↓ Decrease ● No Change

Direction Colours: Green - more than 10% decrease, Red - more than 10% increase, Orange - less than 10% increase or decrease

Appendix 2 - SPC and Forecasting Methodology



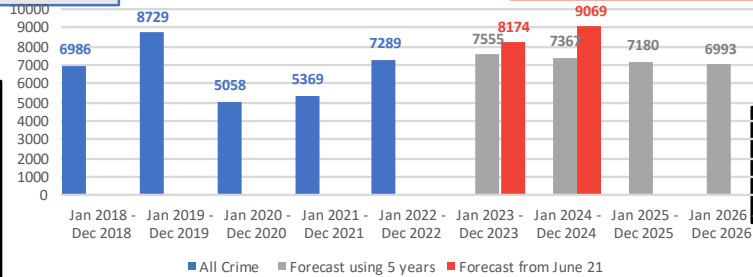
FORECASTING

HOW DO WE FORECAST?

The blue volumes each show 12 months of data. However forecasts are done using the monthly volumes seen on the previous slide. When looking at the previous slide, as there are many process changes, this makes it more difficult to forecast.

The red bars show the predicted volumes based on a five year trend. Normally a five year trend would be a good predictor, however as mentioned, due to the significant step changes and impact from COVID, it is not felt that this is a good prediction currently. It can be seen looking over the five years, there is a downward trend from 18/19 to current, this is impacting the forecasts for years 2, 3 and 4. However similar volumes are shown for year 1 for both the 5 year forecast and the forecast based on the current system of performance. Therefore, year 1 forecasts indicate increases in crime over the next 12 months.

All Crime



Excel and Power Bi offer two standard forecasting techniques,

- **Exponential smoothing forecast** - time series forecasting based on historical data with seasonal or other cycles
- **Linear forecast** - predicting future values using linear regression.

With any forecast, the further into the future, the less confidence there is in the forecast, and wider limits of where volumes are expected to fall.

Referencing the chart on the previous slide, it can be seen that the new process of performance started in June 21. This provides 20 data points with which to forecast from, and doesn't include the variability of the preceding years so linear forecasting has been undertaken. As there is less data points, only two years have been forecasted. It is felt that this offers a better indication of expected demand, which indicates increases over the next two years. Further analysis, such as correlating this with trends seen in football and what we know about campaigns to attract visitors to the City, can also help to inform our thinking about expected forecasts.

Committee(s): CoL Health & Wellbeing Board - for information CoL Members Safeguarding Sub-Committee - for information	Dated: 24/11/2023 23/11/2023
Subject: City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022/23	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	<i>People are safe and feel safe.</i> <i>People enjoy good health and wellbeing.</i>
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	£N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Dr Adi Cooper – Independent Chair City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board	For Discussion
Report author: Shohel Ahmed, Safeguarding Adults Board Manager for City and Hackney	

Summary

The City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board (the Board) is a statutory board required under s43 of the Care Act 2014. One of the statutory duties of the Board is to complete an annual report outlining what it has achieved in respect of adult safeguarding in the previous year. This report outlines the key achievements of the Board as well as what the Board will prioritise in the forthcoming year. An overview of the safeguarding data for the London Borough of Hackney is also included for reference.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board (the Board) is a statutory board required under s43 of the Care Act 2014. The Board has three statutory functions:
 - Develop and publish a strategic plan outlining how the Board will meet its objectives
 - Publish an annual report detailing the safeguarding achievements for that financial year
 - Commission Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) for any cases which meet the criteria
2. This report outlines the annual report for 2022/23. It focuses on the new principles underpinning the strategy, its strategic priorities and how these will be delivered for 2023-24, key achievements and data for 2022/23.
3. In line with its strategy, some of the key achievements for the Board in 2022/23 include:
 - The Board commissioned one Safeguarding Adults Review which was published in March 2023.
 - The Board held two learning events to help embed learning from the Phillip SAR and the Daniel SAR in 2022/3. The Independent Reviewers worked through the findings and the recommendations from the review with staff from the agencies involved.
 - The Board commissioned 8 different safeguarding courses delivered quarterly, including a new course on trauma informed approaches to safeguarding. In total, 135 people attended training in 2022/23.
 - The Board published quarterly bulletins for frontline staff providing them with updates on adult safeguarding issues.
 - The Board has commissioned a new training system that allows delegates to browse and book themselves on to a number of different training modules.
 - The Board held a number of bite-sized learning sessions on different areas of safeguarding for professionals. In total, over 160 professionals attended these sessions.
 - The Board provided funding for 3 community organisations to hold their own Safeguarding Adults Awareness events across Hackney, in total these events had over 60 guests, the Board provided these events with posters and safeguarding information resources.
 - The Board undertook a self assessment using the Safeguarding Adult Partnership Assessment Tool, which was assessed by an independent reviewer during the partnership development day in March 2022.
 - The Independent Chair of the Board initiated yearly check-ins for all Board partners. The purpose of these check-ins were to ensure that all safeguarding issues affecting residents are identified and addressed and to continue to improve engagement with partner agencies.
 - The Board worked with the City & Hackney Safeguarding Children's Partnership to update the Think Family guidance, which will be signed off by both partnerships in 2023.
 - There was Board attendance at a number of partnership groups including the suicide prevention group, death in treatment panel, community safety officer group and domestic abuse work streams.

4. The Board has set itself the following strategic priorities for 2023/24:

- To continue to raise awareness in relation to mental capacity assessment.
- To engage with the community and voluntary sector to support them to build their confidence in delivering their safeguarding duties and raise awareness of adult safeguarding.
- To continue to embed engagement with people with lived experience and ensure that they can influence all aspects of the Board's work.
- To identify and respond to the needs of people who are at the 'edge of care' and may not have safeguarding needs that meet the criteria for section 42(2) safeguarding.
- To work collaboratively with agencies and partnerships across the City and Hackney to respond to the safeguarding needs of residents.
- To support frontline professionals to respond to complex issues relating to self-neglect.
- To deliver and implement recommendations that arise in relation to both local, regional and national Safeguarding Adults Reviews.
- To ensure that all agencies across the City and Hackney deliver their core duties in relation to safeguarding.

Key Data

5. Key data was collected in relation to safeguarding for the City of London:

- 50 safeguarding concerns were raised.
- 24 of the concerns led to a Section 42 Enquiry.
- A Section 42 Enquiry relates to the duty of the Local Authority to make enquiries, or have others do so, if an adult may be at risk of abuse or neglect. This happens whether or not the authority is providing any care and support services to that adult. It aims to decide what, if any, action is needed to help and protect the adult.
- The trend over the last five years shows that concerns have increased by 11 cases and enquiries by 2 cases with a gradual decrease of the conversation rate since 2020-21.
- Out of 44 individuals that had a concern in the year, 32 were from a white ethnic background.
- Neglect has been the highest risk registered this year in safeguarding concerns and enquiries which is similar to the national average in 2021/22.
- The majority of safeguarding concerns related to alleged abuse that happened within the person's own home. The continued increase in cases in people's own homes this year is related to the increase in neglect. This is consistent with national data which identifies that abuse typically happens within someone's own home.

Corporate & Strategic Implications – *[Please state 'none' if not applicable instead of deleting any of the sub-headings below]*

[Sub-headings]

Strategic implications – None

Financial implications - None

Resource implications - None

Legal implications - None

Risk implications - None

Equalities implications – None

Climate implications - None

Security implications - None

Conclusion

6. The Annual Report will be published on the appropriate pages online.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – CHSAB Annual Report 2022–23

Shohel Ahmed

Safeguarding Adults Board Manager for City and Hackney

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CHSAB Annual Report 2022–23

**People should be able to live a life free from harm
in communities that are intolerant of abuse, work
together to prevent abuse and know what to do
when it happens**

Accessibility statement

If you require this document in a different format, please email



CHSAB@hackney.gov.uk

We will consider your request and get back to you in the next five working days.

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Introduction by the Independent Chair



I am very pleased to introduce the Annual Report of the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board 2022/23 (the Board), which is a key statutory duty. As the Independent Chair of the Board, I am extremely grateful to all partners for their continued engagement and support to safeguard people living in the City and Hackney in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic and ongoing challenges in responding to changing safeguarding risks and needs. The relationships between the Board's partners continue to be positive and collaborative, and appropriately challenging when seeking assurance that we are all meeting our safeguarding responsibilities. The annual report describes what the Board has been doing as well as what individual partners have achieved during 2022/23. It provides a picture of who is safeguarded and why. This helps to inform the Board's annual strategic plan and priorities for 2023/24. There continues to be learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews that provide a focus for improvements in safeguarding practice and process. This is reflected in the annual strategic plan and out priorities for 2023/24. There continue to be significant contextual factors that impact on people's lives and potentially increase safeguarding risks, such as the rise in energy prices, the ongoing increases in the cost of living, and the legacy of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Board and its members continue to address these challenges and seek ways in which residents experiencing risks of abuse or neglect can be supported and protected. I want to use this opportunity to thank all the practitioners and staff from the wide range of partner organisations and agencies, volunteers and residents in City and Hackney who are committed to keeping people safe in the City and Hackney. They have supported and continue to support people at risk of abuse or neglect, often without recognition, and make a huge and significant positive contribution to many peoples' lives.

Dr Adi Cooper OBE,

Independent Chair, City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board

June 2023

What is the Safeguarding Adults Board?

Role of the Safeguarding Adults Board

The City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board (CHSAB) is a partnership made up of both statutory and non-statutory organisations. A range of organisations attend the Board including health, social care, housing, criminal justice and fire services, voluntary sector and residents who use services in the City of London and Hackney. The role of the CHSAB is to assure itself that organisations based in the City and Hackney have effective safeguarding arrangements. This is to ensure that adults with care and support are protected and prevented from experiencing abuse and neglect.

The CHSAB has three core legal duties under the Care Act 2014:

- 1) Develop and publish a Strategic Plan outlining how the Board will meet its objectives and how partners will contribute to this
- 2) Publish an Annual Report detailing actions that the Board has taken to safeguard the community and how successful it has been in achieving this
- 3) Commission Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) for any cases that meet the criteria.

In addition to this, the CHSAB is able to lead or undertake work in respect of any other adult safeguarding issue it feels appropriate.

Membership

The CHSAB has three statutory partners: the Local Authority, Integrated Care Board (health), police, and a wide range of non-statutory partners.

Below is a full list of our partners and their attendance at our quarterly Board meetings:

2022-23	
Independent Chair	100%
London Borough of Hackney Adult Social Care	100%
City of London Corporation	100%
North East London Integrated Care Board	100%
Homerton University Hospital	100%
Barts Health NHS Trust	25%
East London NHS Foundation Trust	100%
London Fire Brigade	25%
Metropolitan Police	100%

2022-23	
City of London Police	75%
Hackney Community and Voluntary Service	100%
London Borough of Hackney Housing	100%
Age UK	50%
Turning Point	100%
Department for Work and Pensions	100%

Principles

The Board's strategy and annual strategic plan is underpinned by the six safeguarding principles:

- Prevention** – It is better to take action before harm occurs.
"I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs and what I can do to seek help."
- Empowerment** – People are supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.
"I am asked what I want as the outcomes from the safeguarding process and this directly informs what happens."
- Proportionality** – The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.
"I am sure that the professionals will work in my interest, as I see them and they will only get involved as much as needed."
- Protection** – Support and representation for those in greatest need.
"I get help and support to report abuse and neglect. I get help so that I am able to take part in the safeguarding process to the extent to which I want."
- Partnership** – Local solutions through services working together and with their communities. Services share information safely and each service has a workforce well trained in safeguarding. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.
"I know that staff treat any personal and sensitive information in confidence, only sharing what is helpful and necessary. I am confident that professionals will work together and with me to get the best result for me."

- **Accountability** – Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.



“I understand the role of everyone involved in my life and so do they.”

Board Governance

Subgroups

The Board has a number of subgroups in place to ensure the delivery of its annual priorities:

Quality Assurance:

The group examines quantitative and qualitative data to help identify safeguarding trends and issues across the City and Hackney. This information is provided to the Executive group and helps inform the work and priorities of the Board.

Safeguarding Adults and Case Review:

The group fulfils the Board's s44 Care Act duty by considering requests for a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR). The group reviews referrals and makes recommendations to the Chair when it considers a SAR is required. It also monitors the embedding of action plans from reviews that have an adult safeguarding theme to them.

Workforce Development:

This group meets periodically to review and identify training and development opportunities in respect of adult safeguarding. It is also responsible for quality assuring the safeguarding training delivered by partners.

Transitional safeguarding:

The task and finish group was set up to identify how to better support young people aged 16 - 25 years old with their safeguarding needs around exploitation and abuse.

SAR action plan task and finish group:

This group was designed to ensure that the actions from our most recent SARs are completed in a timely manner. The group also identified how to ensure that learning from SARs has a long-term impact on improving practice.

Anti-social behaviour and safeguarding:

This group was set up to improve the multi-agency response to people both perpetrating or experiencing anti-social behaviour. The role of the group was to ensure that a proportionate response is provided to residents as well as support frontline professionals in responding to anti-social behaviour.

The work of the sub and task and finish groups is overseen by the Executive Group, whose role it is to monitor the progress of work undertaken by the groups and identify any other work the Board needs to undertake. The Executive group is attended by statutory partners, the Independent Chair and the Board Manager.

There are also quarterly CHSAB meetings attended by the whole partnership, this allows for discussions on key safeguarding issues, networking and identifying further opportunities for partnership working.

City of London Adult Safeguarding Committee

The City of London has a Safeguarding Adult Committee, which focuses on safeguarding issues affecting residents living in the City of London. The Committee meets quarterly, where partners share their responses in relation to different safeguarding issues and provide updates in respect of their progress against the Board's strategic priorities.

CHSAB strategic links

The CHSAB has links with partnerships and boards working with residents in the City of London and Hackney, including: the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children's Partnership, Community Safety Partnerships and Health and Wellbeing Boards. The Board will also engage with other partnerships where there may be opportunities to work collaboratively or provide an adult safeguarding expertise.

Budget

In 2022/23 the budget was £216,775 from the partners listed below:

Partner contributions to the CHSAB	CHSAB Partnership 2022/23 (£)
City of London Corporation	(28,875)
East London NHS Foundation Trust	(27,500)
Homerton University Hospital	(12,000)
North East London Integrated Care Board	(20,000)
Metropolitan Police Authority	(5,000)
Barts Health NHS Trust	(5,000)
City of London Police	(4,400)
LB Hackney	(113,000)
Total income	216,775

The expenditure for the Board in 2022/23 was £215,645

The Board have made the decision to keep the partner contributions the same, on the basis that there is a current reserve of £199,396, to meet any unplanned expenditure that may be incurred in this financial year.

Supporting the CHSAB

The CHSAB has a full-time Board Manager and Business Support Officer to manage the work of the Board.

Case Study 1:

London Borough of Hackney Adult Social Care

William is an elderly gentleman living with a diagnosis of Charles Bonnet syndrome, macular degeneration of the eyes and Glaucoma. He lives alone in council owned accommodation, and presents symptoms consistent with short term memory loss and forgetfulness in the context of his daily functioning. There were reports of long standing issues with the council regarding outstanding disrepair issues in the kitchen and bathroom area of his property. William was in the process of being evicted from his home as a result of rent arrears and had previously been served eviction notifications. Following a referral to Adult Protection services to investigate the concerns into Williams ability to manage his finances, his views were that he was unwilling to pay his rent unless housing services addressed the disrepair issues in his property. It was also



revealed that he was subject to financial exploitation from his neighbour who attempted to defraud him out of his life savings. William reported that he does experience forgetfulness which appears to contribute to the possibility of short term memory issues. Although this was not a formal diagnosis, this did appear to have a debilitating impact on his cognitive functioning. He was identified for a social care assessment during a section 42 safeguarding enquiry and was assessed to lack decision making capacity to manage finances independently. Adult Social Care undertook multiple home visits once the referral was raised, and an ongoing assessment is currently in place to establish a formal diagnosis of cognitive impairment.

Case Study 2:

North East London Integrated Care Board

Tom is a young man who resides at a local supported living accommodation. Tom's life changed when he experienced a brain injury which affected his cognitive functioning. He is largely independent but struggles with some aspects of his life including, maintaining his home environment. However, he does not always wish to engage with support around his needs. Tom is supported by staff at the residential centre, his neuro-navigator at the Continuing Health Care Team and his family. Tom's support team became concerned about food shortages which were caused by his difficulties with budgeting. His family manage his finances and release money to him at regular intervals but this does not appear to be sufficient for his needs. There were ongoing concerns about Tom gifting money to others and then being left without money for his daily needs. Staff at the residential centre raised their concerns with Tom about food shortages and his frustrations when he was without money. Tom reported to staff that he owed money to a friend, and that he had been buying large items for a friend. This conversation triggered a wider concern about risks of possible financial exploitation. A safeguarding meeting was convened to share concerns about Tom and assess the level of risk. Tom's family were part of the meeting and described how Tom's anxiety around money would cause hostility and tension in their relationship as he would call frequently requesting more money and become angry if it was withheld. Each member of the team around Tom sought to support his needs around financial management and improve his quality of life. The residential care home staff used key working sessions to discuss Tom's pattern of lending money to others. The community policing unit were advised of a particular person whom Tom reported he had been giving money to – and that person was advised that they would not be welcome at the residential centre. Tom's family increased the frequency of Tom's payments and also directed a fund to the residential centre to be used for grocery shopping. All parties agreed to continue to monitor the situation.

Tom reported that his 'friend' no longer hassled him for loans and felt relieved by this.



CHSAB Achievements for 2022/23

Safeguarding Adults Review (SARs)

- The Board commissioned one Safeguarding Adults Review which was published in March 2023.
- The Board held two learning events to help embed learning from the Phillip SAR and the Daniel SAR in 2022/3. The Independent Reviewers worked through the findings and the recommendations from the reviews with staff from the agencies involved.
- The SAR action plan group measured how well learning had been embedded into practice. This was done by undertaking feedback exercises with frontline staff and partners to understand how well SARs were known and perceived across the City and Hackney.

Training and engagement with professionals

- The Board commissions a package of training for frontline line staff working across the City and Hackney on a yearly basis. This year the Board commissioned 8 different safeguarding courses delivered quarterly, including a new course on trauma informed approaches to safeguarding. In total, 135 people attended training in 2022/23.
- The Board published quarterly bulletins for frontline staff providing them with updates on adult safeguarding issues.
- The Board has commissioned a new training system so that all training will be presented in the same place. This system allows delegates to browse and book themselves on to training modules.

Safeguarding Adults Week 2022

- The Board held a number of bite-sized learning sessions on different areas of safeguarding for professionals. In total, over 160 professionals attended these sessions.
- The Board provided funding for 3 community organisations to hold their own Safeguarding Adults Awareness events across Hackney, in total these events had over 60 guests, the Board provided these events with posters and safeguarding information resources.
- A number of posters and promotional resources were circulated across all staff at the London Borough of Hackney.

Quality Assurance

- The Board undertook a self assessment using the Safeguarding Adult Partnership Assessment Tool, which was assessed by an independent reviewer and the findings presented during the partnership development day in March 2022.

- There was a review of how well the Board was meeting its statutory obligations under the Care Act 2014 and Care Act statutory guidance.
- The Independent Chair of the Board has initiated yearly check-ins for all Board partners. The purpose of these check-ins is to ensure that all safeguarding issues affecting residents are identified and addressed and to continue to improve engagement with partner agencies.

Multi-agency working

- The Board worked with the City & Hackney Safeguarding Children's Partnership to update the Think Family guidance, which will be signed off by both partnerships in 2023.
- There was Board attendance at a number of partnership groups including the suicide prevention group, death in treatment panel, community safety officer group and domestic abuse work streams.

Anti-Social Behaviour and Safeguarding Task and Finish Group

- The group worked on the escalation protocol which was signed off and promoted widely from April 2022. This protocol has been utilised once so far with positive outcomes.
- The group worked on mapping the high risk panels currently existing in Hackney, to share across the partnership.
- This group finished its regular meeting in April 2022 and agreed to meet again annually to review the impact of the work streams.

Transitional Safeguarding Task and Finish Group

- The group has undertaken extensive scoping work, with some challenges in data collection due to the Cyber attack.
- The group worked with the Advocacy Project to identify the advocacy rates among young people, which highlighted the need for more promotional work among young people.

Resident engagement

- The Board has commissioned a voluntary sector agency, The Advocacy Project, to obtain feedback from residents who have lived experience of safeguarding processes.
- The Board has trained a group of 5 Safeguarding Champions who have started to deliver 90 minute safeguarding awareness sessions in the community. The Board is continuing to promote this across Hackney and City.
- The Board continues to publish quarterly newsletters to residents and also provided an article to the Older People's Reference Group on keeping safe over the Christmas period.



Case Study 3:

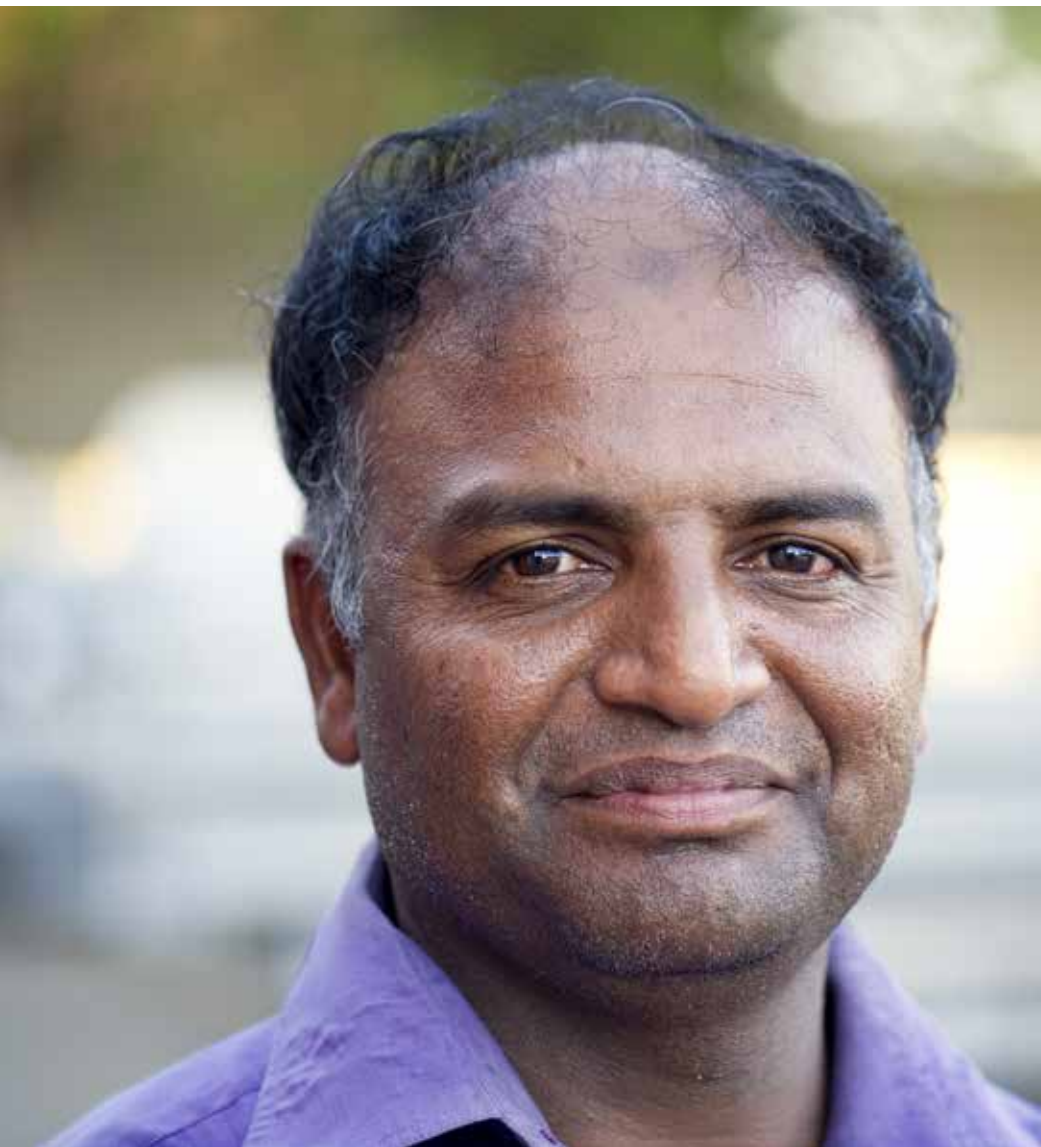
Metropolitan Police

Tanya reported to police that she had been the victim of rape by a male who worked for the same company as her, a couple of months previously. A complicating factor was that the suspect's children went to the same primary school as Tanya's and this meant that there was quite the potential for crossing paths. Tanya was late in reporting this to police due to uncertainty of what would happen to her or her children if she did, and for fears of repercussions should she see this suspect again either at work or on the school run. The stress of this caused her to suffer significant mental health difficulties which had gone untreated. The police supported Tanya to provide her evidence in a video recorded interview, and identified early on that she did not have anyone to turn to for emotional support. The police ensured a Merlin was completed and her situation raised with the local community mental health team. As a result Tanya was able to receive professional support for her deteriorating mental state. The police were further able to safeguard Tanya by discreetly arranging with the school for her children to be able to leave school via a separate exit whilst the investigation was ongoing to reduce the likelihood of seeing the suspect or his partner, which again was causing anxiety and stress. On Tanya's behalf, the police also arranged for her to be allowed to work from a separate site within her company where there would be no way for her to bump into the suspect, doing so in a manner which ensured the sensitivity of the situation was only shared with Tanya's direct line manager (with her consent). As a result of these actions, Tanya was not only protected from the potential of further offences by an alleged perpetrator known to her, but was supported in her mental health recovery.

Case Study 4:

Age UK

Robert was referred to Age UK by the City of London Adult Social Care team. Robert was noted to have a tendency for self-neglect and needing blitz cleaning in his home. Regular cleaning of his flat had been added to his care package, to help him prevent the continuation of the problem which would cause hygiene and health issues if left untreated. Robert was feeling socially isolated due to spending time at home alone, and found it hard to access social activities and volunteering opportunities due to his poor health and mobility issues. Robert was provided with transport support through City Advice by a successful Dial A Ride application, and was able to pick some activities which he could get involved in. Robert chose a poetry club and a drop in cafe, which he attributes to helping him with making social connections and allowing him to socialise again.



“Due to the support I receive, I feel that I'm starting to get my life back.”

Neighbourhoods Team

- The Board has continued to work collaboratively with the Neighbourhoods Team, through regular meetings and reporting back to the Board.
- The Neighbourhoods Team were involved in the Board's Development Day safeguarding audit.

Engagement and partnership work

- The Board expanded its professionals mailing list and networks to ensure that all professionals in the City and Hackney are up to date with safeguarding news. If you would like to join this network please contact: **chsab@hackney.gov.uk**.
- The Board is part of a wider range of different stakeholder groups that includes the: Carers Partnership Board, Death in Treatment Panel and domestic abuse work streams.

National work

- Members of the Board attend a number of national work streams including, the London Safeguarding Adults Board, National Network of Chairs of SABs, SAB Manager Networks and Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services Safeguarding workstream.
- Members of the Board have presented at national safeguarding events that have occurred across England.

Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs)

The Board has a statutory duty to undertake Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SAR) under section 44 of the Care Act 2014. The following criteria must be met for a SAR:

1. An adult has died or suffered serious harm.
2. It is suspected or known that it was due to abuse or neglect.
3. There is concern that agencies could have worked better to protect the adult from harm.

The Board is also able to undertake a discretionary SAR under the Care Act, where a case does not meet the threshold for a review but it is considered that there is valuable learning to be gained in terms of addressing abuse and neglect.

In 2022/23, the Board published three [Safeguarding Adults Review](#). Of the three reviews, two were SAR's as defined under section 44 of the Care Act and the other was a discretionary review. The Board did not initiate any new reviews during this period.



Angela was discharged with an allocated social worker...

Case Study 5:

Barts Health NHS Trust

Angela was a female patient with complicated cardiac history and poorly controlled diabetes. Angela had a history of adverse childhood experiences, trauma and mental ill-health, including several long admissions to SBH over a 3 year period. Angela had a very difficult and complicated relationship with professionals, often exhibiting challenging behaviours and variable engagement. There were concerns regarding self neglect and emotional abuse at home, but Angela did not consent for a referral to adult services. Angela was deemed to lack mental capacity in regard to an adult services referral and was discharged with an allocated social worker, and an agreement in place regarding a personal care budget.

CHSAB Strategy 2020-25

Under the Care Act 2014, Safeguarding Adults Boards are required to publish a strategy outlining how it will meet its obligations in respect of adult safeguarding. The Board renewed its Strategy in 2020 and published a five year plan on how it will deliver its goals.

In the forthcoming year (2023/24) the Board will focus on the following priorities:

1. To continue to raise awareness in relation to mental capacity assessment.
2. To engage with the community and voluntary sector to support them to build their confidence in delivering their safeguarding duties and raise awareness of adult safeguarding.
3. To continue to embed engagement with people with lived experience and ensure that they can influence all aspects of the Board's work.
4. To identify and respond to the needs of people who are at the 'edge of care' and may not have safeguarding needs that meet the criteria for section 42(2) safeguarding.
5. To work collaboratively with agencies and partnerships across the City and Hackney to respond to the safeguarding needs of residents.
6. To support frontline professionals to respond to complex issues relating to self-neglect.
7. To deliver and implement recommendations that arise in relation to both local, regional and national Safeguarding Adults Reviews.
8. To ensure that all agencies across the City and Hackney deliver their core duties in relation to safeguarding.

CHSAB Board Partners Safeguarding Achievements

This section outlines the Board Partners main achievements in relation to adult safeguarding for 2022/23:

London Borough of Hackney

- We improved the way that we learn from the experience of local people who may be at risk of or experience abuse. We did this by bringing in a new local system for auditing local practice, looking at cases both as individuals and peer audits across teams. This helps us to understand if we are always using the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal, and helping people to achieve the outcomes that matter to them. Our safeguarding data demonstrates that in the majority of instances, people fully or partially achieve the outcomes they want.
- We have worked closely with staff and our partners to update some of our key policies and procedures in safeguarding. There are some areas of practice which are complex because of how the law is interpreted for people with particular needs. Doing targeted work with staff, we improved understanding of fire safety and have rewritten the policy on self-neglect for all CHSAB partners. This work will also enhance our preparation for the forthcoming Care Quality Commission assurance of local authorities adult social services.
- Over the past year, we continuously reflected on our safeguarding practice and identified ways in which we can speed up decision-making in the system. If we can do things quicker while paying attention to 'quality' then it means that we can reach more people and empower them to make decisions about how to keep themselves safe. So we commenced a journey of culture change in the way we use data on safeguarding. We aligned this with regular forums for the managers who make safeguarding decisions. This has given them the opportunity to discuss their cases and begin developing a shared understanding of the issues that are referred to the local authority for safeguarding interventions.

City of London Corporation

- The City of London has realigned its Adult Social Care service to enable a stronger focus on early intervention and prevention. This is in line with the second principle of safeguarding in the Care Act; it is better to take action before harm occurs. Occupational Therapy capacity has been increased and a new innovative Strengths-based practitioner role created. The Strengths-based practitioners provide intensive early intervention with a reablement type ethos supporting people with low level support needs, clutter or hoarding tendencies and self-neglect to improve their wellbeing and achieve their personal goals. The Strengths-based practitioners undertake welfare calls and visits where risk is identified in situations such

as hospital discharges. They also act as Trusted Assessors providing equipment to increase independence and safety, including Telecare and Fire detection or prevention equipment. Following a successful pilot, a new Early Intervention approach has been adopted across Adult Social Care aimed at improving wellbeing and reducing risk. The approach is to trust in the expertise of the practitioner and the expressed outcomes of the adult with care and support needs to identify low-cost one-off interventions which may improve their independence and wellbeing while increasing safety and mitigating risk. The majority of adults benefitting from the approach are those considered to be at the edge of care where risks may be present that, while not meeting formal safeguarding criteria, may benefit from interventions to reduce risk and improve safety. A review of the initial pilot showed the approach to have a demonstrable impact for relatively low cost and was welcomed by practitioners with positive feedback from the adults concerned.

- The City has responded to the challenges of the cost-of-living crisis setting up a steering group to plan and oversee the provision of universal information and advice around benefits and personal finance, and enlisting Green Doctors to help residents stay well and warm at home and save money on their household bills. Extra contingency payments were made for all adults with direct payments to ensure support could be purchased when needed. Additional one-off payments were made to informal carers to relieve pressures and help support continuity in their caring role. Winter weather packs were distributed to those most at risk containing thermal blankets, socks, hats, gloves and hand warmers. Residents with electric fan heaters or other types of heaters with high fire risks were offered free replacement oil filled radiators which are both low fire risk and more economical.
- The City of London continued to drive forward initiatives to support and safeguard those who were homeless or rough sleeping in the square mile. Work has been informed by post pandemic learning along with that from the MS Safeguarding Adults Review and the more recent discretionary Daniel SAR. Multi-agency systems are in place and agencies continue to engage at a level which recognises the level of safeguarding risks and poor health outcomes experienced by this cohort. City of London have been working with partners across different local authority areas both at a strategic level in terms of short and longer accommodation options, and at an operational level working across boundaries on s42 safeguarding enquiries as well as completing and sharing portable Care Act assessments. Homelessness services have also started piloting a new Strengths Based Practitioner post to work alongside the Social Worker for Rough Sleeping and Homelessness offering more intensive and personalised early intervention support which mirrors the approach in Adult Social Care

North East London Integrated Care Board (NEL)

- NEL has established a clear safeguarding accountability structure leading to the Chief Nurse. NEL has appointed a Designate Safeguarding Adult Manager at each place and these individuals are working collaboratively to where possible in developing a safeguarding response. There are 8 clinical reference groups leading our work and development on specific areas of safeguarding need including for example health inequalities, domestic abuse; and learning from enquiries.
- NEL ICB coordinated a health response locally when the Home Office established two hotels in Hackney as accommodation centres for their clients. This includes urgent response in commissioning primary care outreach to the residents, site visits to support with staff safeguarding development and public health oversight. This response extended to lobbying the Home Office against particular hotels thought to be unsuitable for this purpose.
- NEL included responding to the experience of inflation as a key strategic objective. Work in this area included a NEL wide conference to share local initiative and plot strategic responses. NEL actions included a review of the impact of prescription charges on specific medicine usages, and crisis support for providers including nursing homes.

Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

- Increase in uptake of clinical practitioners trained in level 3 adult safeguarding. Over 25% of all applicable staff have now received level 3 training.
- Safeguarding adults' team has commenced Simulation training - Funded communication simulation course to help health care professionals explore communication strategies to better manage any challenging conversation in the assessment of mental capacity.
- Raising awareness of the adult safeguarding agenda which has led to an increase in concerns raised by HHFT this year.

East London Foundation Trust

- ELFT Safeguarding Lead has provided one to one support to Ward and Community staff in managing complex safeguarding cases.
- Rio systems have developed to the point that each team /ward has easy access to information relating to safeguarding for their service.
- Carers support workers are now routinely Involved in supporting safeguarding cases and professional meetings where carers are involved.

“My social worker has helped me to build my confidence and to start the process of returning to work.”



Case Study 6:

City of London Corporation

John was referred to the City of London Adult Social Care for self neglect. John was living alone and was reported to be a binge drinker, which had led to a deterioration of his mental and physical health. A social worker was allocated and a safeguarding enquiry was undertaken; working in partnership with John and other relevant services. John had difficulty holding down a job and his ability to socialise had been impacted because of an unaddressed post traumatic stress disorder. The social worker completed a Care Act assessment with John and continued to work with him, focusing on employing relationship-based practice and supporting him to be motivated and focused on his goals. As a result of his drive and determination, John is now abstinent and is planning to return back into work.

Case Study 7:

Homerton University Hospital Foundation Trust

Kim is an elderly women with a background of learning disabilities, epilepsy and personality disorder, who was referred to Homerton due to vulval intraepithelial neoplasia. When Kim was seen in April 2022 it was noted that she lacked capacity to consent to the therapy she needed. As a result, a best interest meeting took place where it was decided to go ahead with the therapy, to prevent a risk of cancer developing in the future. At the meeting, Kim's carer advised that she would no longer be able to stay with him in his flat as he felt he wouldn't be able to support her.



After her therapy, Kim was medically fit for discharge but needed to remain an inpatient until a discharge destination could be identified. A subsequent occupational therapy functional assessment concluded that Kim would benefit from housing with care.

During the course of Kim's admission, she became more agitated and verbally and physically aggressive with staff on occasions. A psychiatry review was requested, which assessed that Kim was displaying acute psychotic features stemming from a mix of mental health causes. A first recommendation was made for Kim to be detained under section 2 of the Mental Health Act. Kim was transferred to an acute mental health unit in a patient bed later on in the year.

Barts Health NHS Trust

- Barts Health established an onsite safeguarding advisor to provide support, advice and training to the St Bartholomew's hospital team.
- Devolving of safeguarding to trust sites in order to focus on issues specific to each site and to provide timely and focused advice to staff.
- The Trust participated in a 360 assurance audit regarding MCA/DoLS, which helped inform the work plan for 2023-24.

Metropolitan Police Service

- Police in Hackney achieved the second highest sanctioned detection rate for Domestic Abuse (DA) in the MPS of 14.3% for the financial year. This stood at 16.2% for 2021/22.
- Maintaining 'business as usual' high level of service throughout the cost of living crisis and associated increased societal unrest.
- Delivering and overseeing an effective MARAC process to support those deemed at the highest risk of DA whilst ensuring all key partners take part in a holistic approach to long-term safeguarding.

City of London Police

- The City of London Police (CoLP) completed a small study on the negative effect that those in crisis have with police due to the process that many officers have to complete in order to safeguard individuals. Where a patient has been defined as a "high intensity user" of the service (someone that comes to notice more than three times and presents in risky locations), CoLP identified that those individuals tend to be drawn into a repeating pattern of behaviour to sustain their need for interaction. In doing so the patient will place themselves at substantial risk and by default, any person potentially trying to interact or rescue them. To adopt a more holistic approach to those who find themselves in crisis, CoLP's P&P hub worked with the Mental Health Street Triage service to triage these patients away from the place of risk and then worked to arrange regular interactions with the patient to build their confidence with the police and to establish a more suitable risk-reduced alternative when they felt that they were in crisis. As a result, the rate of reattendance reduced in 15 cases.
- The CoLP initiated a monthly partnership operation, tackling different themes all within the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) workstream to 'Reframe The Night'. Under this operation, the Night Time Economy (NTE) is facilitated and not just policed. By bringing all responsible authorities together out in the NTE, everyone gets to understand what the realities are and how this feeds into the requirements of their areas, for example, lighting, cleansing, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). A safe space for women and vulnerable people was also created in the NTE. The results of Operation Reframe are published and fed into the Licensing Committee and PAB.

- Operation Luscombe is an initiative designed to combat begging by targeting beggars with a traffic-light system of tickets, utilising powers under the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act. Recipients of tickets are initially invited to attend a bi-weekly intervention hub attended by support agencies, those found persistently begging are required to attend the intervention hubs. The intervention aspect is crucial to the initiative and aims to effectively connect individuals to and readily available services that may be able to assist with any factors that are causing that individual to beg. A bid for funds to continue the initiative for another year has been approved at CoLP's Tactical Tasking and Coordination Group.

Age UK

- Age UK improved connection to hospital social workers in order to aid safer hospital discharge.
- Age UK provided a range of preventative services which helped safeguard residents.
- In response to unprecedented demand and complexity of need, Age UK adopted a RAG rated, risk based approach to triaging all incoming referrals. This ensured that those most at risk were responded to first.

Turning Point

- Appointed a transitional age specialist substance misuse worker to support young people to address their alcohol and drug use, to reduce the harm it causes them and prevent it from becoming a greater problem as they get older. City and Hackney recovery service operates as part of a wider network of universal and targeted prevention services, which aim to support young people with a range of issues including housing, mental health, employment and support them in their identified recovery path.
- Turning Point continued to recruit new team members, induct and allocate service users as part of their caseload, allowing colleagues to have more manageable caseloads of high-risk individuals.
- Continuation of supporting individuals and working in a multi-disciplinary way for those who are identified 'at the edge of care'. City and Hackney have a hospital liaison team who work closely with hospital safeguarding, IDVA, main City and Hackney team and homeless contacts to support transition back to community following admission. City and Hackney Recovery Service's Rough Sleeper team continue to work effectively with a number of services- housing, street outreach teams, health, voluntary sector to provide engagement with hard to engage individuals – most of whom have a long history of rough sleeping, complex needs and difficulties with substances and mental health.



...Rosie was moved to a higher needs supported accommodation, which was deemed most appropriate to meet her mental health needs...

Case Study 8:

East London Foundation Trust

Rosie is a middle-aged woman well known to mental health services. A safeguarding enquiry for physical abuse commenced following an incident report where Rosie reported she was assaulted by an unknown female and man at her property.

Rosie was a sex worker, and had reportedly been assaulted in drug related incidents in the community. Rosie who was known to take illicit substances.

Following recommendations from the Court of Protection, to assign a waking night staff to stop Rosie from having male visitors overnight in her accommodation, she began meeting with her friends in the community instead, raising concerns she was at risk from the same physical/sexual abuse and financial exploitation that was believed to be occurring at supported accommodation. There had been 7 prior safeguarding enquiries for Rosie, around areas of concern including sexual abuse, financial abuse, cuckooing and self-neglect. Rosie declined all support and services relating to her sexual and physical wellbeing, and engaged solely with an advocate where she was able to convey that she understood the risks associated with her lifestyle. Rosie was moved to a higher needs supported accommodation, which was deemed most appropriate to meet her mental health needs and minimise her safeguarding risks. As a result, the risk of physical abuse was significantly reduced. It was also agreed that any remaining risks would be managed via care coordination under case management.

Safeguarding data for 2022/23

The safeguarding data for 2022/23 is presented separately for the City and Hackney. This data is submitted to NHS Digital's Safeguarding Adults Collection, which collects statutory returns on safeguarding.

City of London

50 safeguarding concerns were raised

24 of the concerns led to Section 42 Enquiry

29 concluded S42(S2) enquiries in 2022-23 compared to **35** the previous year. **72%** of adults were asked about their desired outcomes and they were expressed. **88%** had their outcomes fully or partially met.

Concerns and Enquiries

The trend over the last five years shows, concerns have **increased by 11 cases and enquires by 2 cases** with a **gradual decrease** of the conversation rate since 2020-21.

The concerns rate per **100,000** has been increasing in line with the national average in the last seven years with a slight decline in 2022-23 given the intervention work from the service. The national average increased by **9%** from 2020-21 and is yet to be updated later this year.

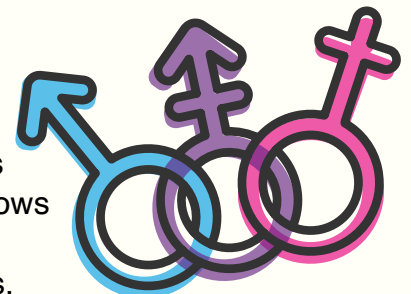


Ethnicity

The population adult structure of city of London is mostly from the white ethnic background. The data shows the consistency that adults at risk to be mostly from the white background. Out of **44** individuals that had a concern in the year, **32** were from a white ethnic background. Of which **17** met s42 enquiries.

Gender

The male population in the City of London Corporation makes up **55%** in the **18+** group in the 2021 Census. The data shows the male clients had slightly more safeguarding concerns this year than female clients which is similar to previous years.



The data shows of the **44** individuals who had a concern raised during the year 2022-23, **21** were in the **25-64** age grouping. Although this is consistent with previous years, there has been a decrease of concerns in this group compared to the **34** individuals in 2021-22.

Type of Risk

Neglect has been the highest risk registered this year in safeguarding concerns and enquires which is similar to the national average in 2021-22. Neglect and acts of omissions had **15** cases and **18** people were at a risk of self-neglect, to make **63.5%** of all concerns. There is a slight rise in self-neglect in concerns by **10.6%** from 2021-22.



Source of Referral and Risk

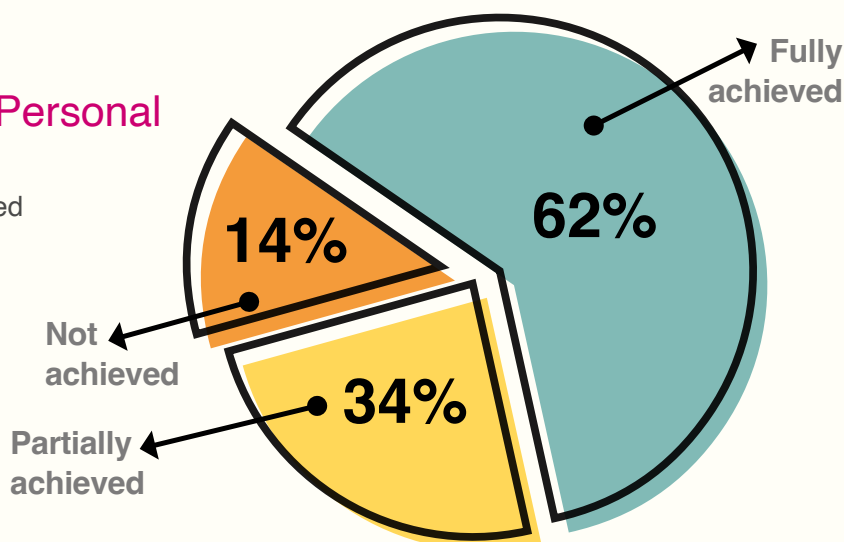
There was an increase in other referrals by **9%** from the previous year. The 'Other' category included concerns being reported in by the Home Office and London Fire Brigade. The health services, police and service providers are the top sources of referral. **It is positive to see a wider range of agencies refer concerns into the City of London Adult Safeguarding.** In line with the national and London average, the data shows **74%** of the client's risk comes from someone known to the individual. This is a decrease from the previous year 2021-22 which was **80%**. There has been a slight increase in risks reported regarding service providers at **24% compared to 13%** the previous year.

Location of Risk

The **majority** of safeguarding concerns related to alleged abuse that happened within the **person's own home**. The continued increase in cases in people's own home this year is related to the **increase in neglect**. This is consistent with national data which identifies that **abuse typically happens within someone's own home**.

Making Safeguarding Personal

% outcomes of concluded S42 enquiries where an adult was asked their desired outcomes and the outcome was expressed.



There were **29** concluded S42 enquiries in 2022-23 compared to thirty-five the previous year. **72%** of adults were asked about their desired outcomes and they were expressed. Of which, **86%** had their outcomes fully or partially met. **The local management system recording has been improved to capture the outcomes better than in previous years** and there has been some discussions at Safeguarding Adults Board Quality Assurance group around whether further improvements could be made to the form data fields to capture a more in-depth understanding of the MSP data.

London Borough of Hackney

Data has been collated from three different sources for this reporting year, as the Local Authority changed how data was recorded during the year.

Concerns and Enquiries

1774 safeguarding concerns were raised

The number of accepted section 42 enquiries is generally in line with the previous two years.

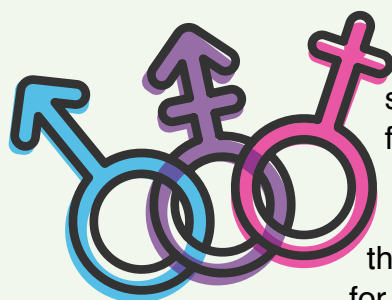


Ethnicity

The proportion of concerns broken down by ethnicity for 2022/23 is very similar to 2021/22, except that the proportion without a declaration has dropped significantly. This is due to the usage of a better case management system, which was better able to capture ethnicity compared to the interim systems used in 2021/22. The most concerns continue to relate to adults from a White or Black African, Caribbean, or British background. This is generally consistent with the demographic profile of Hackney.



Gender



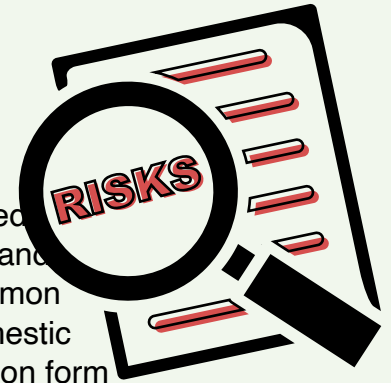
The proportion of concerns split by gender shows a slight increase in the number of women being referred into adult safeguarding; increasing from **52.1%** last year to **55.9%** for 2022/23. This is consistent with the 2021 census for Hackney which highlights there are more females living in the Borough and therefore there is an expectation that there would be a higher proportion of safeguarding referrals for females.



The highest number of concerns being raised in respect of age has remained the same as last year; those between the ages of **26-64**. This contrasts with the national picture of safeguarding, which highlights that abuse is typically experienced by older adults. The younger demographic within Hackney could be an explanation for this. Concerns raised within the age band **75-84** has increased most significantly from last year, going up from **15.9% to 20.9%**.

Type of risk

Self-neglect continues to be the most common form of abuse reported into adult safeguarding as a concern. Neglect and Acts of Omission and Financial or Material abuse make up the second and third most common types of abuse, in line with what we saw last year. Interestingly, Domestic Abuse has overtaken Psychological Abuse as the fourth most common form of abuse; increasing from **5.4%** in 2021/22 to **14.9%** in 2022/23. A possible explanation for this could be the impact of Covid-19 and lockdown leading to an increase in the number of domestic abuse cases being reported. The Board will continue to review trends over the forthcoming years.



Source of Referral and Risk

The data shows that the source of risk is most likely to be someone known to the individual, which makes **78%** of concerns referred to adult safeguarding. There has been a significant increase in the service provider being identified as the source of risk, from **4%** in 2020/21 to **9.4%** in 2021/22 to **15%** in 2022/23. The Board will continue to review this trend.

The number of safeguarding concerns from Hospitals have overtaken Health Professionals and Other Commissioned Service compared to 2021/22. There continues to be a consistent number of concerns raised by friends and family, which is encouraging for the Board and evidence of the engagement work done with many community groups in Hackney.

Location of Risk

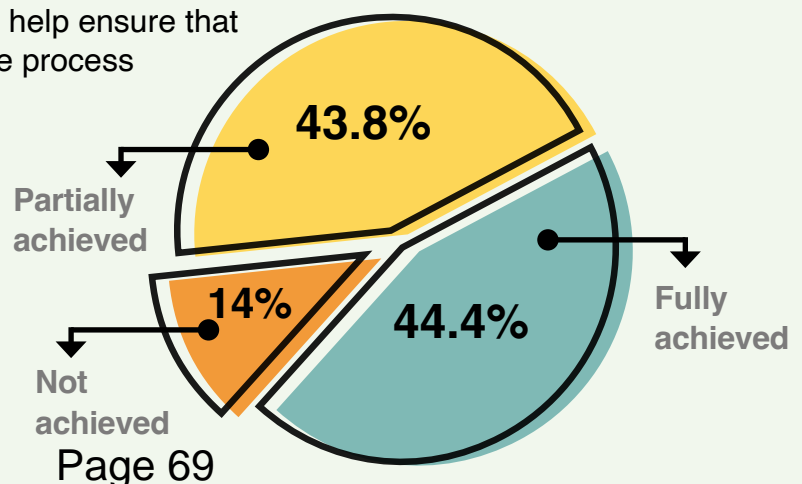
The data continues to show that most abuse occurs within the home. This could correlate with the increase in the cases of self-neglect, which tend to occur within people's own homes.

Making Safeguarding Personal

In **85%** of concluded section 42 enquiries, adults were asked what their desired outcome was. This is slightly down from the previous year's figure of **92%**.

Of the **85%** that were asked, **88%** had their desires partially or fully achieved. This information is helpful to help ensure that safeguarding is person-centred and the process focuses on the wishes and needs of the individual.

% outcomes achieved for concluded S42 enquiries where an adult expressed desired outcomes.



East London NHS Foundation Trust (ELFT)

249 safeguarding concerns were raised

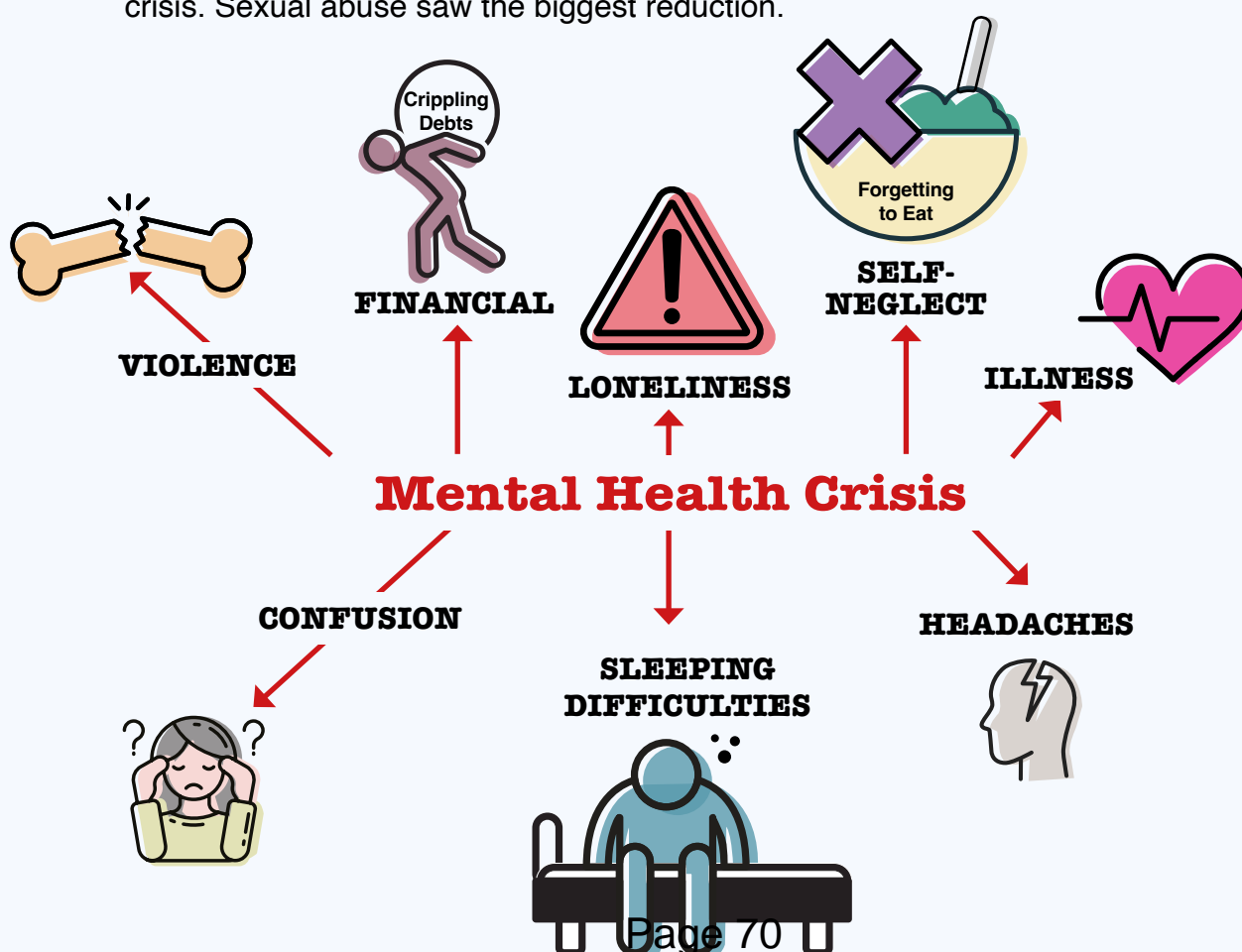
The number of accepted section 42 enquiries is generally in line with the previous two years.

A large number of safeguarding concerns received by ELFT are raised in relation to mental health crises and have often been acted upon when the safeguarding concern is received. This might explain the number of concerns that are not registered as s42 enquiries. It is worth noting that the level of complexity being managed in the communities has risen sharply within mental health services over the last year and many issues often in the safeguarding domain are managed under care coordination in community teams.



Type of Abuse

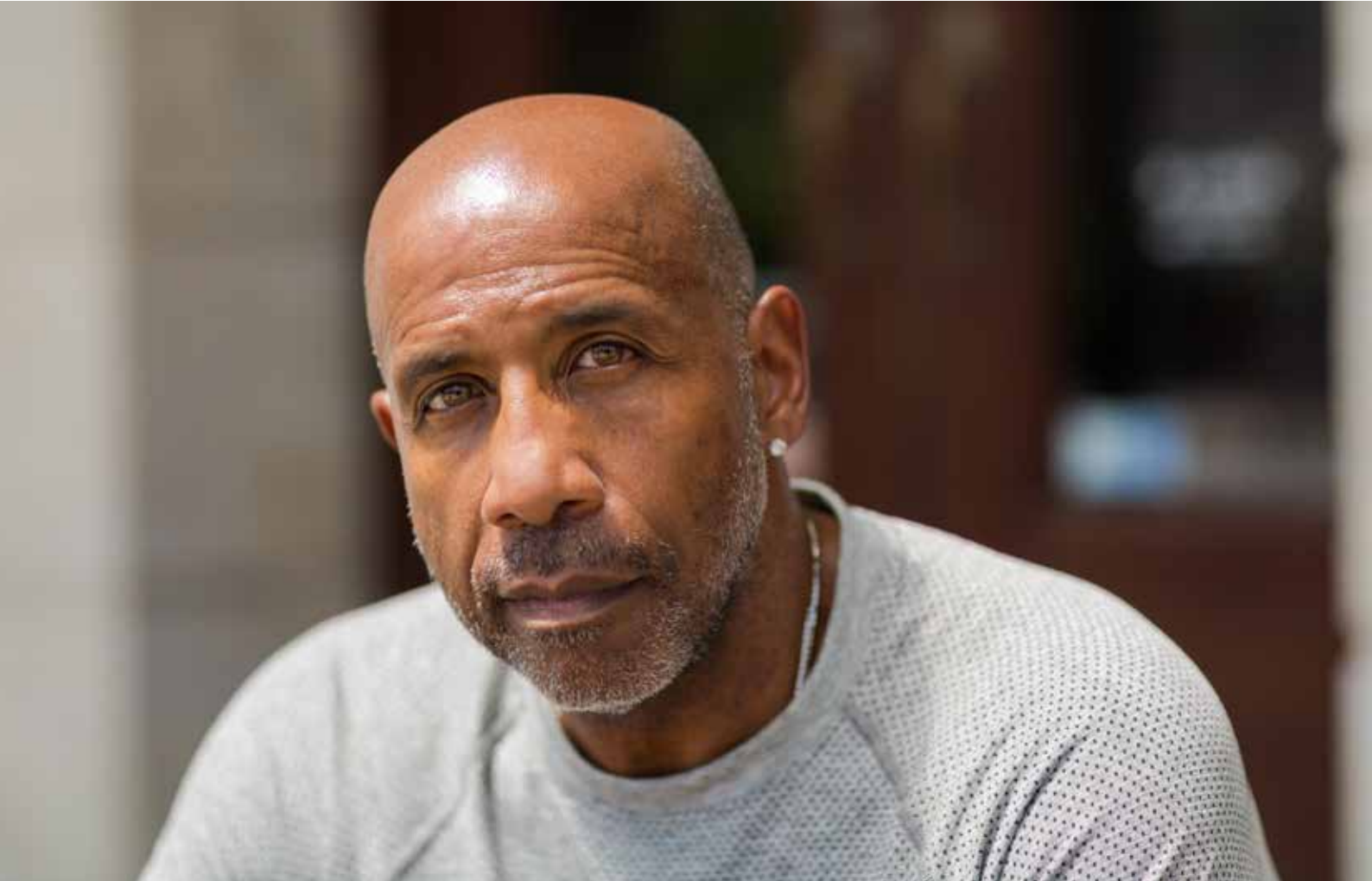
Since the pandemic, there have been increasing reports of financial abuse and self-neglect in the community. The high levels of physical abuse will be impacted by incidents of violence on the psychiatric wards and mental health crisis. Sexual abuse saw the biggest reduction.





Case Study 9: Turning Point

Alex is a middle-aged man known to drug and alcohol services in the borough. Alex resides in a one bedroom, private rented flat, and has a care package.



He has had 14 hospital admissions across a number of London hospitals in the last 6 months, but often discharges himself prior to clinical treatment/input being completed.

Requests made were for the hospital to carry out capacity assessments to determine whether Alex has capacity to make decisions relating to his physical health. Turning Point queried if his Care Act assessment, and social services assessment include a long-term plan around the collection and administration of his methadone in the community. His methadone is a health treatment, and due to his difficulties around his memory and alcohol use, methadone could not be administered in the community without supervision. Concerns were also raised about the position of the private landlord, in terms of this vulnerable adult living alone in the property, and seemingly not being able to manage in terms of his physical health. The consultant psychiatrist advised community prescribing would recommence if Alex resided in a supported living environment. In addition, interim supported living arrangements were being made for Alex to safeguard his wellbeing.

Appendix A:

CHSAB Annual Strategic Plan 2023-2024

CHSAB Annual Strategic Plan 2023 – 2024

The CHSAB Plan addresses the six core principles contained in the CHSAB's Strategy for 2020 – 2025

Partner	Lead	Partner	Lead
London Borough of Hackney (LBH)	Helen Woodland / Georgina Diba / Godfred Boahen	City of London Corporation (CoL)	Chris Pelham
City and Hackney ICB	Diane Jones / Celia Jeffreys / Mary O'Reardon	Hackney Metropolitan Police (MPS)	Ralph Coates
City of London Police	Kelly Fisher	Homerton University Hospital Foundation Trust (HUHFT)	Breeda McManus / Jennie Wood
Barts Health NHS Trust	Clare Hughes	East London Foundation Trust (ELFT)	Dinh Padicala
London Fire Brigade (City of London and Hackney)	James O'Neill	Age UK	Larissa Howells
National Probation Trust	Stephanie Salmon	Department of Work and Pensions	Laura Anderson
Healthwatch Hackney	Sally Beaven	Healthwatch City of London	Rachel Cleave
Hackney CVS	Tony Wong	The Advocacy Project	Judith Davey
London Borough of Hackney and City of London Public Health	Andrew Trathen	London Borough of Hackney Benefits and Housing Needs	Jennifer Wynter
Turning Point (substance misuse service)	Jude Unsworth	City and Hackney Safeguarding Children's Partnership	Jim Gamble
Older Person's Reference Group	Cynthia White	City of London Commissioning	Sacha Lewis
Commissioning LBH	Zainab Jalil	City of London Housing	Liam Gillespie

Sub-group		Chair	Task & Finish Groups		Chair
SAR & Case Review		Chris Pelham	Transitional Safeguarding (joint group with Community Safety Partnership & Children's Safeguarding Partnership)		Dr Adi Cooper
Quality Assurance		Godfred Boahen			
SAR Action Plan Group		Mary O'Reardon	Safeguarding and Anti-Social Behaviour		Dr Adi Cooper
Sub-Committee		Chair			
City of London		Dr Adi Cooper			

Principle 1: Proportionality - “I am sure that the professionals will work in my interest, as I see them and they will only get involved as much as needed.”				
Priority	Action	Lead	Intended Impact	Update
1. To continue to raise awareness in relation to mental capacity assessment. Please see section 6 on self-neglect for aligning actions.	1.1 The workforce development leads will review and commission training in relation to mental capacity assessment, to ensure that it provides practical approaches to responding to complex issues relating to mental capacity.	CHSAB Manager (Shohel Ahmed) / Head of Adult Safeguarding (Godfred Boahen) (Ian Tweedie) City of London and London Borough of Hackney	<p>1. There is assurance that mental capacity training gives staff practical advice on how to apply the Act and key learning around mental capacity.</p> <p>2. There is more support offered to residents who have fluctuating or lack executive capacity.</p>	

Principle 2: Empowerment - “I am asked what I want as the outcomes from the safeguarding process and this directly informs what happens.”				
Priority	Action	Lead	Intended Impact	Update
2. To engage with the community and voluntary sector to support them to build their confidence in delivering their safeguarding duties and raise awareness of adult safeguarding.	2.1 The Board will support the cohort of Safeguarding Champions to deliver safeguarding awareness sessions across the community.	CHSAB Manager (Shohel Ahmed) / HCVS (Tony Wong)	1. There will be increased awareness of adult safeguarding amongst residents in the City and Hackney	
	2.2 The Board will create a feedback loop with voluntary sector staff and volunteers so that safeguarding issues and intelligence can be routinely shared with the Board.	CHSAB Manager (Shohel Ahmed)/ HCVS (Tony Wong)/ The Advocacy Project (Ritu Guha)/ Age UK (Larissa Howells)	1. There will be a better understanding of the safeguarding issues affecting residents in the City and Hackney. 2. There will be increased engagement with the Board's work.	
3. To continue to embed engagement with people with lived experience and ensure that they can influence all aspects of the Board's work.	3.1 The Advocacy Project will deliver the Lived Experience of Safeguarding Service, obtaining feedback on people's experiences of safeguarding. As part of this, the organisation will be required to provide quarterly feedback on the delivery of the service.	The Advocacy Project (Ritu Guha)	1. The Board will be able to identify how to improve adult safeguarding services for residents 2. The Board will be able to ensure that safeguarding services are person centred.	

Principle 2: Empowerment...				
Priority	Action	Lead	Intended Impact	Update
	3.2 The Board Manager will work with corporate communications teams to set up a system of yearly consultation to ensure that residents in the City and Hackney are given the opportunity to influence the work of the Board.	CHSAB Manager (Shohel Ahmed)/ London Borough of Hackney corporate teams/ City of London Corporation	1. The Board's annual strategic plan will reflect the needs and concerns of residents within the City and Hackney.	

Principle 3: Prevention - “I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs and what I can do to seek help.”				
Priority	Action	Lead	Intended Impact	Update
4. To identify and respond to the needs of people who are at the ‘edge of care’ and may not have safeguarding needs that meet the criteria for section 42(2) safeguarding.	4.1 To audit concerns that do not reach the criteria for a s42(2) Enquiry under the Care Act 2014 to identify whether there are any particular groups that are ‘at the edge of care’ to be a focus for preventative support.	Quality Assurance Subgroup, London Borough Hackney Adult Social Care (Godfred Boahen) / City of London Corporation Adult Social Care (Ian Tweedie)	1. The Board will better understand which groups require support in terms of prevention 2. The Board will be able to identify key priorities for future years.	
	4.2 To develop a pathway for people who may have safeguarding needs but are not eligible for support under s42(2) of the Care Act 2014 so that frontline staff know how to support this cohort.	Quality Assurance sub-group	1. There is more equitable access to safeguarding services for all residents 2. Professionals will have a better understanding of how to apply legislation around the Care Act 2014, therefore leading to greater compliance with statutory duties.	

Principle 4: Partnership - “I know that staff treat any personal and sensitive information in confidence, only sharing what is helpful and necessary. I am confident that professionals will work together and with me to get the best result for me.”

Priority	Action	Lead	Intended Impact	Update
5. To work collaboratively with agencies and partnerships across the City and Hackney to respond to the safeguarding needs of residents.	5.1 The Board will work with the London Borough of Hackney and the City of London to ensure that safeguarding issues arising from the economic crisis are identified and addressed.	Executive Group / Poverty Reduction Strategy Leads	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safeguarding influences the Poverty Reduction Strategy 2. The Board is aware of arising issues relating to the economic crisis and puts tools in place to mitigate this risk. 	
	5.2 The Board will seek assurance on the impact of out of borough placements on the wider supported housing pathways.	CHSAB Manager (Shohel Ahmed) / Executive Group	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Board has better oversight on out of borough placements and is assured that there are effective protocols in place. 	
	5.3 To develop a multi agency dashboard that has a clear focus on outcomes and helps identify emerging safeguarding risks and trends.	Quality Assurance subgroup	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Board is better able to respond to emerging risks and trends within the community. 	
	5.4 The Independent Chair will review partners contributions to the Board and will identify how key roles (e.g. chairing task and finish and sub-groups) can be evenly distributed amongst partners.	Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board (Dr Adi Cooper)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The work of the Board is evenly distributed across Board partners and strategic priorities meet the needs of all partners. 	

Principle 5: Protection - “I get help and support to report abuse and neglect. I get help so that I am able to take part in the safeguarding process to the extent to which I want.”				
Priority	Action	Lead	Intended Impact	Update
6. To support frontline professionals to respond to complex issues relating to self-neglect.	6.1 The Board Manager will promote the Board's resources available to support staff to respond to cases involving self-neglect.	CHSAB Manager (Shohel Ahmed)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Professionals are given the tools to ensure that they can effectively support residents experiencing self-neglect 2. There will be improved outcomes for people experiencing self-neglect. 	
	6.2 A working group of Board partners will develop a toolkit to support staff to respond to self-neglect and mental capacity issues. This toolkit will bring together existing tools as well as new tools such as good practice case studies.	Adult Social Care London Borough of Hackney & the City of London Corporation (Ian Tweedie) (Shohel Ahmed)/ East London Foundation Trust / Turning Point / North East London CCG / London Fire Brigade	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There will be better outcomes for people who self-neglect 2. Self-neglect is detected and disrupted at an earlier stage. 	

Principle 5: Protection...					
Priority	Action	Lead	Intended Impact	Update	
7. To deliver and implement recommendations that arise in relation to both local, regional and national Safeguarding Adults Reviews.	7.1 A roundtable review will be undertaken into fire deaths that have occurred in the London Borough of Hackney and the City of London to assess how future fire deaths can be prevented.	SAR sub-group	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There will be assurances that professionals understand fire safety risk and how to manage this effectively 2. There will be a reduction in fire related deaths in Hackney and the City of London. 		
	7.2 The board will aim to embed learning from SARs more effectively through learning events and 7 minute briefings.	SAR sub group	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agencies and professionals will be able demonstrate learning from SARs and improve safeguarding practice as a result. 		

Principle 6: Accountability - “I understand the role of everyone involved in my life and so do they.”					
Priority	Action	Lead	Intended Impact	Update	
8. To ensure that all agencies across the City and Hackney deliver their core duties in relation to safeguarding.	8.1 The Board to undertake a Making Safeguarding Personal temperature check with all partners.	Quality Assurance sub-group	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MSP has been embedded into practice properly 2. The Board can identify areas where MSP needs to be strengthened. 		
	8.2 Partners will report on preparation for the forthcoming Care Quality Commission assurance regime (London Borough of Hackney and City Adult Social Care, NEL ICB) as well as the Housing inspection.	London Borough of Hackney Adult Social Care (Godfred Boahen)/City of London Corporation (Ian Tweedie) NEL ICB	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Board will have assurance regarding delivery of adult safeguarding responsibilities. 		

Case Study 10:

City of London Police

Helen was a patient of the Dartmouth Park Mental Health Unit, diagnosed with an emotionally unstable personality disorder and Bi-polar. She had become disenfranchised with her crisis care team and would often refuse to engage with the team. Whilst in crisis, Helen would usually seek to end her life at various locations, with any intervention resulting in an aggressive response. Helen would repeatedly be sectioned and taken to the Homerton Mental Health suite, where she would be placed under section or discharged very quickly. The stress Helen would suffer during these incidents would usually exacerbate her mental state. The City of London Police worked with Helen and discussed what was causing her moments of crisis and what could be done. Since engaging with Helen on a one to one basis, her attendance at risky locations in London has stopped completely.



“I'm still learning to love myself.”

Accessibility statement

If you require this document in a different format, please email



CHSAB@hackney.gov.uk

We will consider your request and get back to you in the next five working days.

City & Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board

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Committee:	Dated:
Safeguarding Sub-Committee	23/11/2023
Subject: Adult Social Care Safeguarding Performance Report Q2 2023/24	Public Appendix 1 (Non-public)
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2 and 3
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Judith Finlay, Executive Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Report author: Ellie Ward, Head of Strategy and Performance	

Summary

This report updates Members on safeguarding performance across the Adult Social Care Service during the first six months of 2023/24.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The Adult Social Care Service at the City of London Corporation provides a range of services, including safeguarding.
2. The service collects and monitors a range of performance information to ensure that statutory duties are being met, and that services are delivering the best possible outcomes for people.
3. Appendix 1 presents the safeguarding performance dashboard for 2023/24. It provides a range of detailed information in different areas of safeguarding.

Current Position

4. Overall, performance across the service is good, meeting a range of statutory requirements and local targets.
5. It should be noted that, due to small numbers in cohorts in the City of London Corporation, there can sometimes be significant variance in out-turns. These are noted where this is an issue.
6. Appendix 1 includes a summary and some of the headlines from the data.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

7. Strategic Implications – The Adult Social Care Service provides a range of statutory services and also a range of early intervention and prevention services. These all contribute to meeting outcomes 1, 2 and 3 of the Corporate Plan.
8. Financial implications – N/A
9. Resource implications – N/A
10. Legal implications – N/A
11. Risk implications – N/A
12. Equalities implications – Monitoring intelligence on all of our social care processes and associated demographics allows us to assess and then investigate if there are any unintended impacts of any processes or practices.
13. Climate implications – N/A
14. Security implications – N/A

Conclusion

15. This report provides a summary of performance data from the Adult Social Care Service in relation to safeguarding for 2022/23, comparing it to performance from the previous quarter or year, and other benchmarks, where appropriate.
16. It demonstrates strong performance across this area of the service.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Adult Social Care Safeguarding Performance Dashboard Q2 2023/24 (Non-public)

Ellie Ward

Head of Strategy and Performance
Department of Community and Children's Services

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Agenda Item 7

Committee:	Dated:
Safeguarding Sub-Committee	23/11/2023
Subject: Virtual School Headteacher Annual Report for Academic Year 2022/2023	COVER REPORT: PUBLIC APPENDIX: NON-PUBLIC
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	Contribute to a flourishing society People enjoy good health and well-being. People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential. Support a thriving economy We have access to the skills and talents we need.
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Judith Finlay Executive Director of Community and Children's Services	For Discussion
Report author: Debby Rigby Headteacher of Virtual School for Children with a Social Worker	

Summary

This report provides Members with information about the role of The City of London Virtual School for Children with a Social Worker. The report covers the period September 2022 to August 2023 and presents an overview of the activities and impact of The City of London Virtual School for the academic year 2022/2023.

The report covers governance and organisation, cohort characteristics, attainment and progress, attendance, suspensions and exclusions, personal education plans, budgets and pupil premium and it presents some of the highlights of the year.

The report celebrates some of the outstanding achievements of this year's pupils and partner organisations. The last section provides information on the priorities for this academic year 2023/2024.

Highlights 2022/2023

- The City of London Virtual School continued to maintain the high standards of previous years.
- Learners were well supported, and the majority made good progress against prior attainment.
- There were some examples of outstanding endeavour and exceptional educational progress.
- Overall engagement with education was very good.
- Attendance of children in care Reception to Year 11 was 96%.
- No children in care, aged 0-18 years, were excluded from school.
- The impact of enrichment projects was excellent and measured by Impact Ed.
- Work with The Aldgate School, to increase engagement in learning, following the pandemic, was very successful, increasing the annual attendance of over 50% of the children with a social worker or who have had a social worker in the past six years, known as Ever 6.
- All Personal Education Plans were quality assured as good or outstanding.
- All children in care, aged 3 -18 years, attended good or outstanding schools and colleges.
- Excellent partnership work across London, culminated in a Shining Stars Celebration, that recognised the work of Virtual Schools, and rewarded the exceptional achievements of care experienced young people across London.
- English courses are now available on arrival, for unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people. Courses are based at The Guildhall and are held in partnership with the Adult Education Service.
- The Virtual Headteacher attended 100% of Personal Education Meetings known as PEPs.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report, attached as Appendix 1.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Virtual School Headteacher Annual Report for Academic Year 2022/2023

Debby Rigby

Headteacher of Virtual School for Children with a Social Worker

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Committee(s): Safeguarding Sub-Committee	Dated: 23/11/2023
Subject: Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO), Annual Report for 2022–2023	Public Appendix: Non-public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1,2,3,4
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	£ N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of: Judith Finlay, Executive Director of Community and Children’s Services	For Discussion
Report author: Ria Lane, Independent Reviewing Officer, Safeguarding team	

City’s Corporate Plan

Contribute to a flourishing society

1. *People are safe and feel safe.*
2. *People enjoy good health and wellbeing.*
3. *People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential.*
4. *Communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need.*

Support a thriving economy

5. *Businesses are trusted and socially and environmentally responsible.*
6. *We have the world’s best legal and regulatory framework and access to global markets.*
7. *We are a global hub for innovation in finance and professional services, commerce and culture.*
8. *We have access to the skills and talent we need.*

Shape outstanding environments

9. *We are digitally and physically well-connected and responsive.*
10. *We inspire enterprise, excellence, creativity and collaboration.*
11. *We have clean air, land and water and a thriving and sustainable natural environment.*
12. *Our spaces are secure, resilient and well-maintained*

Summary

This report gives Members an overview of the Independent Reviewing service in the City of London covered in the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Annual Report for 2022–2023. It summarises the statutory requirements of the IRO service and how the City of London has performed in this regard. There is an overview of the IRO role and their performance in ensuring that children’s key needs are met. Strengths of last year’s practice and areas of development for 2023–2024 are identified.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The IRO service is set within the framework of the updated IRO Handbook, linked to the revised Care Planning Regulations and Guidance that were introduced in April 2011. The responsibility of the IRO has changed from the management of the review process to a wider overview of the case, including regular monitoring and follow-up between reviews. The IRO has a key role in relation to the improvement of care planning for children in care and for challenging milestone drift and delay. Specifically, the statutory duties of the IRO are to:
 - monitor the performance by the local authority of their functions in relation to the child's case
 - participate in any review of the child's case
 - ensure that any ascertained wishes and feelings of the child concerning the case are given due consideration by the authority.
2. The IRO's primary task is to ensure that the care plan for the child fully reflects the child's current needs, and that the actions set out in the plan are consistent with the local authority's legal responsibilities towards the child. As corporate parents, each local authority should act as a responsible and conscientious parent for the children they look after.

Current Position

3. A permanent IRO has been in post since September 2017.

The achievements identified within the annual report for 2022–2023 are:

- Consistent participation of children in their review meetings
 - Consistent IRO visits and communication with children
 - Active monitoring of children's care plans and needs between review periods to help prevent actions stalling so that the looked-after children cohort continue to have their needs met and feel supported
 - Embedding the use of the independent skills checklist. This has been a key area of focus for the IRO service and is prioritised when reviewing their pathway plan. This helps to identify any gaps in young people's skills and helps them to be more prepared when they start to live independently
 - Review minutes, contacts and alerts recorded on children's files within the online record system workflow
 - Implementation of new pathway and care plan process, leading to an increase in plans being completed in the required timescale.
4. In addition to direct work with children and the local authority, the IRO takes part in the London IRO Practitioner Network and serves as a practitioner representative to the London IRO Managers' Group. Engagement in these pan-

London groups facilitate the IRO's access to information and the experience of colleagues from larger authorities. It also ensures that the experience and needs of the City's children in care are represented in forums that have the potential to influence the direction of practice and statutory guidance about the services and support they receive.

5. The IRO service has been alerted to safeguarding issues for children in care and aims to build safety and stability according to the needs of each child. The service will continue to monitor care plans closely to include actions that address the known risks of all forms of exploitation.

Options

6. IRO service to review recommendations from report and plan work required for continued service improvement. No cost commitments required.

Proposals

7. The IRO identifies the following areas of improvement, and an action plan has been put in place to address them.

Objective	Actions
Modify the care plan template to ensure that it is reflective of all looked-after children and their needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The care plan template now needs to be amended to reflect the needs of children in care more fully
Continue to develop the looked-after child review process to make it inclusive for children, and ensure that anti-racism policies are embedded within the service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review systemic model and how this can be developed in the looked-after child review process Ensure that all looked-after children are aware of their rights and that service providers operate a consistent anti-racist policy
Continue to monitor and flag health assessment timescales, so that children's health needs are assessed in a timely way and intervention is taken to improve health outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly meetings to be held with health managers to ensure that looked-after children's health assessments are being completed according to set timescales
Consideration for new ways to communicate and share information with children as part of their review process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of documents in teams Sharing photos of children's achievements in looked-after child reviews Consider how to use the Children in Care Council (CiCC) webpage that is being developed to share information

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of a portable projector in face-to-face meetings to aid discussions
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Key Data

8. 11 children looked after on 1st April 2022 which is a 45% decrease from 1st April 2021 (which had a total of 20 children)

9 children looked after on 31st March 2023 which is an 18% decrease from previous reporting year (previous figure was 11).

21 Looked After children throughout the reporting year which represents a decrease of 30% (previous year there were 30 children looked after throughout the reporting year).

Corporate & Strategic

9. There are no strategic implications directly related to this report.

- Financial implications – N/A
- Resource implications – N/A
- Legal implications – N/A
- Risk implications – N/A
- Equalities implications – N/A
- Climate implications – N/A
- Security implications – N/A

Conclusion

10. The IRO service has made significant contributions to quality assuring and improving services for children in care throughout 2022–2023. The monitoring and challenge functions of the role have been strengthened, and the IRO's knowledge of and relationship with the children in care is a positive feature of the service. The planned focus for 2022–2023 was implementing the new format of the pathway plans, and this has been achieved.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – City of London Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report 2022–2023

Ria Lane

Independent Reviewing Officer, Safeguarding team

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Committee: Safeguarding Sub-Committee	Dated: 23/11/2023
Subject: City of London Children's Social Care and Early Help, Action for Children, Annual Survey 2022–23	Public Appendix – Non-public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	Outcomes 1–4
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N/A
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Judith Finlay, Executive Director of Community and Children's Services	For Discussion
Report author: Laura Demetriades, Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, Department of Community and Children's Services	

Summary

For the past eight years an independent agency, Action for Children, has been commissioned to complete an Annual Feedback Survey. This involves individually contacting all children, parents and carers, looked-after children and care leavers, who have received services from Children's Social Care and Early Help. A tailored survey of questions is given to each person, dependant on the type of service they have accessed. This enables the service to receive anonymous feedback, which is independently collated and analysed, to demonstrate service performance, direct service user experiences, and inform service development. This exercise was undertaken in July 2023, and the attached report shows the responses and feedback received.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. Receiving honest, independent, and constructive feedback is of fundamental benefit to ensuring that services can adapt, improve, and respond to the ever-changing needs of our children, parents and carers, children in care and care leavers. Those who use our services are able to, (and regularly do), provide feedback directly to workers, managers, the Independent Reviewing Officer, and

others. Providing an independent, anonymous space to reflect on more broad experiences across the year, provides a rich repository of information from which to triangulate the current performance of our services, where things are working well and need to be maintained, and the areas where improvements and developments can be made.

2. The exercise ensures that an impartial view of service user experience is collated, and demonstrates to children, parents and carers, children in care and care leavers that their experiences matter, and that services can and will adapt in response to their feedback.

Current Position

3. Feedback in general remains positive: there are clear strengths identified by our service users, particularly in Early Help and Children in Need, where overall satisfaction of families increased to 66% from 53% last year; and 100% of these families feel included in the development of their Child in Need Plan and its review, and believe that this has been explained to them adequately.
4. The strength of relationships for children in care is notable: 100% of children in care spoken to feel able and comfortable in contacting their social workers. Children in care also unanimously feel safe where they are living, and happy with the support they receive from a range of professionals, including the Independent Reviewing Officer, participation worker and Virtual School.
5. The largest cohort of survey participants are care leavers: 91% feel 'comfortable and easy' to contact their worker, 83% feel that they see their worker at an appropriate frequency; 81% of care leavers are happy with where they live; and 75% feel that the education they access is good or very good, which is an increase from 59% last year.
6. There are some common themes of concern in relation to accommodation issues, such as: lack of space; awaiting permanent accommodation; location of available accommodation options; and social isolation due to this. Moving through services, and workers leaving, are also areas that some respondents find difficult, particularly those who have been involved with services for many years. There is also feedback around lack of clarity in relation to some processes and how services worked together, specifically in relation to children with Special Educational Needs and the Education, Health and Care Plan process.
7. Some respondents who have taken part in the survey over a period of years queried what has been done with their feedback. Therefore, the process for those who participate in the survey, and actions taken in relation to their feedback and suggestions, needs to be made clearer.

Options

8. It is proposed that a feedback process is initiated in the form of a 'You Said, We Did' response to this year's survey, which can be circulated in written format and also via an online template.

9. Given that this survey has been completed for several years, it is proposed that a more longitudinal review is also completed. This would assess the impact on service delivery over time, and ascertain how this has changed the experiences and feedback of those working with Children's Social Care and Early Help.

Proposals

10. It is proposed that the above points are completed by the Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, who commissions this activity, with support from internal colleagues as required. Therefore, there are no additional costs associated with these pieces of work, as they will be absorbed by the day-to-day operational costs of the service.

Key Data

11. N/A

Corporate & Strategic Implications

12. There are no strategic implications directly related to this report.

- Strategic implications – N/A
- Financial implications – N/A
- Resource implications – N/A
- Legal implications – N/A
- Risk implications – N/A
- Equalities implications – N/A
- Climate implications – N/A
- Security implications – N/A

Conclusion

13. The needs of children, parents and carers, children in care, and care leavers is constantly evolving and changing, dependent on individual needs, societal expectations, and local and national pressures. Ensuring that the services we deliver are flexible, accessible, timely and targeted, is key to children and families getting the right support at the right time. Unconstrained feedback from service users is instrumental in measuring and understanding our performance, and making sure that we make the right changes and adaptations to deliver outstanding services to all. Continuous feedback between our service users and ourselves, demonstrates the City of London's commitment to being a learning organisation, centred around those who use our services.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – City of London Children’s Social Care and Early Help, Action for Children, Annual Survey 2022–23

Laura Demetriades

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Committee: Safeguarding Sub Committee DCCS: Grand committee	Dated: 23/11/2023 13/12/2023
Subject: Care Leaver Compact	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	3, 10
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Judith Finlay, Executive Director of Community and Children's Services	For Discussion
Report authors: Rachel Talmage, Head of Children's Social Care and Early Help, People Department, Department of Community and Children's Services	

Summary

The Pan London Care Leavers Compact provides a framework for developing consistency, breadth and quality in the support offered to City of London (CoL) care leavers. The Compact was established in early 2022 to deliver a consistent and high-quality offer for care leavers across the capital (Appendix 1). A report was taken to the Safeguarding Sub-Committee in May 2023, to set out progress against the Compact.

This paper responds to the London Innovation and Improvement Alliance (LIIA) Pan London Care Leavers Compact Local Authority Commitments report sent to local authorities in October 2023, which seeks corporate sign-up to six commitments set out in the Compact (Appendix 2).

This report to Members shows CoL's progress in these six areas. A draft Care Leaver Offer, which care leavers are currently being consulted on, shows our ambition to have a world-class offer for our children. This final version will be shared with Members following the completion and sign-off from our young people.

Recommendation

Safeguarding Sub-Committee Members are asked to:

- Note the progress made on the six commitments that all London local authorities have been invited to sign up to
- Approve recommending that the Community and Children's Services Committee sign up to the six commitments set out in the Compact

Main Report

Background

1. It is a duty under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 that England's local authorities must publish information about the services offered for care leavers. Each London local authority therefore has a care leaver offer, but these are individual to each area and do not provide a consistent and shared offer for our care leavers. Care leavers do not always live in the local authority responsible for them, which poses further challenges with the variation in offers. It is also important that the offer to care leavers reaches beyond services provided by local authorities. Partners such as health, education and transport have important roles to play, as do the private and voluntary sectors.
2. The Pan London Care Leavers Compact provides a framework for developing consistency, breadth and quality in the support offered to London's care leavers. The Compact was established in early 2022 to deliver a consistent and high-quality offer for care leavers across the capital.
3. City of London Corporation Members have always demonstrated a commitment to supporting our care leaver population. Following a focused visit of our care leaving services in November 2018, Ofsted noted that:

“Care leavers in the City of London benefit from a strong service that ensures that they are very well supported. They receive effective help which enables most to achieve good outcomes. There is a determined and appropriately ambitious political and corporate focus to sustain and improve outcomes for care leavers.”
4. Furthermore, in 2020, during the full Inspection of Children's Social Care Services, Ofsted judged the experience and progress of children in care and care leavers to be “Outstanding” noting the following:
 - Children in care and care leavers are extremely well supported.
 - Commitment to ensuring that needs are met is demonstrated by senior leaders, councillors, health partners and children's social workers, resulting in an extremely good level of service.
 - Extremely strong involvement and interest from council members.
 - Particular sensitivity shown regarding cultural diversity.
 - Strong use of advocacy and independent visiting.
 - Good housing offer, with support and moving only when ready.
5. In 2023, Ofsted introduced a separate judgement on care leavers, in recognition of the unique set of presenting needs of this cohort of young people.
6. The Care Leaver Offer has been updated after listening to the views of our care leavers, the people who work with them, from national research,

and from reviewing other offers from local authorities that are also graded as 'outstanding'. The draft is currently subject to final consultation with our young people .

Current Position

7. The LIIA wrote to London Directors of Children's Services on 10 October 2023 to ask for formal commitment to the Care Leavers Compact and its six commitments, to be approved by 31 December 2023. It is anticipated that there will be a formal launch of the agreed Compact in early 2024.
8. London local authorities are asked to sign up to the following six commitments:
 - 1) *London Local Authorities offer a full council tax exemption for their Care Leavers (18-25) that live within the borough.*
 - 2) *London Local Authorities adopt the principle that no Care Leaver (18-25) should be found intentionally homeless.*
 - 3) *London Local Authorities adopt the principle that their Care Leavers up to the age of 25 are to be found as being in 'priority need' under homelessness legislation.*
 - 4) *London Local Authorities offer a rent deposit scheme for their Care Leavers (18-25) for whom private rented accommodation is assessed as a suitable option.*
 - 5) *London Local Authorities have a joint protocol between Housing and Children's Services for Care Leavers in line with good practice advice.*
 - 6) *London Local Authorities become signatories to the Care Leavers Covenant.*

The following paragraphs update Members on how the CoL is demonstrating its dedication to these six commitments:

9. Commitment 1: Council tax scheme for care leavers
 - a. We have a council tax scheme for care leavers.
 - b. Care leavers aged up to 25 who reside in the City are exempt at source; no care leaver supported by the CoL has to pay council tax up to age 25 years; and the corporation does not bill these young people.
 - c. We ensure that care leavers aged up to 25 who reside outside the City who are eligible to pay council tax have applied for any discounts from their local council; their council tax is paid direct from the corporation to their local authority.

- d. At present we do not offer council tax exemption at source for care leavers supported by other local authorities who live in the City. We are currently unaware of any care leavers residing within the CoL boundary. Any amendment to this offer would likely have minimal impact on the budget.
 - e. This report seeks formal approval to extend our offer to any care leaver residing in the City.
10. Commitment 2: Housing policy exempting care leavers from becoming intentionally homeless
- a. Our housing policy ensures that care leavers are offered accommodation or are supported to access private renting, and are not ever in a position to be found intentionally homeless.
 - b. No care leaver supported by the City has ever been found intentionally homeless.
 - c. Legal advice has confirmed that we are not able to use the language 'exempt our young people from being found intentionally homeless' under housing legislation. However, we are able to commit to ensuring that no care leaver under the age of 25 will be homeless, and that an alternative home will be provided if required. The commitment to no care leaver being homeless is therefore present.
11. Commitment 3: All care leavers up to the age of 25 are to be found as being in 'priority need' under homelessness legislation
- a. Our care leavers are at the top band (band f) for bidding for CoL accommodation.
12. Commitment 4: London local authorities offer a rent deposit scheme for their care leavers (aged 18–25 years) for whom private rented accommodation is assessed as a suitable option
- a. We have a rent deposit scheme for care leavers aged 18–25 years for whom private rented accommodation is assessed as a suitable option.
- Two care leavers took up this option in 2022–23, as they did not want to take up permanent accommodation within the CoL estates.
13. Commitment 5: A joint protocol between Housing and Children's Services for care leavers
- a. There is a joint protocol between our two services, and the services sit in the same department. This protocol is in line with good practice advice, including tenancy support and banding. The protocol will be revised again in 2023–24, as set out in the Children's Social Care Service Development Plan.

- b. The Housing lead sits on the Child in Care and Care Leavers Strategic Development Group, and regular Housing and Social Care meetings are held.
- c. The Housing department has created a video for care leavers about realistic expectations of their new studio flats. The Housing team ensure that every care leaver has an allocated tenancy support officer. No care leaver has ever been evicted from their home.
- d. A programme of preparation for independent living (including housing and expectations) is in place for 2024 to support the 121 social work and 121 keywork sessions.
- e. As young people move into their permanent homes, Children's Social Care will fund extra keywork support for their first six months of tenancy.

14. Commitment 6: Signatory to the Care Leaver Covenant in terms of its role as a large employer

- a. The City of London Corporation is signed up to the Covenant, which is separate to, but connected with the Compact.¹
- b. The Covenant is a national improvement programme, following governmental commitment to care leavers. It aims to ensure that young adults leaving care:
 - are better prepared to live independently
 - have improved access to employment, education and training
 - experience stability in their lives
 - feel safe and secure
 - have improved access to health support
 - achieve financial stability.
- c. Examples of CoL's approach to ensure these aims include:
 - Exploring ring-fenced opportunities for care leavers within the local authority. Our ambition is to offer a world-class service to our care leavers. The next phase of our work is looking at how care leavers can be included in the 'family firm', with the Corporation prioritising these – our children, in respect of work and work readiness.

¹ [Home - Care Leaver Covenant \(mycovenant.org.uk\)](https://mycovenant.org.uk)

- Our ambition is to ensure that all children and young people are in employment or education. For example, we will invite those who are unable to work or study full time into the Guildhall or other CoL spaces to offer routine, higher-level exposure to work, with real learning opportunities such as apprenticeships. This is a joint project between Children's Social Care, Participation, the Virtual School and Adult Education.
- The apprenticeship offers are circulated to social workers and young people.
- The first collaborative offer between Adult Education and the Virtual School took place in summer 2023, with intensive English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision to strengthen one of the biggest barriers to work – confidence through clear spoken English.
- In October 2023, the Virtual School held an Oracy Day to improve spoken English and confidence. This was a joint project with the City of London Freeman's School.
- A social value contracting approach that benefits care leavers (whether around education, training or employment or other areas).
- The City of London Corporation uses a social value approach, and this work was taken forward between central strategy, the Head of Social Care and Early Help and Education and Early Years in 2022. One example was the collaboration with Procurement and IT colleagues to distribute laptops to our children in care and care leavers.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Corporate plan

15. Work supporting care leavers sits within a commitment to a flourishing society, ensuring equality of opportunity. We would like to see equal outcomes for our young people: being able to access well-paying jobs and receive a good quality education. Our ambition for care leavers is equivalent to our hopes for our own children.

Financial implications

16. Costs to meet these commitments are managed within local budgets. Some features of the Compact include central support and funding, for example, Transport for London are covering 50% of the costs for care leavers for annual bus passes from April 2024.

Resource implications

17. Resource needs are met within the Department's resource base. Wider corporate engagement, for example, the procuring of laptops, will see wider commitment and distribution of resources to support our ambitions.

Legal implications – none

Risk implications

18. Providing a full, creative, enrichment programme and ensuring that young people are provided with opportunity and courses that will stretch them offers an antidote to boredom and the risk of unhealthy behaviours on an individual basis. The CoL will be subject to an Ofsted inspection in this area. There is a risk that, should the impact of the offer not continue to innovate and grow, then the CoL would suffer reputational risk.

Equalities implications

19. As part of the Care Leaver Compact, several London and national local authorities have adopted care leaver status as a protected characteristic. The LIA Report on Local Authority Commitments notes the following:

Care Leavers and those who support them have advocated for some time that care experience should be recognised as a 'protected characteristic'. This gained further traction through the Independent Review of Children's Social Care. The Review discusses the stigma and discrimination that people experience as a result of being in care or care experienced and argues that it is similar in nature to other groups that have a legally protected characteristic under the Equality Act (2021). It recommends that care experience should be made a protected characteristic to give employers, public services etc greater authority to put in place programmes to promote better outcomes for care experienced people.

Despite the Review's position, Stable Homes Build on Love does not follow through with a related proposal. Various Local Authorities have therefore decided to adopt this position themselves, with Lambeth, Waltham Forest, Merton, Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham and Sutton passing resolutions in short succession this year. The implications of such a position are still to be fully understood; whilst the position is not binding in law, it will likely make a difference to the development of new council policy (through EDI [Equality, Diversity & Inclusion] assessments) and of whole council approaches to support Care Leavers.

As this is such a recent area of development, around which we are still learning, we are not making a recommendation, but flagging it as a topic that features strongly in many LA's thinking about their care leaver support.

20. Legal advice is being sought to support CoL to adopt this position. A future report will be submitted to the Safeguarding Sub-Committee and the Community and Children's Services Committee.

Climate implications – none

Security implications – none

Conclusion

21. The Care Leaver Compact sets out a comprehensive ambitious offer for all CoL local authorities to sign up to. The CoL is well positioned in this regard, having adopted most of the provisions already and already working towards recognising care leavers as a protected characteristic. The ambition is to be a world-class service to care leavers. Signing up to the Compact formally strengthens our offer across each of the Compact's six commitment areas.

Appendices

- **Appendix 1:** Pan London Care Leavers Compact
- **Appendix 2:** Pan London Care Leavers Compact Local Authority Commitments Report

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The Pan London Care Leavers Compact





"It is important for care leavers to be involved in decision making and policy changing such as the compact because they are the ones who have first-hand experience of the challenges and difficulties faced by young people who have grown up in the care system. They are the voices with the lived experience who need to be heard. The Compact offers a space where we can work together and make this happen."

Pan London Children
in Care Council

Introduction

The Pan London Care Leavers Compact provides a framework for developing consistency, breadth and quality in the support offered to London's Care Leavers. The project is sponsored by Lambeth and the London Innovation and Improvement Alliance (LIIA), working to the Association of London Directors of Children's Services (ALDCS). It has secured £110,000 of Department of Education funding to support delivery. Key delivery partners include the London Children in Care Council, Partnership for Young London, and the GLA.

Care leavers are young people who have previously been children in the care of their Local Authority. Children come into local authority care for a variety of reasons but will often have experienced significant trauma, the breakdown of family relationships and a range of challenges and disadvantages. They are entitled to the nurture, support, and opportunities that parents provide for their children as they transition to adulthood.

Together, as corporate parents, partners, and society, we have a duty to ensure that children who have not been able to live with their parents receive this.

Whilst most care leavers are adults, understandings around the extended nature of adolescence have deepened. In particular, young adulthood is increasingly recognised as a critical developmental stage of life. This is reflected in the 2017 Children and Social Work Act which extends the support duty of local authorities towards those care leavers who request it until the age of 25 (previously until age 21). This project reflects that change by recognising care leavers as 18–25-year-olds who have been in the care of a local authority. There are an estimated 16,000 London Care Leavers fitting this definition.

Why is a Pan London Care Leavers Compact needed?

"The disadvantage faced by our care experienced community should be the civil rights issue of our time. Children in care are powerless, they are often invisible to society and face some of the greatest inequalities that exist in England today ...

... the 'corporate parenting' responsibility that applies to local authorities needs to be extended to all public bodies for children in care and care experienced adults, to reflect the shared responsibility they have to these children and adults."

(Independent Review of Children's Social Care, 2022, pg. 144/145)

The 2022 Care Review is not alone in making this case. It is mirrored by the comments of London's Children in Care Council, those who work with care leavers, and multiple national research bodies. The need for a regional approach to care leaver support was raised in the 2020 Children's Society report: [Towards a Pan London Offer](#), which highlights care leavers' confusion about the support that is available to them, as well as inequalities according to where they live and where they were in care.

It is a duty under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 that England Local Authorities publish information about the services offered for care leavers. Each London borough therefore has a care leaver offer, but these are individual to each authority and do not provide a consistent and shared offer. Care leavers do not always live in the borough responsible for them which further complicates understanding of their entitlements and the practical means of accessing them. Reaching reciprocal agreements is extremely challenging, which means that few Boroughs will offer support to each other's care leavers. Movement is a particular challenge in London, where the existence of 33 Local Authorities with complex population, housing, and funding

dynamics mean that care leavers often live outside of their responsible borough and/or move frequently. Across London in 2020, 53% of children in care were placed outside of their local authority (DfE 2020), a proportion that is likely to be similar amongst young people who have left care.

In addition to issues of equity and accessibility, 'local offers' are currently heavily weighted towards the support provided by local authorities. The offer to care leavers should reach beyond services provided by local authorities, with partners such as health, education, transport, and the private and voluntary sector having vital roles to play. The Care Review recommends we adopt the term 'community parenting' rather than the currently used 'corporate parenting'. There are many intersecting public services, business and commissioning frameworks that could be utilised to build offers that span London boroughs. Working in this way will have the added benefit of developing new ways of working across leaving care services to strengthen our regional approach and establish a better infrastructure for collaboration.

What should a Pan-London Care Leavers Compact deliver?

The Compact is a series of individual agreements brought together under an umbrella. The agreements are not mutually dependent and are being delivered sequentially, as agreement is reached. The targets for agreement under the Compact are drawn from several areas, notably:

- ▶ Existing and emerging practice
- ▶ Co-Production with London's Children in Care Council and other care leaver participation networks
- ▶ Research and policy documents
- ▶ Data and Insight
- ▶ Partnership and Collaboration

Greater Manchester Care Leavers Guarantee

Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) launched its Care Leavers Guarantee in 2019, with five key priority areas for Care Leavers to:

- ▶ Be better prepared and supported to live independently
- ▶ Have improved access to education, employment, and training
- ▶ Experience stability in their lives and feel safe and secure
- ▶ Receive improved access to health support
- ▶ Achieve financial stability

The priorities have resulted in several pledges across the 10 GMCA authorities and their partners. These include full, reciprocal, council tax exemption, free bus passes, free prescriptions, and a range of commitments around care leaver housing and education. The London Compact will look to adopt several of the GMCA pledges and is grateful for their generosity in sharing approaches and learning.

London's Children in Care Council and other participation networks

The London Children in Care Council (CICC), supported by Partnership for Young London (PYL), have led and informed every stage of the Compact's development. The CICC met with ALDCS in January 2022, securing ALDCS support for the project and discussing key areas to cover. These are reflected in the thematic areas of the Compact. We would particularly like to recognise the roles of the PYL apprentices, all of whom are care-experienced and who have provided essential leadership and advocacy. <https://www.partnershipforyounglondon.org.uk/cicc>

The six thematic groups (Houses)

These groups, known as 'Houses', are described more fully below and bring together specialist stakeholders in a particular field to identify areas to target and ensure their delivery. They look to target

areas that will most benefit care leavers, whilst also being pragmatic about what can be achieved across London's boroughs and their partners. Each group is co-chaired by a young person from the Children in Care Council.

Research and Policy Documents

The Compact has drawn on research and policy documents to identify areas for a common approach across London. [The Children's Society Report, Towards a London-Wide Care Offer](#) is a key influence, flagging inconsistencies in current offers and reciprocity issues for care leavers outside their home boroughs. The Independent Review of Children's Social Care_ (May/June 2022) was published after work on a London Care Leavers Compact had started, however its recommendations are strikingly similar. Its five 'missions' are focused on loving relationships, jobs and education, health, and ending care leaver homelessness, all of which fit logically within the Compact's thematic groups. The clarity of recommendations such as ending 'intentional homelessness' assessments, publishing Integrated Care Board plans for improving health outcomes and setting targets for job creation, have helped generate focus and momentum. We are maintaining contact with the DfE Care Review Implementation team to ensure the Compact remains linked to wider Care Leaver policy and practice development.

The Compact is not the limit of ambition for care leavers and concentrates on resources and access to services, rather than more complex questions of what good and impactful practice looks like. Where practice themes emerge, these are fed into networks such as the London Local Authority Network for Care Leavers, and the Catch-22 Regional Benchmarking Forum.

London's current offer

It is important that the Compact builds on existing areas of consensus and strong practice. Several mapping exercises have been undertaken to understand London's current 'local offers' and identify similarities, differences, and the approaches that are having an impact. We have benefitted from others work in this regard, for example a 2020

scoping of council tax exemption by the Children's Society. A survey undertaken by the Compact Working Group in early 2022 across a range of measures included the below findings. These are based on 28 local authorities who responded out of 33 asked.

Category	Question	Yes	No
Housing	Do care leavers have some form of council tax exemption? <i>N.B. There is a variance in types of exemption across local authorities.</i>	28 or 100%	0 or 0%
	Can care leavers be assessed as intentionally homeless?	20 or 71%	8 or 29%
Mentoring	Do care leavers have rent deposit / guarantee support?	17 or 61%	11 or 39%
	Do care leavers have an additional mentoring offer?	16 or 57%	12 or 43%
Health	Do you have a dedicated mental health / wellbeing offer for care leavers?	20 or 71%	8 or 29%
	Do you offer free or discounted access to leisure centres?	22 or 79%	6 or 21%
ETE	Do you have an LA apprenticeship offer for care leavers?	17 or 61%	11 or 39%
	Do you have dedicated skills/pre-employment programmes for care leavers?	19 or 68%	9 or 32%

We are currently undertaking further surveys for a more detailed breakdown of housing, education, training and employment, and mental health offers across London.

"Through the Compact, we are tackling collaboration with various sectors such as: Education, training, employment, housing, transport, standardised financial offer and health. By getting young care experienced people involved we are promoting mental health, encouraging voices who are not often heard, and contributing equally amongst the diversity of care leavers across London."

Pan London Children in Care Council

How will the Pan-London Care Leavers Compact be delivered?

Securing support and agreement across multiple areas requires a strong and wide-reaching partnership. A Care Leavers Trust Board has been brought together to oversee the work and reflect the 'community parenting' ethos of the work. This has the following representation:

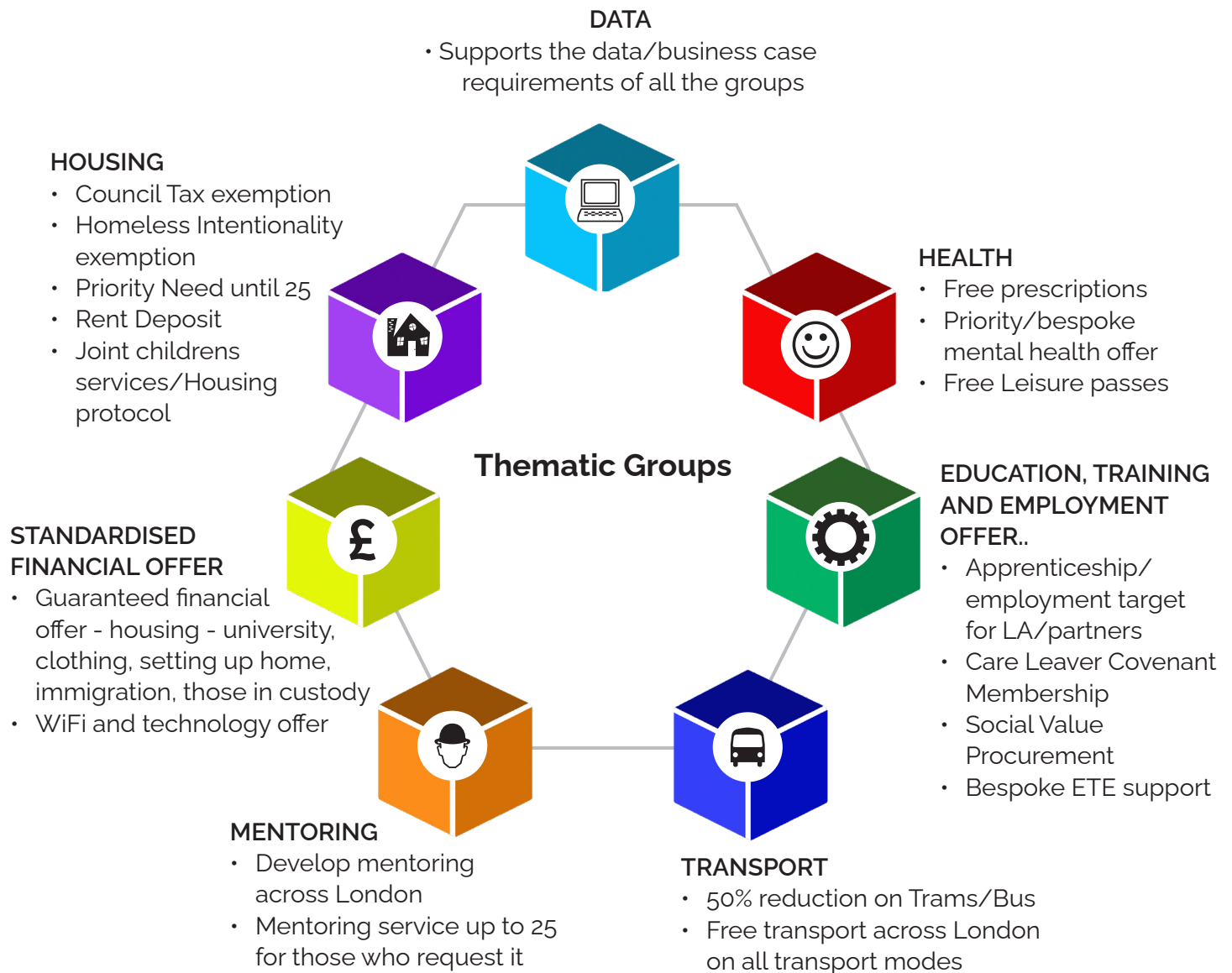
- ▶ A Director of Children's Services from each of London's Sub-Regions
- ▶ Young People from the London Children in Care Council
- ▶ Mark Riddell, the National Care Leaver Advisor
- ▶ Greater London Authority
- ▶ London Councils
- ▶ Care Leaver Covenant
- ▶ Catch-22 Regional Benchmarking Forum
- ▶ John Lewis
- ▶ NHS ICB Babies Children and Young People Lead

The Trust Board oversees the Compact Working Group, which consists of Lambeth, LiA, and Partnership for Young London (including the Children in Care Council). London's existing Local Authority Network for Care Leavers (LLANCL), which brings together care leaving representation from the local authorities, is the reference group for delivery. Political support for the agreements will be critical and both young people and officers working on the project will look for engagement, advice, and support from Members, Chief Officers, City Hall, and national government.

Delivery of the project is organised into six thematic stakeholder groups, known as 'Houses', which bring together specialists in specific areas. Each group works to first identify and then deliver the support offers that come together to form the Compact. Whilst many targets for delivery are agreed, in some areas the detail of targets is still under consultation.



The 'Houses' - thematic areas for a Common Offer



"The care leavers compact is like a guide for all Local authorities and other partners across London to ensure professionals share resources and develop their skills, building best practice across London."

Pan London Children in Care Council

How is the Compact progressing?

Each support offer is arrived at separately but will sit under the umbrella of a common offer to London's care leavers. The focus to date has been on the following areas.

Health

Free Prescriptions

Following advocacy by the Children in Care Council to the Regional Babies Children and Young People Transformation Board, London's Chief Nurse wrote to each of the ICS areas asking them to work with Local Authorities to implement a free prescriptions scheme for Care Leavers without an existing exemption. This will not only make access to essential medication affordable but have wider benefits in terms of prevention of more severe illness and supporting engagement with health services.

The South-West ICS area had already been working on a Free Prescription scheme and, along with the North-East ICS, are ready to launch their scheme before the end of 2022. London's other three ICS areas are all working on their schemes, which should follow promptly. An additional benefit has been bringing together the ICS areas for discussions on meeting care leaver needs.

Mental Health Provision

Almost without exception, care leavers will have experienced trauma and adverse childhood experiences. The impact on their mental health is significant; a 2017 report from Barnardo's, which mirrors earlier research, suggests that 46% of care leavers have been identified with a mental health concern, of which 65% were not receiving

a service. The Care Review stresses the need to meet care leaver mental health needs, including a recommendation for specialist, bespoke support to be delivered in partnership with Borough Leaving Care Services.

The Compact Working Group is currently mapping each local authorities' Mental Health Offer as a precursor to discussions on a London offer.

Education, Training and Employment

A series of successful events have been held with education providers and businesses to look at the offers to care leavers, pathways into provision, and how best to meet their support needs. These included a November 2022 workshop focused on the 'business offer' that was hosted by the West Ham United Foundation and John Lewis Partnership. The event was co-facilitated by the Children in Care Council and reached a broad range of businesses, one of whom made an immediate offer of 200 apprenticeships to London care leavers! The Compact will continue bringing together businesses, care leavers, and Personal Advisors to develop ETE offers and pathways. This also includes linking with statutory partners, for example the NHS England offer to develop 1,000 internship or early-stage career opportunities for care experienced young people over the next three years.

A survey is currently out to local authorities to map their 'family firm' offers to care leavers. This includes looking at apprenticeship, internship, and work experience offers across the Council, ETE support packages, and social value procurement policies. Local authorities are also being asked whether they are signatories to the Care Leavers Covenant, the DfE funded National Inclusion Programme. The Care Leavers Covenant does important work in supporting organisations across multiple sectors in their offers to care leavers, including tailored support to local authorities around developing Whole Council Approaches. 13 London Boroughs are currently signatories to the Whole Council Approach.

Housing

The Housing group has developed housing proposals that build on the work of Greater Manchester, the Care Review recommendations, and previous work undertaken by the Mayor of London and the Children's Society. Initial consultations have been undertaken with ALDCS and London's Housing Directors on the following proposals:

- ▶ Council Tax Exemption for Care Leavers
- ▶ Principles of avoiding 'intentional homelessness' assessments for Care Leavers and extending priority need to the age of 25
- ▶ Rent Deposit Schemes
- ▶ Joint housing protocols for Care Leavers between Housing and Children's Services in line with the Governmental best practice model

A survey is currently out to Local Authorities to map their positions against these proposals. Once the precise position is known, further engagement will take place with LA members and officers aiming to secure agreement.

Transport

The Mayor of London made a 2021 Manifesto commitment that Transport for London (TfL) would support London's care leavers with half-price travel. TfL have currently offered this on all bus and tram travel. This is a benefit that will be accessible to an estimated 16,000 18–25 year-old London care leavers. TfL are currently working with the London Datastore (GLA), the Compact Working Group and local authorities to devise an automated process for checking eligibility and administering the scheme. It is anticipated that the scheme will be available to care leavers by mid-2023.

Together for London's care leavers

A defining principle of the Pan London Care Leavers Compact is the 'community parenting' approach that brings partners together to deliver high quality and well-coordinated support offers. In a relatively short period, partners have come together across local authorities, Health, Education, Transport, Business, and Voluntary sectors to work on building these offers together in London. We anticipate that the number of stakeholders will continue to grow in 2023, offering the potential to move beyond the remit of the Compact and tackle the larger and more complex challenges facing care leavers.

We therefore use the final part of this briefing as a call to all parts of London to be a 'community parent'. Together, we will be better in the face of financial challenge and, through co-ordination of efforts, more than the sum of our parts. With London's Children in Care Council at the heart of delivery, all that we do will continually be tested against what is needed and what will work for the Care Leaving community. Together, we can ensure London's care leavers are not 'invisible to society', but rather that we are building the awareness and will to ensure care experienced young people have the opportunities and support that we would want for our own children.

To ask anything about this briefing or find out more about how to get involved please contact:
matthew.raleigh@londoncouncils.gov.uk

"The Compact truly focuses on involving care leavers in decision making and policy changing can help to promote greater transparency and accountability in the care system. Care leavers can act as advocates for their peers and help to ensure that the care system is held accountable for its actions and decisions."

Pan London Children in Care Council

"A tree may grow in silence, but it does not stop the effects of nature. I am human my drive and need for change requires action which start words. How will they know? How will they know? How will they know what we really want if we remain silent? Do not respect fear, respect the power of the tongue embrace it and let it drive your change into success. We are the people who accept our past as part of us but do not let our past define us. Do you know how hard it is to see light when you've been buried in darkness? Do not respect fear respect the bravery of overcoming that fear, that silence and speaking up for what you truly believe in. We are using our stories to hopefully shorten the next child's journey to light. To make sure every child knows there will always be light after darkness."

Pan London Care Leavers Compact Local Authority Commitments



The London Children in Care Council and Directors of Children's Services meet Joanne McCartney, Deputy Mayor for Children and Young People, Sept '23

"The disadvantage faced by our care experienced community should be the civil rights issue of our time. Children in care are powerless, they are often invisible to society and face some of the greatest inequalities that exist in England today"

'A recent All Party Parliamentary Group report found that a third of care leavers became homeless in the first two years after leaving care (Miller, 2018), and research conducted by Centrepont found that 26% of care leavers had sofa surfed, while 14% were sleeping on the streets (Gill & Daw, 2017).'

(Independent Review of Children's Social Care, 2022)

Introduction

This paper asks London's Local Authorities to make six commitments to London's Care Leavers as part of a Pan London Care Leavers Compact. There are five housing related positions and an additional commitment relating to whole council support of Care Leavers through membership of the Care Leavers Covenant. The Compact aims to maximise consistency and quality in the 'local offers' of support to Care Leavers by Local Authorities and their partners. It is important to note that whilst this paper focusses on the Local Authority offer, we are concurrently developing partner offers, for example around free prescriptions with Health partners and transport with TFL. Please refer to the Care Leavers Compact briefing for a fuller description of this work and 'community parenting' principles of broadening the support offered to Care Leavers beyond Local Authorities.

<https://www.liia.london/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/The-Pan-London-Care-Leavers-Compact-Briefing-February-23-FINAL.pdf>

Background

Multiple sources reference the poor outcomes of children who leave the care of local authorities as opposed to those who live with their families. These young adults are required to live independently earlier than their peers, often at a distance from 'home', with less support and intersecting disadvantages.

There has been a common set of recommendations, made over several years, to improve outcomes for this cohort. In the context of Housing and Care Leavers, the 2015 Children's Society report, *The Wolf at the Door*, assesses the impact of Council Tax debt and recommended an exemption for Care Leavers. This was again recommended in their 2021 report, *Towards a London-Wide Care Offer*. Barnado's 2021 report, *No Place Like Home* is one of multiple voices to call for the removal of the 'unintentionality' requirement and the extension of 'priority need' for Care Leavers until the age of 25.

More recently, the government's Independent Review of Children's Social Care (March/April 2022), a key policy driver in children's social care, makes recommendations regarding housing and Care Leavers as follows:

"Recommendation 2: Introduce a stronger safety net against care leaver homelessness by removing the local area connection test, ending intentionally homelessness practice, providing a rent guarantor scheme and increasing the leaving care grant to £2,438 for care experienced people.

There will be no situation where any local authority discharges their corporate parenting responsibilities or housing duty to care leavers by deeming them intentionally homeless."

(Independent Care Review Recommendations Annexe, Chapter 6, pg. 133-142)

Recent legislative change is also relevant to Care Leavers and their housing. The 2017 Children and Social Work Act extends the support duty of local authorities towards Care Leavers who request it until the age of 25 (from 21 previously). This change reflects the extended nature of adolescence and the specific vulnerabilities and support needs of this cohort. It is also consistent with Local Authorities' responsibilities as corporate parents who are committed to providing 'what we would want for our own children'.

London Local Authority Commitments

The following commitments cover areas that have been identified as important by a variety of research bodies. The same areas have also been flagged by the London Children in Care Council and by Leaving Care and Housing Service Managers. Many authorities have already adopted these approaches, as shown by mapping of London offers and Greater Manchester's adoption of a common offer to Care Leavers. Whilst they can be hard to predict, for most LA's costs have not been a prohibitive factor. Further detail around the rationale and business case for each commitment is provided in Annexe A below and in the attached case studies/mapping.

1. **London Local Authorities offer a full council tax exemption for their Care Leavers (18-25) that live within the borough. (Note: We strongly encourage LA's to also fund the council tax of their Care Leavers living outside of the authority)**
2. **London Local Authorities adopt the principle that no Care Leaver (18-25) should be found intentionally homeless.**
3. **London Local Authorities adopt the principle that their Care Leavers up to the age of 25 are to be found as being in 'priority need' under homelessness legislation.**
4. **London Local Authorities offer a rent deposit scheme for their Care Leavers (18-25) for whom private rented accommodation is assessed as a suitable option.**
5. **London Local Authorities have a joint protocol between Housing and Children's Services for Care Leavers in line with good practice advice**
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-housing-protocols-for-care-leavers/joint-housing-protocols-for-care-leavers-good-practice-advice>)
6. **London Local Authorities become signatories to the Care Leavers Covenant**

A note on Care Experience as a Protected Characteristic

Care Leavers and those who support them have advocated for some time that care experience should be recognised as a 'protected characteristic'. This gained further traction through the Independent Review of Children's Social Care. The Review discusses the stigma and discrimination that people experience as a result of being in care or care experienced and argues that it is similar in nature to other groups that have a legally protected characteristic under the Equality Act (2021). It recommends that care experience should be made a protected characteristic to give employers, public services etc greater authority to put in place programmes to promote better outcomes for care experienced people.

Despite the Review's position, Stable Homes Build on Love does not follow through with a related proposal. Various Local Authorities have therefore decided to adopt this position themselves, with Lambeth, Waltham Forest, Merton, Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham and Sutton passing resolutions in short succession this year. The implications of such a position are still to be fully understood; whilst the position is not binding in law, it will likely make a difference to the development of new council policy (through EDI assessments) and of whole council approaches to support Care Leavers.

As this is such a recent area of development, around which we are still learning, we are not making a recommendation, but flagging it as a topic that features strongly in many LA's thinking about their care leaver support.

Case Studies and London Mapping

Oldham is one of the 10 Greater Manchester Local Authorities who in 2019 adopted a common offer for their Care Leavers in several areas, including around Council Tax Exemption, Intentional Homelessness and Priority Need. This was enacted within a wider commitment to effective communication and joint working across children's and housing departments.

We attach the full Oldham cabinet paper and a shorter format version to explain why, along with the rest of Manchester, they decided to take this path. Key factors included the support of both Children's and Housing departments, an assessment that the cost implications were negligible, and the rationale that doing so was an important part of both the councils' homelessness and corporate parenting responsibilities.

We are also sharing summary case studies on the Kensington and Chelsea and London Borough of Barking and Dagenham council tax positions.

We are also sharing mapping, completed by leaving care services, on each London LA's current position against the commitments in this paper. As indicated, many authorities already adopt these practices.

Development and progression of the Commitments

We have undertaken a wide range of regional and national consultation in developing these commitments, including securing endorsement from ALDCS, Lead Members for Children and London's Housing Directors. This activity has included:

- Developing proposals with stakeholders and made the case for why there are important
- Undertaking mapping of each LA's position against the proposals
- Securing the endorsement of ALDCS for the proposals
- Engaging in a workshop for Lead Members for Children, who indicated their support and offered their assistance to progress them
- Undertaking two rounds of consultation with Housing Needs Managers and Housing Directors, following which London's Housing Directors formally endorsed these proposals in their meeting on 21st July 2023
- Providing a briefing summary to London Chief Executives

Next Steps and Requests of Local Authorities

Progression of these commitments relies on cross-cutting LA support. It is important that they are supported by the Local Authority as a whole, as well as by children's and housing departments. Having consulted on and agreed a Pan London position, we now ask that Local Authorities progress any proposals **that they have not already adopted**. Individual LA's routes for decision making may vary, but will likely to be through either corporate parenting boards or cabinet/full council. In order to assist Local Authorities, we provide the following 'pack':

- This paper, setting out the commitments
- Annexe A (below) explaining the rationale for each commitment
- Mapping spreadsheet showing the self-reported position of each borough against the proposals.
- Oldham '7 minute briefing' and cabinet paper regarding Intentional Homelessness and Priority Need
- Council tax exemption case studies from RBKC and LBBD
- Bexley Joint Housing/CS Protocol for Care Leavers

We are keen that these offers are put in place for London's Care Leavers as soon as possible (where they are not in place already). **We therefore ask that Local Authorities adopt these positions as their practice by December 31st 2023.** When combined with our partners' offers around health and transport, this will enable a first version of a Care Leavers Compact to be launched in February '24, marking London's commitment to a consistent, quality offer to its Care Leavers.

Louisa Foyle (Development Officer, Partnership for Young London)

Jacqui McShannon (DCS, LBHF and ALDCS strategic lead for Care Leaving)

Stephen Kitchman (DCS, Bexley and ALDCS strategic lead for Care Leaving)

James Thomas (DCS Tower Hamlets and ALDCS strategic lead for Care Leaving)

27.09.23

Annexe A - LA Commitments

1. **London Local Authorities offer a full council tax exemption for their Care Leavers (18-25) that live within the borough. (Note: We strongly encourage LA's to also fund the council tax of their Care Leavers living outside of the authority)**

There are effectively three levels of council tax offer to Care Leavers within London. LA's who exempt **their** Care Leavers living within the borough through waiving revenue (90%). LA's who exempt **their** Care Leavers who are living within the borough and **pay** CT for their Care Leavers living outside the borough (60%). And a few LA's who exempt **any** Care Leaver living within their borough, whilst also paying CT for their Care Leavers outside the borough (10%). **It is important to note that only a small percentage of Care Leavers under the age of 25 pay council tax as those in supported accommodation, full-time higher or further education, or certain apprenticeships will not be liable.**

The best option for Care Leavers is for LA's to waive council tax for **all** Care Leavers living within their area. This would be a clear, consistent, and strong offer to Care Leavers and avoid complex arrangements around reciprocity. This is also the approach taken by the 10 Greater Manchester authorities. However, the nature of housing stock, cost and availability in London means that some boroughs have higher numbers of Care Leaver settlement than others. This is likely to make reaching agreement difficult in the short-term, although we are working through the National Care Leaver Advisor and London Councils to advocate a national approach.

It is proposed that, at a minimum, all London authorities offer a full council tax exemption to their 18-25 Care Leavers living within the borough. We also urge LA's to go further and fund the council tax of their Care Leavers living out of borough (as 60% of London boroughs currently do). We have attached two case studies from LA's with different demographics who have adopted this position – for Barking and Dagenham the 22/23 annual cost was £69,790.29 to support 79 Care Leavers, for Kensington and Chelsea £27,343 to support 12 Care Leavers. Most LA's are expected to fall within this range, however costs can only be predicted accurately at a local level as they depend on knowledge of Care Leaver numbers, personal circumstances, and the local housing position.

Our ambition remains higher than this – either full reciprocity or a change in the national tax position.

2. London Local Authorities adopt the principle that no Care Leaver (18-25) should be found intentionally homeless.

The duty to provide permanent accommodation does not arise where someone has been found to have become intentionally homeless. Intentional homelessness assessments can have a significant impact on an individual's current and future housing prospects. A variety of factors, including the impact of trauma, lower levels of support (relative to their peers), and living independently at an earlier age, mean Care Leavers are at higher risk than their age-equivalent peers of being found intentionally homeless. Many boroughs account for this and make efforts to avoid reaching this point – this 'upstream' support, particularly when co-ordinated across children's services and housing, is vital (see proposal 5). However, relatively few boroughs make the firm commitment, as advocated by the Care Review, that *"there will be no situation where any local authority discharges their corporate parenting responsibilities or housing duty to care leavers by deeming them intentionally homeless."*

This option does have some controversies – for example the duty to support would remain after an eviction due to antisocial behavior, or the refusal of an offer of suitable accommodation. We have also been advised by Housing Directors that housing legislation encourages decision-making based on individual circumstances rather than 'blanket' positions. However, the Council also has a duty to ensure these young people are allowed to learn from their mistakes and move on with its support (much as a family might respond to a child who has made a mistake). Balancing these factors, and accounting for feedback, we are proposing that London authorities adopt this as a 'principle' for Care Leavers until the age of 25. Any exemption to the principle should be agreed jointly between Housing and Children's services leads.

The intentional homelessness judgement is rarely applied in practice to Care Leavers. Care Leaving teams reported 10 such judgements across London over the last two years. At this level, any cost implication seems negligible to non-existent, particularly as boroughs will normally continue to support a Care Leaver after such as judgement. Adopting this position is therefore a statement of values and intent as much as a request for different practice.

3. London Local Authorities adopt the principle that their Care Leavers up to the age of 25 are to be found as being in 'priority need' under homelessness legislation.

Closely linked to the 'intentional homelessness' proposal is the proposal that Care Leavers up to the age of 25 should be considered in 'priority need' under homelessness legislation. The 2017 extension to the Local Authority support duty to Care Leavers to the age of 25 has not been accompanied by a similar change in housing legislation. Priority Need is therefore

a discretionary assessment for Care Leavers above the age of 21, who must be considered 'vulnerable' to receive it.

60% of London Local Authorities report that they currently adopt this principle. We struggled to get data from LA teams around the numbers of 21-24 yr old care leavers assessed as not being in priority need, but (as with IH) the belief is this is a rare occurrence. As with IH, it is therefore proposed that all London boroughs adopt this position as a 'principle'.

4. London Local Authorities offer a rent deposit scheme for their Care Leavers (18-25) for whom private rented accommodation is assessed as a suitable option.

With 61% of Local Authorities currently offering this and others stating they are developing a policy, there seems a degree of consensus that this is an important area of support for Care Leavers. London's relatively low level of social housing stock means that private renting is an important option for Care Leavers who are ready to live independently. Without the support of family, they will normally lack the financial resource to take the first step. Whilst some boroughs go further than this and offer (or are developing) a Rent Guarantee scheme, uncertainties around cost and duration of this commitment mean we are unlikely to achieve consensus around it.

5. London Local Authorities have a joint protocol between Housing and Children's Services for Care Leavers in line with good practice advice **(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-housing-protocols-for-care-leavers/joint-housing-protocols-for-care-leavers-good-practice-advice>)**

66% of London boroughs have a joint protocol in place for Care Leavers. The Department for Education issues recommendations for the contents of such protocols and there are numerous good practice examples across London. The protocol is particularly important because it defines the vision and joint work arrangements that apply at all levels of Care Leaver housing need, from progression to independence to those at risk of housing breakdown or homelessness. The quality of the joint approach between Children's and Housing departments is vital to improving Care Leavers housing outcomes; **this is the proposal that is likely to have the greatest impact on the largest numbers of Care Leavers.**

We attach Bexley's joint protocol, which has been flagged as an example of good practice. Bexley recently received an 'outstanding' judgement in their Ofsted ILACS, which included an 'outstanding' judgement in the recently introduced stand-alone judgement on the experience and progress of Care Leavers.

6. London Local Authorities become signatories to the Care Leavers Covenant

The Care Leaver Covenant is the National Inclusion Body (DfE funded) for Care Leavers. They provide two main roles; hosting a wide range of local and national support offers for Care Leavers and providing support/guidance to organisations (including Local Authorities) who wish to support Care Leavers. This latter includes the development of Whole Council Approaches and Social Value Procurement strategies within Local Authorities. The Care Leaver Covenant is regularly referenced within Stable Homes, Built on Love, the government's response to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care, and is due to receive further funding to develop its offer.

13 London Local Authorities are currently signatories to the Care Leaver Covenant. There is no cost associated with becoming a signatory and in our engagement activity we have not heard any arguments against membership. A joint SOLACE / Care Leaver Covenant briefing on the Covenant and Whole Councils Approaches can be found here:

<https://mycovenant.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Briefing-paper-local-auth-final-Solace-Typeset-Printed-v5.pdf>

Committee(s): Safeguarding Sub-Committee	Dated: 23 November 2023
Subject: Children's Social Care Self Evaluation Framework	Public (this report) Non-Public (Annexe 1)
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1,2,3,4
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	£
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Judith Finlay, Executive Director, Community and Children's Services	For Discussion
Report author: Ellie Ward, Head of Strategy and Performance	

Summary

Children's Social Care and Early Help are subject to inspection by Ofsted under a 'Inspecting Local Authority Children's Services' (ILACS) Framework. These inspections take place every 4 – 5 years and in between there will be a smaller specific focussed visit and an Annual Engagement Meeting (AEM) with Ofsted.

Each year the Department of Community and Children's Services produces a Self-Evaluation Framework document which is used for the AEM and also for inspections.

This report presents the Self-Evaluation Framework for Members to note.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. Children's Social Care and Early Help are subject to inspection by Ofsted under a 'Inspecting Local Authority Children's Services' (ILACS) Framework. These inspections take place every 4 – 5 years and in between there will be a smaller specific focussed visit and an Annual Engagement Meeting (AEM) with Ofsted.
2. For the City of London Corporation, our last full inspection was in 2020 when we were rated outstanding overall. A focus visit took place in November 2022 and

focused on front door services. Feedback was very positive and there were no recommendations for improvement.

3. Each year the Department of Community and Children's Services produces a Self-Evaluation Framework document which is used for the AEM and also for inspections.
4. Though there is no set format or template for the Self-Evaluation Framework, it is designed to provide a space for the local authority to reflect on their delivery and performance, their challenges and how they have responded to them and the impact they have had on children, young people and their families.
5. As part of our work to drive excellence in Children's Social Care, in 2020 we also established the Achieving Excellence Board (AEB) which is independently chaired by a former Ofsted Inspector who provides challenge to us on our services and performance and provides advice on where we could strengthen services or approach.
6. The City of London Corporation SEF is built around the aims of the AEB which are as follows:
 - Doing the core job to a consistent standard
 - Being creative, pioneering and having a can do culture; and
 - Having a relentless focus on outcomes
7. Each area of our work such as contacts, assessments, early help, looked after children and care leavers are considered under these headings.
8. A copy of the SEF can be found in Appendix 1 in non-public items.

Current Position

Doing the core job to a consistent standard

9. Overall, our performance in delivering our statutory responsibilities has maintained excellent quality and performance despite the challenges of the pandemic, the cost of living crisis and the financial constraints in which we operate.
10. The number of Children who are Looked After has been decreased in recent years after a large increase around 4 years ago. However, our number of Care Leavers that we support (at an increased level compared to other local authorities) has been increasing. National policy proposes an increased focus on care leavers and their needs. The service already exceeds this in terms of the support offered to Care Leavers.
11. Our Early Help Service consistently achieves positive feedback and outcomes and was particularly effective in supporting our guests who were placed in the City of London as part of the Afghanistan Resettlement Programme. Over the past two years, the Early Help Service has run an innovative parenting course,

developed by the Race Equality Foundation. One of the impacts of this is that parents developed their own peer support network.

12. There have been ongoing challenges around health service provision to children looked after with specific difficulties accessing dentistry and performance on health reviews being less efficient than we would like. In addressing this we have collaborated with health colleagues and paid for some emergency dentistry where needed.
13. A stable workforce means that children are able to form and sustain meaningful, consistent and stable relationships with their workers
14. There is robust governance around Children's Social Care with Members routinely trained and engaged in their role as Corporate Parent

Being creative, pioneering and having a can do culture

15. Developed a family therapy clinic with Kings College London which is proving effective and valuable
16. Introduced the co-location of a Forensic Child and Adolescent Mental Health (FCAMHS) clinician with members of the social care team
17. Utilised the assets of the City of London Corporation to create enrichment for our Children and Young People – for example the enrichment project with the independent schools in the City for Children who are Looked After (CLA) and Care Leavers to enrich their education. This also benefits young people at the schools
18. A new programme of apprenticeships for our CLA and Care Leavers is being developed
19. Secured Home Office immigration interviews online and with social worker support which minimised stress and has increased the speed and outcome of interviews

A relentless focus on outcomes

20. External audits have been positive in terms of the impact for children and their families
21. The SEF sets out some specific case studies illustrating the impact that the service has had

Areas for improvement

22. The SEF sets out a number of improvements which focus on strengthening our existing robust work. These are included in our Service Development Plan which is monitored by the AEB and the Safeguarding Sub-Committee on a quarterly basis.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications – Our work in Children’s Social Care helps deliver on Corporate Outcomes 1 – 4 and the outcomes in a number of our other Departmental Strategies including the Children and Young People’s Plan and the SEND Strategy.

Financial implications - none

Resource implications - none

Legal implications – The Children’s Social Care Service operates within a legal framework set out in a number of acts.

Risk implications - none

Equalities implications – none but equalities implications are considered throughout the service and where a new service or initiative is instigated an Equalities Impact Assessment will be carried out.

Climate implications - none

Security implications - none

Conclusion

23. This report presents to Members the annual SEF for Children’s Social Care.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 (non-public) – City of London Corporation SEF for Children’s Social Care

Ellie Ward

Head of Strategy and Performance

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Committee: Safeguarding Sub-Committee	Dated: 23/11/2023
Subject: Children's Social Care and Early Help Service Development Plan 2022–23	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	Contribute to a flourishing society 1. People are safe and feel safe. 2. People enjoy good health and wellbeing.
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Judith Finlay, Executive Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Report author: Rachel Talmage, Head of Service, People Department, Department of Community and Children's Services	

Summary

The Service Development Plan has been fully refreshed for 2023–24 and sets out the overarching programme of work for the Children's Social Care and Early Help Service. Key pieces of work include the full revision of our care leaver offer for 2023–2026 with the goal of presenting a world-class offer, and the development of a summer English for Speakers of other Languages programme.

The purpose of the report is to enable Members to see the array of work supporting resident children in need of help and protection in the City of London, and the direction of travel and actions needed to be world class across all areas of practice with children and their families.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The Service Development Plan 2023–24 (see Appendix 1) sets out objectives that aim to improve outcomes for children and their families. Objectives are drawn from listening to children and families, from staff, audit, the Achieving Excellence Board, Serious Case Reviews, Ofsted, and work from the London Innovation and Improvement Alliance (LIIA). Ofsted has a new separate judgement for care leavers, and our ambition is excellence for all care leavers. The Service Development Plan (the Plan) sets out how we will achieve excellent outcomes for every child and young person.
2. In their *Inspection of children's social care services 2 March 2020 to 6 March 2020*, Ofsted made two recommendations in their judgement on our practice¹ (published April 2020). These recommendations remain in the Plan to ensure due focus and attention.

Current Position

3. This report highlights the impact of our work undertaken in the last six months, and progress against actions for the next six months. The Plan has been fully updated and RAG ratings amended.
4. The findings of the annual survey of children and families were published in August 2023, and recommendations included in the Service Development Plan.
5. The 2022–23 Plan has been in place now for six months, and key achievements to date include:
 - The care leaver offer has been fully revised, going above and beyond the Care Leaver Covenant, and including culture/music/arts, and acknowledging that enrichment offers joy/hope/promise/belonging and confidence.
 - The housing element of the care leaver offer has been expanded, recognising that this is the most important area to our young people. There is an expectation gap, caused by the misinformation in promises given to young people by traffickers, and it can be difficult for young people to understand that all locations and housing sizes are not available.
 - The tenancy support team has met with young people in advance of their tenancies, shared a one-page information sheet on housing, and participation plans for 2023/24, including housing sessions and resharing the housing video.
 - Families open to either Early Help or children's social care were supported via our full family therapy clinic. The new academic year has begun with new trainees (note that all participants are trained experienced therapists, this is an additional qualification via King's College London under the tuition of Dr Temitope Ademosu).

¹ <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50149902> accessed 28 April 2022

- Newly arrived unaccompanied asylum-seeking children have been successfully transferred via the National Transfer Scheme. Social workers advocated for the children to move together to one area, following their attachment at home and via their English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) colleges. The moves were well prepared and thought out, and the young people are happy in their new locations.
- There has been additional scrutiny and challenge to Child in Need plans, largely for children with disabilities. This extra input means that children should be heard and seen, and plans are clear about improvements for their daily lives, and support needed for their parents/carers.
- A staff away day has been scheduled – this is particularly for fieldworkers to get together face to face and to use Epping Forest, one of our green spaces. Another aim is to help our staff access all that the Corporation has to offer, to then enable our children and families to be able to access all that the Corporation has to offer. The Philomena Protocol, which strengthens informed practice for work around missing children in care and trauma, was the focus of the work.

6. Future priorities include:

- i. Co-ordinating a supported session for children with disabilities, looked-after children and care leavers at the Careers Fair in the Guildhall in the new year. This will show our children possibilities and ideas for the future, in their own session with staff support. This involves joint work between Adult Education, the Virtual School, and Children's Social Care and Early Help.
- ii. Further training for staff around autism, in line with the new requirement in the Health and Care Act 2022. Our staff team currently have extensive experience, both personally and professionally, and are looking forward to joint learning with Adult Social Care colleagues.
- iii. Work with the newly formed Designated Social Care Officer (DSCO) London Forum, to strengthen our offer in our ambition to be world class for children with disabilities.
- iv. Reporting on compliments and complaints, and adding a learning cycle from child and family feedback. The compliments far outweigh complaints, and all feedback is useful and valued. We need to learn from both and identify any system development.
- v. Becoming the 'family firm' to our care leavers and children in care:
 - a. To have a co-ordinated work experience/internship offer
 - b. To have ringfenced apprenticeships for care leavers
 - c. To offer meaningful weekly work-related sessions for young people who are for any reason unable to work/study in a traditional setting. For example, if a young person was only well enough to do one hour a week's work, then we would offer one hour of work. It would then build routine, relationships, and raise ambition. The goal is to have no children who are not in education or employment.

Key Data

7. Performance data for the service is being considered separately by the Safeguarding Sub-Committee. Data is used to drive the actions in the plan and to evaluate progress for children. The data is well shared and understood, and is constantly refined and amended jointly between performance and Children's Social Care and Early Help.

Corporate & Implications

8. Across every department, the Corporation is a parent to our children in care and care leavers.
9. The Events team have supported our care leaver work by hosting the Shining Stars Event, and through our Celebration Awards Ceremony for children in care and care leavers during Events week.
10. Adult Education is working closely with the Virtual School Head, and the Head of Children's Social Care is sharing apprenticeship offers with our care leavers weekly via the team. This is to raise aspirations and also to demonstrate the breadth of work undertaken by the organisation, which they could participate in.

Strategic Risk Implications

11. Child safeguarding involves assessment and mitigation of risk. The service aims to protect and support the most vulnerable children in our society. The Achieving Excellence Board further scrutinises and extends our work for these children.

Equalities implications

12. The 'social GRACES' (gender, race, religion, ethnicity, employment, class, culture, ethnicity, education, employment, sexuality, sexual orientation, and spirituality) are used in individual and group supervision, looking at the similarities and differences in every piece of casework. Equalities implications are core in every interaction. Systemic relationship-based practice is central to our work, and the social GRACES offer us a framework for considering disproportionality and inequity.
13. The Plan sets out a path seeking to recognise 'care leaving' as a protected characteristic, and all implications extending to equalities will be explored and evaluated. This work is in progress, pending legal advice on the available options, and will be taken forward for approval.
14. In Early Help, we have noticed that, where relevant, incoming children who are white tend to have services set up for them, such as diagnoses and special educational needs (SEN) support and Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).. We are noticing that black and brown children who are referred have some needs identified, but not all, and services are not always in place. We are undertaking case reviews to identify what could be done earlier, and what the impact would be for the child. We are advocating for more timely services and noticing in supervision, in assessment, in case discussion where it seems that the needs of these children are not as visible.

Financial implications

15. Children's social care is a statutory service. If, for example, children arrive in the City with additional needs, (such as the Afghan arrivals), and/or further children with disabilities arrive, then a service must be provided. If risks escalate, then court action might be required. These unexpected needs will have financial implications.

Resource implications

16. Free bus passes for all care leavers were approved since the last iteration of this report. Transport for London have announced that it will offer 50% off travel for care leavers. This will reduce the cost of our offer by 50% (approximately £15,000).

Legal implications

17. The ambition to have 'care leaver' as a protected characteristic has received legal advice, and this work is currently being further explored given this input.

Climate implications

18. N/A

Security implications

19. N/A

Conclusion

20. The Service Development Plan sets out the actions for the next year, with an overall ambition of providing the right help in the right place at the right time, to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and their families. This is a live document and will grow in response to family and staff feedback, national research, and audit.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Service Development Plan 2023–24 Updated October 2023

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Appendix 1: Service Development Plan 2023-4

Children's Social Care & Early Help

Author: Rachel Talmage
Date of Plan: April 2023
Date of review: quarterly
Date of this review: October 2023

The Self Evaluation completed in September 2023 - the actions for 2023/24 are reflected in this plan for monitoring, update and impact review
Audit findings and recommendations from May have been received, these are all contained in the QA tracker, with overall service actions for CSC/EH contained newly below

Why?	Who?	Does what?	By when?	How will we know it has been done?	What will be the experience of children?	RAG rated progress	Comments on progress
Early Help & Short Breaks							
On parent/carer forum request	EH lead	Identifies all the different uses for short breaks money and creates an ideas sheet for parents.	30-Jun-23	The idea sheet, with impact for children of each idea, will be uploaded to our website.	Children will be able to access leisure activities - ones they might not have tried before.		September update: complete and published on the Family Information Service website and shared with the parent/carer forum
On parent/carer forum request	HoS/EH lead	Meets with parents/carers to identify names of children who would want holiday club provision in the City, and those who would like football coaching in the City, and those who would like to use an Islington Activity Centre. Brings a paper to DLT for extra funding	31-Aug-23	provision will be in place for the right number of children	children will be able to access leisure activities close to home. Transport difficulty will not be a barrier to taking up sport.		september update: paper went to DLT, further clarification requested. Went back to meet with parents. They confirmed need for autism trained football coach. This is in place.
Developing our response and understanding of neglect.	HoS/EH lead	Writes a paper setting out using the revised GCP2 as a neglect tool, as a pilot for 6 months in the City. June - December 2023 To run GCP2 training across MAPF partners and children's social workers/early help worker	01-Dec-23	Training to have taken place. Update to CSMT with numbers at training, and then in December to update numbers of GCP2 assessments undertaken & impact for children.	Children experiencing neglect will have intervention that helps them and their family sooner.		September update: All CSC/EH staff have now been trained, a mop up session for those unable to attend in the summer took place in Sept. A short paper on the pilot is going to the CHSCP neglect subgroup in September, and this will also go to CSMT for review.

The Self Evaluation completed in September 2023 - the actions for 2023/24 are reflected in this plan for monitoring, update and impact review

Audit findings and recommendations from May have been received, these are all contained in the QA tracker, with overall service actions for CSC/EH contained newly below

Why?	Who?	Does what?	By when?	How will we know it has been done?	What will be the experience of children?	RAG rated progress	Comments on progress
Social Care review	HOS	Reviews the social care review and the suggested merge of early help/child in need work and what that might look like in the City	01-Oct-23	Note: HoS has reviewed where we are with the social care review and timetabled reporting into members (April 2023). Decisions to be made on what works in the City, following a review of the Pilot LAs who are early adopters of the review.	The aim of our 1 early help team and 1 social care service is that relationship based practice where children and families don't have to retell their stories. The planned impact on children of the review is consistency of relationship and timely skilled intervention.		September update: our current structure serves us well will keep under review as findings from the pilot projects come out.
Appoint permanent EH Lead & SC lead	HOS	Advertises role of SC lead first (note permanent EH lead is acting up in this role).	31-May-23	SC lead in permanent role	Children will be safe, given consistent management oversight		September Update: The Social Care Team Manager is now permanent, vacating the early help lead role. Took the early help lead role to job evaluation, it was regraded to F, the role renamed and extended the role to cover the 1 day a fortnight clinical lead role (neither the contract with Hackney nor external sourcing was viable). September update: insufficient parents to run at start of September, hoping to run in November
Need identified by parents, recommending the programme to other parents.	EH Lead	Runs Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities Programme. Online or in person.	Dec-23	One page report on the running of either the virtual or the in person programme to CSMT	Children experience their parents responding kindly, more consistently and clearly.		September update: EEF have done a review of early years settings and ethnicity and early language support. Joint session will take place Nov 23
Staff have observed that white children coming to the early help children have had support services in place at school, whereas black or brown children are coming to early help with emerging need identified.	EH lead	1. Writes up the case examples. 2. Hosts a session on delay for black or brown children with the Mult Agency Forum. 3. Hosts a session with children's social care and early help.	31-Aug-23	MAPF and CSMT will have minutes sharing the case examples.	Black and brown children will have the right help at the right time. There will be a reduction in children being perceived as difficult/with poor behaviour due to any additional needs being identified early.		complete - (kept in to retain oversight)
Ofsted recommendations from judgment in February 2020	CSC & EH Management Team	Reviews EH step downs at weekly management meeting.	Weekly.	Management Meeting notes evidence overview. Data shows step down is timely. Data shows speed of first visit from transfer into/out of Early Help.	Children don't need to re-tell their experiences, likes and dislikes because of thorough transfer, and they don't have to wait to see their new Early Help or Social Worker. To reduce anxiety.		

The Self Evaluation completed in September 2023 - the actions for 2023/24 are reflected in this plan for monitoring, update and impact review

Audit findings and recommendations from May have been received, these are all contained in the QA tracker, with overall service actions for CSC/EH contained newly below

Why?	Who?	Does what?	By when?	How will we know it has been done?	What will be the experience of children?	RAG rated progress	Comments on progress
Cost of living crisis - the crisis continues to impact children and families	EH lead	Ensures families can access the household support fund. Ensures families are referred to City Advice. Ensures families know about the Green Doctor Service Thinks about cost of living crisis for each family open to EH and any mitigation/support needed	01-Mar-24	The financial record held by Tenancy Support evidences spend on families open to Early Help. The number of families referred to City Advice continues to be good - data checking in place every 3 months. Audits will show evidence of cost of living work with families	They will be warm and fed.		This work is ongoing since the crisis has been ongoing. Good referral rate to City Advice. Good use of household support fund. Work is attuned to financial need. September update: cost of living updates at team meeting - good use of green doctors - families appreciated heat advice. Currently referring families for the household support fund EH worker appointed Listening to Children lead in May 2023. Due to update in 2024
Service development. Sharing knowledge and skill together.	EH worker	Is lead for listening to children.	01-Mar-24	Lead will have presented to AEB on their work. Colleagues will have extra resources/skills to listen to children.	children will be heard, however they communicate and at whatever age.		
Children's Social Care The social care review made recommendations for changes within social care, after listening to children, families and those involved with services.	HOS	Reviews recommendations and creates a plan for responding	01-May-23	Review of where we are is submitted to the AEB	Children will have the best possible care. More options of better homes. Care leavers/LAC will have a protected characteristic to be at the front of every queue in the City of London Corporation		May: a review of the social care recommendations has been completed. A plan for review of each area devised. We are waiting for the outcome of pilot implementation LAs for a number of areas. Note: this area of work has it's own action plan as it is a very large piece of work. It is appended to this plan.

The Self Evaluation completed in September 2023 - the actions for 2023/24 are reflected in this plan for monitoring, update and impact review
Audit findings and recommendations from May have been received, these are all contained in the QA tracker, with overall service actions for CSC/EH contained newly below

Why?	Who?	Does what?	By when?	How will we know it has been done?	What will be the experience of children?	RAG rated progress	Comments on progress
Service development. Sharing knowledge and skill together.	SWS	Social work leads in place covering these areas: 1. Children with Disabilities 2. Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children 3. Systemic Practice 4. Voice of child 5. Voices of parents and families 6. Neglect 7. Modern Day Slavery 8. Social care review	01-May-23	Each worker has presented a one page report on their work to AEB	They will have expert support, children with disabilities will have the right support, opportunities and holiday activities. Children will not be enslaved. Children will secure permanent stay in the UK		UASC/CWD/MDS/systemic roles are well established. The last AEB heard from the UASC lead - impact of work is that all immigration interviews happened and most YP got permanent stay in the UK. September update: MDS will be presenting next at AEB to evidence learning, sharing learning and impact for children.

Children in Need & those in need of protection

Multi Agency Case Audits	HOS	Ensures GP and school nurse and health visitors get copy of CIN reviews (and are invited where involved)	01-Aug-23	Dip Sample shows records sent.	clear support from the adults looking after them		September update: team support now minute all CIN reviews and send minutes within 5 days.
Aidhour Audit May 2023: the reviewers found that in some plans the outcomes focused on the parents and felt that this set the course for the work with the family which at times lead to less focus on the child's needs and lived experience and more on the needs of the parents.	HoS/TM	At each CIN tracking meeting one Plan is reviewed in depth and suggestions made.	Oct-23	Children will be firmly at the centred of Plans and intervention, with everything being done related to their outcomes, experiences, and future goals.	supported quicker		September update: so far 2 out of 8 plans have been reviewed

The Self Evaluation completed in September 2023 - the actions for 2023/24 are reflected in this plan for monitoring, update and impact review
 Audit findings and recommendations from May have been received, these are all contained in the QA tracker, with overall service actions for CSC/EH contained newly below

Why?	Who?	Does what?	By when?	How will we know it has been done?	What will be the experience of children?	RAG rated progress	Comments on progress
Aidhour Audit May 2023: A Good Practice Example folder is in place and will be moved on to Sharepoint to be accessible to the whole team.	HoS/TM	A repository of best practice examples of direct work are being collated and will be accessible for all members of the service.	Children will be supported to engage and contribute to their care planning in an age appropriate and creative way. Meaningful more success interventions and plans which focus on the lived experience of the child.	Access to the bank of good practice is available for all social workers and early help workers. Workers say that they find this helpful.	Confident expert support	9/19/2023	September update: new sharepoint folder in place
Aidhour Audit May 2023	HoS	Would recommend that supervision notes are uploaded	It will be clear what	Update to be given as to how this is working in practice and data provided	attuned care and response	9/19/2023	September update: Power BI data dashboard is now used to
Aidhour Audit May 2023	HoS/TM	Reviewers would encourage a greater focus on assessing parenting capacity in the context of meeting the needs of a child with additional needs and in some cases where there are additional concerns of risk.	Jan-24	Ongoing oversight to be maintained through the Service Development Plan and actions taken within this.	Children with disabilities will receive a good quality of attuned parenting		September update: three children have had extra professional network for safety reasons around the extra parenting capacity needed.
Aidhour Audit May 2023	TM	Some children may benefit from having their plans reviewed to ascertain if they could be streamlined with a lead professional and indeed if they needed to remain open to statutory services.		One page report to CSMT January 2022: Have support for as long or as quickly		N/A	September update: one case closed to children's services and open only to short breaks as a result of review. Meaning least interventionist with family.

The Self Evaluation completed in September 2023 - the actions for 2023/24 are reflected in this plan for monitoring, update and impact review
Audit findings and recommendations from May have been received, these are all contained in the QA tracker, with overall service actions for CSC/EH contained newly below

Why?	Who?	Does what?	By when?	How will we know it has been done?	What will be the experience of children?	RAG rated progress	Comments on progress
Aidhour Audit May 2023	Management team	SEND vulnerabilities in terms of safeguarding and managing risk required further work. Incidents of concern that did not appear to have been fully explored through a safeguarding lense. The review of these cases raised questions about interviewing children after a report of experiencing harm or potential harm and rationale for decision making.	Dec-23	Mosaic amendments to go live in the system. Dip Sample audits to then be completed of new assessments within the workflow to ensure that amendments are enabling workers to explicitly demonstrate the impact and issues covered in each visit	Views heard and experiences seen	green	September update: new visits workstep created so that there are stand alone visits for seeing any child and family undergoing an assessment.
There has been insufficient demand for parenting programmes via group work. 121 parenting work is undertaken directly by Early Help worker and by one worker in social care. Child in need work would be more effective if workers were more skilled in doing direct work with parents to improve parenting.	TM to decide	1 social worker to train via the Race Equality Foundation parenting programme.	01-Mar-24	Audit Parental feedback Child feedback Update to CSMT	Children will have more confident parents meaning their day to day lives are better.		Note: 1 SW uses the race equality foundation handbook for 121 sessions with families. This work could be strengthened across the service. September update: new 4 week online session offered.
The NSPCC has further developed it's identification of neglect tool - called GCP2. A new version comes out in June.	HOS	Writes paper setting out Neglect pilot in the City. GCP2 training mandatory for social workers and managers	end June 2023	Training has happened. Tool used.	Children will be able to play outside, eat regularly, be clean, have trusted adults. Neglect will be swiftly identified and daily life better		September update: all staff now trained in GCP2. Have used in case formation and reflection. Pilot reflection written up and being presented at the CHSCP strategic neglect group.
Cost of living crisis: feedback from City Advice (at PSMT) shows that social care are not referring families for advice/support	Head of Service	Reminders to managers/workers to refer to City Advice. Remind staff that City Advice has access to vouchers and can also help with bills/Household Support Fund	01-Jul-23	City Advice will have evidence that families/young people have referred. Update to CSMT in July 2023 on takeup of help.	Children have food and warmth.		Reminders sent out. Reminder at management meeting to consider referrals in 121s with staff. 3 monthly checks with City Advice diarised.
Money is tight for many people	Head of Service	Sets up training for staff with City Advice around maximising money & Benefit changes refers to the Food Club	01-Nov-23 01-Dec-23	Training has happened. Update in referrals to City Advice & audits show evidence on financial input. Data from Food hub shows referrals.	Children will have access to food warmth clothing, heating. Will have sufficient access to food.		September update: request to City Advice sent Update September: new service in place, staff aware

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Why?	Who?	Does what?	By when?	How will we know it has been done?	What will be the experience of children?	RAG rated progress	Comments on progress
London Threshold of Need Matrix published Feb 2023 (we contributed to the Pan London Review).	HOS	Takes new matrix to Safeguarding Partnership for approval for use. Inote our ToN document was refreshed last year with SUDI advice - this London wide document is comprehensive and strong)	Jul-23	The new matrix will be published on our website	Children receive the right level of intervention at the right time.		Have requested matrix is approved for use. Threshold Document: Continuum of Help and Support (londonsafeguardingchildrenprocedures.co.uk) September update: the pan London matrix is being updated re FGM & SUDI
Develop CIN/CP work to be outstanding in terms of impact and outcomes.	Managers	Minutes are shared within 5 days of any family meeting. Team support assist with minute taking. Minutes go to GPs, Health Visitors & School nursing in every case. Expert Practitioner supports staff where manager/staff requests.	Dec-23	Audits show positive progress. Parental feedback on CIN good in August annual survey.	Parents will be confident on the actions to take to improve daily life of child. Child will be safer and healthier.		Minutes routinely done by team support and sent out. Need to develop an automated system re: sending minutes out. Audits for CIN awaited by end May.
Ofsted recommendation 2020: The recording of management decision making at all stages of a child s journey. Retained to keep	Assistant Director & Service Manager	Build management capacity. Draft review in place, need to take forward.	complete	Revised structure chart published. Staff in place.	Children and families experience an exceptional service, with access to speak with managers.		Jan 2022: TOM complete. DTM position is now permanent and postholder in the role permanently. complete
	Head of Service	Extend Deputy Team Manager Pilot, to retain capacity whilst CV-19 has put service review on hold.	complete	DTM postholder is in place throughout CV-19 and to end of service review	as above		
	CSC & EH Management Team	Has recording as a standing item on management meeting agenda. Team to remind each other on recording reasons as well as decisions on case files.	complete	Management meeting notes show discussion.	Children and families experience consistent and timely decision making.		UPDATE:Ofsted focus visit evidences good oversight in CIN/Front door. We have created our first automated CL report. Using that rather than spreadsheets has shown gaps in recording for CL. Work plan in place.
	CSC & EH Management Team	121s with each level of managers includes a section on recording, with spot checking.	complete	121s evidence spot checking and discussion.	Children and families experience consistent and timely decision making, if staff are on leave or absent.		UPDATE: New evidence of gaps in CL work, with new automated report - we are tweaking the report and now tracking.

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		Plans would be strengthened by ensuring that outcomes are specific to the child and not a service, by being specific about who is responsible for delivering actions in the plan and particularly where a parent is required to complete an action, so they are clear about the local authority's expectations.	01/12/2022	CIN tracker to look in detail at quality of plans for a three month period. Afghan Project lead to support CIN plan formation and CIN review meeting so parents clear on actions and outcomes.	Children receive clear support that makes their daily life better.		UPDATE: Project lead completed CIN review and provided workers and managers' feedback from each CIN meeting. Will add minutes shared to our CIN tracker meeting & hold a session on SMART planning at management meetings in January 2023.
	Management Team	Notable improvement in this review in discussion betwas the thinking through exit strategies and great insight into how families could become reliant or dependent on services provided. These discussions are unfortunately not evidenced consistently in supervision records.	01/12/2023	Dip sampling of supervision records. Reminders at Management Hub meetings.	Children will experience social work input for the right amount of time.		Update: Focus visit found good mangement footprint. CIN work has improved with tracking. Temporary focus on care leaver management notes as noticed slip when doing pathway plan tracking - some 121s late in writing up. Work plan in place.
MASH Health Annual data report 21-22 shows health did not consistently receive strategy meeting minutes.	Mangement Team & Team Support Officer	Shares minutes with attendees within 24 hours of strategy meeting taking place & casenote on file to evidence.	30/04/2023	Dip sampling & the MASH Health annual data report will evidence 100% compliance	Children will have the right level of support at the right time.		UPDATE: MaSH partners positive and focus visit positive. Will put in a duty review of communication every Friday from 13 Dec.
<u>Children in Care and Care Leavers</u>							
So children in care have a memory book to understand their journey	HOS	Ensures practitioners consistently undertake life story work with children in care and that it is sensitively done given the immigration system	01/12/2023	The UASC lead will include a snapshot of this work to the AEB	their stories will be heard and they'll be able to make some sense of their history		September: need to work on consistency. With one YP the work is done at his residential home.
To publish refreshed care leaver offer given many improvements have been made since the last version & given adopting the compact, the covenant and the social care review & the national review for CWD.	HOS	Creates a care leaver booklet with the new offers included.	01/10/2023	The offer will be published on the internet. Young people will have links to it via WhatsApp	Young people will know their full range of rights and the support available. Young people having friends/community/relationships/leisure/education/travel		The previous offer, the compact, covenant & social care review offers are now collated. September update: workshops with young people on the new draft offer will take place.

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National Review of residential settings for children with complex needs	Management team & CWD lead.	Contributes to the Quality Assurance	mid Nov 2022	Report will go in to safeguarding children's partnership.	Children with complex needs are safe and well cared for in residential settings.		Update: Report completed and sent to national review. Our YP safe and well cared for. Recommendations followed.
Care leaver Compact & covenant	HOS	Seeks to Add Care Leavers to the protected equality characteristics locally.	01/12/2023	It will have been added to the care leaver offer online	Children gain housing/employment/services faster.		This will need to go to the Court of Common Council September update: is being taken forward following legal advice
	HOS	To consider care leavers supported by other LAs to have exemption to council tax in the City, if their host LA does not cover the cost. Take as proposal to CSMT with costing.	01/08/2023	as above	as above		September update: compact and covenant paper to Safeguarding Sub Committee
	HOS	Reviews and updates links to covenant and compact for our housing policy.	01/08/2023	as above	as above		Complete
	HOS	Works with procurement and commissioning to test the impact of our Social Value requirement for all our contracts on care leavers	01/12/2023	as above. We have at least 1 young person accessing employment via the Social Value scheme at the corporation.	children gain employment/internships via CoL and our contractors.		September update: all new contracts with Social Value commitment in are going to involve corporate procurement linking providers with the VSH and social care
	HOS	Works with VSH & Adult Education Service & prospects to set up bespoke pre employment and employment programmes - to consider teaming up with another LA to creat this offer.	01/10/2023	Plan to be seen at CSMT. We have at least 1 person accessing the bespoke programme in the autumn term.	Children are ready for employment		September update: bespoke enrichment and ESOL programmes now offered. Working on ringfencing apprenticeships ongoing.
	HOS	Seeks funding for 1 year from DLT to provide annual bus passes for all carers.	01/05/2023	paper taken to DLT	children have more freedom to travel for all reasons, without having to ask for funding each time - particularly for college holiday times		DLT approved 1 year bus passes for all 16-25 year old care leavers, TFL are reviewing whether they can run this offer across London. Work is underway individually with each young person to register for a bus pass and pay.

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Why?	Who?	Does what?	By when?	How will we know it has been done?	What will be the experience of children?	RAG rated progress	Comments on progress
New Ofsted Care Leaver Judgment - HOS want our service to be outstanding for every child		Uses the care leaver judgment headings for the care leaver offer so we've covered each point well	01/10/2023	Care leaver offer published	Young people will know their full range of rights and the support available. Young people having friends/community/relationships/leisure/education/travel		
cost of living crisis	HoS	Runs workshop on cost of living crisis & promotes MyBNK to help budgeting. Reviews finances for care leavers. Uses household support fund where allowed to add more	01/12/2023	Allowances sheet refreshed and circulated. HSF usage shows care leavers have extra funds.	They will have money for food and heating.		Update: 10% uplift in weekly subsistence approved by Chief Officer, and 10% on top of universal credit for care leavers - in line with inflation.
Increase in number of care leavers becoming parents	Hos	Creates Job Description and Person Specification for new Expert Practitioner role to support care leavers who are NEET, care leavers who are parents and to run support for these categories of vulnerable care leavers.	01/12/2023	Person in post	Care leavers will have skills to be able to parent safely.		Update: post recruited to has been in post since January 2023. Will provide report on impact in October 2023
Young People said in March 2022 at their CV and Interview workshop that they would like more opportunities to practice and more help to get the job they want.	HoS	Works with participation service to run CV/interview sessions regularly throughout the year. Invites Prospects to run at least 4 sessions per year, and to offer 121 sessions.	01/08/2023	Sessions will have run. Young people will say that they have had support via the CiCC and in their pathway plans. 1 case study on how a young person has used their CV/interview practice to get a job or work experience.	Children will feel more prepared to get a job. Young people will have a job.		March 22 - 1 x job and CV session held. Connection with prospects & Connecting Communities service following summer holiday programme - leading to employment.
Our data shows young people not wanting to have any vaccine, not just covid. Important as vaccine histories are unknown and there is a risk of for example measles/polio etc which are unavoidable.	Lead SW for UASC	Arranges workshop for looked after children and care leavers in Summer 2022 (rearranged from Spring) with LAC nurse.	Aug-23	Attendance list and session notes. At least 20% of attendees have vaccines.	Children will have correct information on vaccines. Children will be vaccinated and safe from preventable harm.		Update: LAC named nurse has undertaken drop in, next one in early January. Session completed. Review session will be held, LAC now have a named nurse, who visits 8 weekly to the Guildhall for drop in sessions and info around immunisation.

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Why?	Who?	Does what?	By when?	How will we know it has been done?	What will be the experience of children?	RAG rated progress	Comments on progress
Increase in mental ill health in care leavers observed, with two under section of MHA in hospital since January 2022, a big change.	HoS	Reviews two young people's cases. Encourages use of early wellbeing support amongst staff. Identifies more culturally matched mental health support via community sector - for Sudanese young people.	01-Dec-23	Paper to CSMT. Sudanese specific mental health support identified and offered.	Children will be able to access support that they will understand and connect with. Children won't need to go into hospital for mental health reasons.		Update: priority action for January. Mental health support is being offered. Needs work. The Sudanese charity we are linked with does not offer mental health support - beyond good health promotion via groups. September: our family therapy clinic is run by a lead with a doctorate in global mental health
Culturally attuned practice	HOS/TS	Ensures welcome bags for looked after children include culturally appropriate hair and skin care products	01-May-23	Products in bags.	They have hair and skin care products that work for them immediately		Bags in place
Mental health of local children and families is supported.	Head of Service	Extend CoL trainee systemic family therapy clinic programme to 2023-24 and look at long term contract arrangements. Joint project with Kings College London.	01-Aug-23	Contract in Place Care leavers and children in care are shown to have attended the clinic in their quarterly data. One qualitative example of impact of the clinic for a child in care/care leaver presented to CSMT.	Children and parents are able to emotionally manage day to day life better, with therapy being offered in their homes. Excellence in Practice.		Update: the new term has started with a new SW lead being part of it. Contract extended for a further year. Note: lead clinician will continue with the clinic alongside new role as AD in B'gham.
2022/23 Self Assessment to be completed	HoS	To write SEF	31/08/2023	SEF in place	Full accountable review of overall service to children and their families. Excellence in Practice		SEF updates have taken place monthly in preparation for this new year
<u>Learning from a complaint</u>							
Action Plan: To ensure opinions and views are clear in assessments	HOS/TM	To ensure it is clear in assessments should these be in italics.	30/12/2023	Recommendation to be explored with the CSC management team and consider how best to differentiate Social Worker analysis / opinion from rest of assessment.			To be explored in team meeting. Note: we'd stopped writing 'in my professional opinion' after training.
Information on MARFS	HOS/TM	In future full details of the information provided on MARFs will be recorded on Child and Family Assessments and more enquiries will be made and findings noted on the case record.	30/12/2023	· Ensure that the details set out on the MARF are proportionately and accurately reflected on the Assessment.			

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Why?	Who?	Does what?	By when?	How will we know it has been done?	What will be the experience of children?	RAG rated progress	Comments on progress
Updating records consistently	Team	Notes on enquiries made and outcomes should be noted on the case file.	30/12/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow the principles of the Assessment Framework in terms of capturing information from all relevant sources and ensure these are recorded on the assessment template. Review compliance via future quality assurance activity. 	Records to be updated on the case file as per the Practice Standards.		
Accuracy	Team	Details to be recorded accurately	30/12/2023	Managers will have checked spellings thoroughly. Audits show these are correct.			
Enquiries	team	Ensure enquiries made of professionals/people around the family		Future audits to consider quality of information gathering during assessment process.			
Complaint acknowledgement	Business Team	Acknowledgements sent to complainants should set out the issues to be addressed and confirmation sought from complainant that they agree.	30/12/2023	Business Unit Procedure manual has been updated to reflect this recommendation			

Findings from Annual Survey August 2023 are now tracked in a QA tracker

Findings from Annual Survey October 2022

Early Help

Feedback from Survey	EH worker	Learns British Sign Language	end March 2023	Early help worker completes level one British sign language.	Deaf children and deaf parents ill be able to communicate directly with the early help service for straightforward conversations.		Update: programme put back a term. Early Help worker is enrolled on 1/2 day per week programme. Note BSL translators and written communication is used alongside.
CIN/CP							
Parent requested staff use BSL (note interpreters used)	CWD lead social worker	Learns introductory level british sign language	Mar-23	Completion of programme	Deaf children and deaf parents ill be able to communicate directly with the social care service for straightforward conversations.		Update: programme put back a term. Social worker continues on the programme 1/2 day a week.

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A parent asked for better chairing of CIN meetings and for chair to ask for feedback.	Expert practitioner	Supports social workers with complex cases at CIN reviews, building on intensive work in autumn term	01/12/2023	Files will evidence input of the expert practitioner. Family feedback will not show frustration with the chairing of CIN meetings	If children are in the meeting, they will experience confident adults. Children's views are gathered well in and for the meeting. Parents will respond to recommendations in the CIN meeting and their children's experience at home will improve.		This work is continuing from the Afghan project lead's work in this area.
	social workers	Direct work should be shared with parents so they have a clear idea of what discussions are taking place with their children and what you are actually doing, parents become anxious when they don't know what is happening behind closed doors especially when speaking to children alone.	Sep-23	Feedback to Project lead by families.	children will have confidence in the adults working together. Children will be not be torn between adults.		Kept in for oversight by HOS
		Pre Plan visits so that you know why you are there as does the family	Sep-23	Each visit write up begins 'purpose of visit' as a heading.			
cost of living	hos	encourages staff to use MyBNK	Dec-23	report on number of young people attending quarterly	confident in managing money		keeping on for continued monitoring of youth

BLACK LIVES MATTER

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Why?	Who?	Does what?	By when?	How will we know it has been done?	What will be the experience of children?	RAG rated progress	Comments on progress
Child Q serious case review shows systemic racism causing harm to children. Black children need seeing as children, with safeguarding considered first.	Head of Service	Treats racism as a health and safety issue for black staff. Runs Support Sessions for staff. Culture where staff discuss racism on a daily basis. White staff use the reading group and film club to 'look in the mirror' as well as out of the window on our own racism. Ensures staff attend adultification training by CHSCP. Runs a MACE session on Child Q with CHSCP. Raises profile of drug support for children, and support for children whose parents use substances.	01-Aug-22	MACE session minutes evidence work. Team and Senior Management Meeting minutes evidence health and safety approach. Attendance records show 80% staff have attended adultification training in 2022.	Children will receive safeguarding first support. Children will not experience harm from teachers or police or harm from the absence of action by adults.		Update: Child Q work reviewed with management team. MACE work undertaken. Staff support sessions happened. Reconition that to talk about racism is painful, and to not talk about racism is painful. To provide support and love and care to black staff and children and families.
To include children and families in co producing all our strategies. To include children and parents in all our board meetings.	Head of Service	Reviews co production work across Early Help, Child in Need and Child Protection, and across our board work to identify gaps and provide a plan.	Dec-23	Children and parents voices will be directly heard at the Achieving Excellence Board, in the Early Help Stragegy and Short Breaks strategy and a plan will go to Children's Senior Management Team.	Children will be included, and have no service for them without them.		Retained for continuity: this needs more focussed work. Strategies are using national voices, to avoid over surveying our young people. At the moment we use videos of children and national research, we can improve.
Staff development	HOS	Ensures black managers join London networks, join the Leadership in Colour Conference, use the BALI network and access stretching leadership training.	ongoing	Appraisals show stretching training & networking across London.	Children will benefit from having managers who are able to be authentically themselves, and black children will see people who look like them at all levels in the City		
OFSTED FINDINGS 2020 (retained in 2022-23 plan to keep attention)							
The management overview of families stepped down to early help to ensure that families receive help with in a timescale that is right for them	Early Help Co-Ordinator & Mosaic Lead	Make Early Help Assessment work step & TAF meeting process live on Mosaic	complete	EH worker will have tested the work steps.	Children are helped quickly.		complete
	Early Help Co-Ordinator	Runs a weekly report on referral into early help and timescale of completing an EH assessment.	complete	Report is produced	Children are seen and supported quickly. 100% of families said communication from EH was good.		complete

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Learning from within our service	HOS	Now CIN tracker is working well, add in a focus on SMART targets to support the managers in the tracker section.	Mar-23	Casenotes and tracker evidences it.	They will understand their plan, and understand how the adults are working together to make their lives easier and better.		September Update: we are dipsampling1 case in the CIN tracker each time to focus on the SMART targets. Made recommendations to worker/manager with comments on file. Update: social work practice week writing event attended by all staff, writing well training commissioned and attended. Follow up to be considered
	HOS	Improving writing skills, grammar and analysis so it is consistent across team members.	Jun-23	Managers will report less rewriting/sending back of visits/reports.	They will be able to understand clearly what is written if they come to see their files.		
	HOS	Improving our anti racist practice in our assessments, noticing where black and brown children have not had their needs seen.	Aug-23	EH lead and EH worker to share their good practice with social care - using assessments. EH lead to create case examples - short - to then share and use with our and other services	black and brown children will be 'seen' - workers are curious about the services/assessments that are and are not in place. Children will have less detention/exclusion		
increase in number of girls in care and as care leavers	RT	Thinks about diferent ways of doing the CiCC	Mar-23	Girls/young women included in CiCC	Gender relevant activities and thought in planning group work.		Using London Wide CiCC for the girls

Committee:	Dated:
Safeguarding Sub-Committee	23/11/2023
Subject: Children and Families Service Performance – Month 6 2023/24 (September 2023)	Public Appendix 1 (Non-public) Appendix 2 (Public)
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2 and 3
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Judith Finlay Executive Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Report author: Ellie Ward, Head of Strategy and Performance	

Summary

This report updates Members on service performance across the Children and Families Service. It demonstrates where performance meets our statutory obligations and targets and identifies where action was taken for improvement in specific areas.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The Children and Families Service at the City of London Corporation provides a range of services including Early Help, Child Protection, and Supporting Care Leavers.
2. The service collects and monitors a range of performance information to ensure that statutory duties are being met, and that services are delivering the best possible outcomes for children, young people and families.

3. Appendix 1 presents the performance dashboard from 1 April to 30 September (month 6) 2023/24. It provides an overall summary of performance in each of the service areas and more detailed information in each area.
4. Appendix 2 provides a glossary of some of the terms used in the performance dashboard.

Current Position

5. Overall, performance across the service is good, meeting a range of statutory requirements and local targets, and comparing well with regional or national benchmarks.
6. It should be noted that, due to small numbers in children's services cohorts in the City of London Corporation, there can sometimes be significant variance in out-turns. These are noted where this is an issue.

Headlines

7. Demand continues to be high and is continuing to increase. In the first 6 months of 2023/24, there were 395 contacts. Based on this, it is estimated that there will be nearly 800 contacts over the year. This is higher than last year when there were 707 which was also higher than the total number for 2021/22. This is in keeping with an annual trend but shows a significant increase over last year and the estimate for this year.
8. Overall, the number of Children in Need has reduced over the six months from 19 in April 2023 to 16 at the end of September 2023.
9. The number of children looked after (CLA) by the City of London Corporation decreased over the two quarters from 12 in April 2023 to 6 in September 2023. This follows a trend in recent years of decreasing numbers of CLA.
10. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) recorded 18 contacts in the first 6 months of 2023/24 (5% of referrals). MASH contacts have already exceeded the number in 2022/23 which was 17.
11. There were 11 Early Help referrals in the first two quarters. It is estimated that the total number of referrals will be lower than the previous two years which saw a particularly high number of referrals reflecting the support provided to families as part of the Afghan Resettlement Programme.
12. Overall, during the two quarters, an average 73% of assessments were completed within 45 days. This is lower than the 90% average of 2022/23 but is an area that is being monitored.
13. There were 56 care leavers being supported at the end of September 2023. This has been increasing overall over time (42 at the end of 2020/21) but is a slight decrease on the end of March 2023 when the number was 59.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

14. Strategic implications – This report represents a picture of the Children and Families Service which includes both statutory requirements and early intervention and prevention work (known as Early Help). The work of the service helps meet Corporate Plan Priorities 1, 2 and 3 for families, children and young people.
15. Financial implications – N/A
16. Resource implications – N/A
17. Legal implications – N/A
18. Risk implications – N/A
19. Equalities implications – Monitoring intelligence on all of our social care processes and associated demographics allows us to assess and then investigate if there are any unintended impacts of any processes or practices.
20. Climate implications – N/A
21. Security implications – N/A

Conclusion

22. This report provides a summary of performance data from the Children and Families Service from 1 April 2023 to 30 September 2023, comparing it to performance from the previous month, quarter or year, and other benchmarks where appropriate.
23. It demonstrates strong performance across the service, with some specific areas where some action was taken for improvement. These areas are all now back on a positive trajectory.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Children and Families Service Performance Dashboard 2023/24 (Non-Public)
- Appendix 2 – Glossary for Performance Dashboard (Public)

Ellie Ward

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Glossary

Children Social Care



CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

C&FA	Child and Family Assessment – single assessment undertaken by Children Social Care
CAF	Common Assessment Framework (part of Early Help)
CAFCASS	Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CHSCP	City and Hackney Children's Safeguarding Partnership
CIC	Child/ren in Care
CICC	Children in Care Council
CIN	Child In Need
CL	Care Leaver
CLA	Children Looked After
CPP	Child Protection Plan
CPS	Crown Prosecution Service
CSC	Children's Social Care
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CYP	Child and/or Young Person (up to 18 th birthday)
CYPP	Children and Young People's Plan
DSL	Designated Safeguarding Lead
DV	Domestic Violence
EDT	Emergency Duty Team (out of hours duty provided by Hackney)
EET	Education, Employment and Training
EH	Early Help
FE	Further Education

HMO	House of Multiple Occupancy
ICPC	Initial Child Protection Conference
IFA	Independent Fostering Agency
IHA	Initial Health Assessment
IRO	Independent Reviewing Officer
LA Services	Local Authority Services
LAC	Looked after child / ren
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer
LASC	London Asylum Seekers Consortium
MACP	Multi-Agency Child Protection
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MARF	Multi Agency Referral Form
MASH	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NFA	No Further Action
QSW	Qualified Social Worker
RCPC	Review Child Protection Conference
RHI	Return Home Interview
S47	Section 47 Enquiry, part of Child Protection investigation (the outcome may be that the subject is escalated to an ICPC)
SCR	Serious Case Review
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disability
TAC	Team Around the Child meeting (Early Help measure)

TAF Team Around the Family (Early Help measure)

UASC Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child (up to 18th birthday)

Committee:	Dated:
Community and Children's Services Safeguarding Sub-Committee	23/11/2023
Subject: Working Together to Improve School Attendance (Update)	Public Appendix 2 – non-public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	- Contribute to a flourishing society 3) People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	Yes
What is the source of Funding?	The Dedicated Schools Grant
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	Y
Report of: Judith Finlay, Executive Director, Community and Children's Services	For Discussion
Report author: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theresa Shortland, Head of Service – Education and Early Years Kirstie Hilton – Lead Advisor, Universal Education Services 	

Summary

- The Department for Education (DfE) published new guidance in May 2022 for maintained schools, academies, independent schools, and local authorities. *Working together to improve school attendance* came into effect from September 2022 and was due to become statutory from September 2023. The purpose of the guidance is to help maintained schools, academies, independent schools, and local authorities to work together to maintain high levels of attendance. Each group plays an essential and different role, and will need to work collectively to improve attendance.
- The purpose of this report is to update Members on the work that has been carried out by the City of London's Education and Early Years Service over the last academic year to respond to the new guidance and meet the needs of our statutory school cohort and schools by working together to improve school attendance.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The City of London has one maintained primary school and no maintained secondary schools. There are four independent schools and one independent college (David Game College). Most children attending these schools are non-City of London residents. Most of the City of London's primary-age children and all secondary-age children in the maintained sector are educated outside the City of London altogether.
2. The law entitles every child of compulsory school age to an efficient, full-time education suitable to their age, aptitude, and any special educational need they may have. Where parents decide to have their child registered at school, they have an additional legal duty to ensure that their child attends that school regularly. This means their child must attend every day that the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances, such as being too ill to attend or being given permission for an absence in advance from the school.
3. It is essential for pupils to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances. The pupils with the highest attainment at the end of key stage 2 (Year 6) and key stage 4 (Year 11) have higher rates of attendance over the key stage compared to those with the lowest attainment. For the most vulnerable pupils, regular attendance is also an important protective factor and the best opportunity for needs to be identified and support provided.
4. Where barriers to attendance for a pupil or family are complex and signposting to services is not sufficient, the City of London, schools and other services will continue to work together to provide more intensive whole family support to address those barriers. All multi-disciplinary support will be co-ordinated using existing Early Help structures. For children resident in the City of London, a referral will be made to the City of London Early Help team. For children attending schools in the City of London but residing in other areas, the Education Welfare Manager (EWM) will be responsible for facilitating referrals to the local authorities where they live.

Persistent Absenteeism

5. Persistent absenteeism (when a child's attendance falls to 90% or below), has always been a challenge within schools. However, COVID-19 has exacerbated the situation, resulting in an increase in the number of children with growing absence concerns. Some pupils who are experiencing social, emotional and mental health difficulties, can resort to emotional-based school avoidance. This is especially apparent in secondary schools, resulting in persistent absenteeism. Children attending at 50% or below are considered as severe absentees.

Attendance Strategy

6. Since the last update to this Committee in September 2022, The City of London's School Attendance Strategy 2023–2025 (**see Appendix 1**) has been finalised, presenting the service's vision with an emphasis that *improving attendance is everyone's business*. The strategy has been developed with all our key partners, and all schools in the City of London local area have engaged with us in developing this strategy. This is a collaborative approach to managing school attendance.
7. The purpose of the City of London's School Attendance Strategy is to ensure that that the Aldgate School and independent schools in the City of London work together with partners to maintain high levels of school attendance, and improve school attendance for all children educated in the City of London and for our resident children attending schools outside of the locality.

School Attendance Support Service (SASS)

8. The SASS includes the Lead Advisor for Universal Services, Education Welfare Manager, and Admissions and Attendance Manager, and is now formally part of the Education and Early Years Service. The SASS has a new referral form and dedicated inbox (attendance@cityoflondon.gov.uk), which schools can use to alert the team to any pressing attendance issues.
9. The aim of the SASS is to track local attendance data, visit schools regularly to discuss any attendance concerns and hold targeting support meetings when required. The new Education Welfare Manager, Davinder Kaur, who started at the City of London in July, is essential in delivering an excellent frontline service to our schools.
10. The SASS is a year-round service, also working with City of London resident children and families when required, even if the children attend schools outside of the local area. Most City of London resident children attend school outside of the local area, which requires the team to be more aware of any activity that may be of concern that can have an impact on educational outcomes. The SASS remains pivotal in working with families to ensure that cross-borough working is achieved, and that any issues resulting in low attendance are addressed.

Attendance Data

11. In preparation for delivery of our School Attendance Strategy from September 2023, we asked schools to provide a snapshot of attendance data for all children educated within the City of London local area in May 2023 who have attendance at 90% or below. The data requested was:
 - Number of children on school roll
 - Pupil Unique Identifier (no names required)
 - Year Group
 - Postcode

- Attendance if 90% or below (both authorised and unauthorised) *and if any of these pupils have special educational needs (SEN).*

12. All schools responded, however, the schools' varying data systems presented challenges to the SASS, and resulted in differing data returns. Work with schools will continue to take place to further interpret school attendance to identify trends and patterns of absence, to help make more strategic decisions. Data collected in the summer term 2023 will be used as a platform for development of SASS service response during the autumn term 2023.
13. To give the City of London access to real-time attendance data, accessing school attendance data through applications such as Wonde and Power BI is being explored with the DfE and the Strategy and Performance Service. Currently, the City of London does not have a central management information system that connects to all the pupil management systems held in schools in the City of London.

The Aldgate School

14. The Aldgate School is the one maintained primary school in the City, with 210 children on its school roll. The school has historically been very proactive in addressing any persistent absence issues.
15. In September 2022, the Aldgate School re-launched its attendance policy to include a more robust system including penalty notices to address persistent absence. Penalty notices have not been issued previously. To enable school leaders to tackle increased persistent absenteeism, the Education and Early Years Service also revised its Code of Conduct Policy, supporting the school's decision to issue parents with penalty notices and fines for:
 - children whose attendance is poor
 - children who have been taken on an unauthorised term-time holiday
 - instances where the pupil is present in a public place during the first five days in the cases of exclusion or long suspension from school.
16. Regular half-termly meetings have taken place over the 2022/23 academic year to address any attendance issues and will continue at this frequency throughout the 2023/24 academic year. Monitoring meetings have taken place over the course of the year to ensure that absence is being coded correctly and measures are in place to address and challenge attendance issues. The City of London's Code of Conduct Policy, which was reviewed and approved in July 2022, came into force during the 2022/23 academic year to support school leaders in implementing sanctions.
17. During the 2022/23 academic year, the City of London SASS received 12 referrals for further action, resulting in Penalty Notice Warning letters.

Vulnerable Children

18. Since the pandemic, the Department of Community and Children's Services has maintained a Vulnerable Children's Register, which includes children known to the Education and Early Years Service, Children's Social Care and Early Help Service and the Virtual School. This includes children who are missing education, children at risk of missing education, children being electively home educated, children with Education, Health and Care Plans, children known to Early Help, Children in Need, children with a Child Protection Plan, Ukrainian children who have resettled here, Children in Care and care leavers who are in Year 13.
19. At the end of September 2023, there were 74 children on the register. Specific, higher-risk cases on the register are considered and reviewed each month by the different teams, with actions agreed. This provides support and challenge, reduces the possibility of 'drift', and quickly highlights incidents of low school attendance and missing education so that support can be provided.

Alternative Provision

20. One local priority for the City of London is for all children and young people living in the City of London to have access to high-quality alternative provision. With no alternative provision in the local area, this is a particular challenge for the City of London, however, work has begun on developing a more robust approach to ensure that children accessing alternative provision receive quality services (**please see Appendix 2**).

Virtual School

21. The City of London Virtual Head Teacher continues to oversee the education, training and employment opportunities provided to all care-experienced children, children who have been assessed as needing, or previously needing, a social worker for safeguarding and/or welfare reasons. This includes all children aged 0 to 18 years across all education settings subject to a Children in Need Plan or a Child Protection Plan. This cohort has been identified as a group of children who face significant barriers to education due to experiencing adversity, most commonly abuse and neglect.

Future Priorities

22. The City will need to develop a sustainable approach to managing school attendance, and will need to expand the current support provided to schools. Over the next year, the SASS will ensure that measures are put in place to meet the statutory guidance. The SASS will continue to support schools and partners to work with pupils and parents to remove any barriers to attendance by building strong and trusting relationships and to ensure that the right support is in place.
23. The SASS will lead on the collection of attendance data on a termly basis (twice termly for the Aldgate School), which will then be analysed and presented in the form of a termly report. The first of these reports will be written and presented to this Committee in the new calendar year.

24. Twice-termly meetings will take place in the schools to support school leaders in identifying and addressing whole school attendance issues as well as individual cases. The SASS will lead on reviewing school attendance policies where required, and supporting the independent schools in adding rigour to their processes to develop sanctions.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

25. **Strategic implications** – Corporate outcome: Contribute to a flourishing society by ensuring that people have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential.

26. **Resource implications** – There is a dedicated Education team (the SASS) that manages attendance and case management work. The guidance says the offer of support to schools should be free of charge to them. It is likely that the funding for extending this role will be via the Dedicated Schools Grant. The funding may be required for the local risk budget. The post of an Education Welfare Manager has changed from a commissioned post to a permanent full-time role, which is integral to the success and sustainability of the work delivered in the attendance strategy.

27. **Financial implications** – It is yet unknown if the DfE will provide additional funding to local authorities to meet the new guidance by September 2023.

28. **Legal implications** – There is a statutory duty to ensure that all children attend school regularly and that the City of London ensures that all children have a school place.

29. **Risk implications** – There is a reputational risk if the City of London does not comply to the guidance. The now established School Attendance Support Service will mitigate this risk and build on the historic work of the education welfare service

30. **Equalities implications** – All children have the right to an education.

31. **Climate implications** – N/A

32. **Security implications** – N/A

33. The DfE guidance *Working together to improve school attendance* published in May 2022 continues to be non-statutory guidance that has been produced to help schools, trusts, governing bodies, and local authorities to maintain high levels of schools attendance. The City of London has formulated an attendance strategy to push ahead in working with schools to address whole school and individual attendance concerns.

34. The City of London has set up the School Support Attendance Service (SASS), new referral forms, and has already begun collecting attendance data to gain a strategic overview of the attendance landscape within the local area.

35. Work will continue with the schools and local partners to formalise referral pathways and access to key services, which schools will need when addressing attendance

concerns. Ultimately, this will lead to better outcomes for our children and young people.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: The City of London's School Attendance Strategy 2023–2025
- Appendix 2: COL alternative provision statement.

Background Papers

References to DfE documents:

a. Working together to improve school attendance: Guidance for maintained schools, academies, independent schools, and local authorities.

Published: May 2022.

Applies from: September 2022

[Working together to improve school attendance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance)

This is guidance from the DfE. This guidance is non-statutory, and has been produced to help schools, trusts, governing bodies, and local authorities maintain high levels of school attendance. Following public consultation earlier this year, and subject to Parliament, the Secretary of State has committed to this guidance becoming statutory when parliamentary time allows.

b. Summary table of responsibilities for school attendance: Guidance for maintained schools, academies, independent schools, and local authorities.

Published: May 2022

Applies from: September 2022

[Summary table of responsibilities for school attendance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/publications/summary-table-of-responsibilities-for-school-attendance)

This document summarises the attendance responsibilities for parents, schools, academy trusts and governing bodies, and local authorities that are outlined in *Working together to improve school attendance*.

c. Guidance: Virtual school head role extension to children with a social worker

Published: 16 June 2021

Last updated: 19 June 2023

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/virtual-school-head-role-extension-to-children-with-a-social-worker>

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The School Attendance Strategy 2023-25 The City of London



1. Context

'Improving school attendance is everyone's business. The barriers to accessing education are wide and complex, both within and beyond the school gates, and are often specific to individual pupils and families. The foundation of securing good attendance is that school is a calm, orderly, safe, and supportive environment where all pupils want to be and are keen and ready to learn.

Some pupils find it harder than others to attend school and therefore at all stages of improving attendance, schools and partners should work with pupils and parents to remove any barriers to attendance by building strong and trusting relationships and working together to put the right support in place. Securing good attendance cannot therefore be seen in isolation, and effective practices for improvement will involve close interaction with schools' efforts on curriculum, behaviour, bullying, special educational needs support, pastoral and mental health and wellbeing, and effective use of resources, including pupil premium. It cannot solely be the preserve of a single member of staff, or organisation, it must be a concerted effort across all teaching and non-teaching staff in school, the trust or governing body, the local authority, and other local partners.'

Working together to improve school attendance - September 2022 due to become statutory guidance from September 2023. The Department for Education (DfE)

2. The City of London

The City of London School Attendance Strategy presents our vision with an emphasis that 'Improving attendance is everyone's business'.

This strategy outlines the key outcomes we expect to deliver in 2023-25. The outcomes in the School Attendance Strategy contribute to the delivery of the Corporate Plan 2018–2023 by aligning to these four outcomes:

Outcome 1: People are safe and feel safe

Outcome 2: People enjoy good health and wellbeing

Outcome 3: People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential

Outcome 4: Communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need.

The Children and Young People's Plan 2022–25 (CYPP) sets the strategic priorities for the City of London Corporation to ensure that children and young people who live or study in the Square Mile, or access our services live the best life that they can. The outcomes of the City of London School Attendance Strategy also contribute to the delivery of the City of London Children and Young People's Plan 2022-25 by aligning to these four focus areas:

- Support children, young people, and their families to make sure they are prepared for school
- Insist that children and young people are at the heart of everything we do
- Support children and young people to thrive and contribute to society in a positive way
- Ensure children and young people are and feel safe

3. Strategic context

National

The Department for Education (DfE) published new guidance in May 2022 for maintained schools, academies, independent schools, and local authorities. Working together to improve school attendance comes into effect from September 2022 and becomes statutory on or before September 2023.

The purpose of the City of London School Attendance Strategy is to ensure that The Aldgate School (the one maintained school in the City) alongside the City of London independent schools work together with partners to maintain high levels of school attendance and work collectively to improve school attendance for all children educated in the City and for our City resident children attending schools outside of the City.

Local

This strategy has been developed to focus on the requirements set out in The Department for Education (DfE) guidance 'Working together to improve school attendance' published in May 2022 for maintained schools, academies, independent schools, and local authorities.

The City of London is expected to track local attendance data to devise a strategic overview for school attendance. We have worked with all of our key partners to develop this strategy. All Schools based in the City local area have engaged with us in developing this strategy. This is a collaborative approach to managing school attendance.

The City of London has established a School Attendance Support Team within the Education & Early Years' service which provides the following core functions free of charge to all schools (regardless of type):

- Communication and advice: regularly bring schools together to communicate messages, provide advice and share best practice between schools and trusts within the area.

- Targeting Support Meetings. These are termly conversations with schools, using their attendance data to identify pupils and cohorts at risk of poor attendance and agree targeted actions and access to services for those pupils.
- Multi-disciplinary support for families: provide access to early help support workers to work intensively with families to provide practical whole-family support where needed to tackle the causes of absenteeism and unblock the barriers to attendance.
- Legal intervention, to take forward attendance legal intervention (using the full range of parental responsibility measures) where voluntary support has not been successful or engaged with.
- Monitor and improve the attendance of children with a social worker through their Virtual School.

4. City of London School Attendance Support Team is comprised of the Universal Lead for Education services, the Education Welfare Manager and the School Admissions and Attendance Manager. This team will work with all schools in the City local area including the Independent Schools.

The School Attendance Support Team has four core functions. The core functions to be provided to all schools are:

- Communication and advice: Good communication and sharing of effective practice are essential to good multi-agency working. The team must provide guidance on how schools, the School Attendance Support Team and other partners should work together to provide intensive voluntary and/or formal support for individual pupils and families. This should include clarity around what support schools should already have offered and the point at which the local authority will become involved in individual cases and how the local authority and school will share responsibility in line with the summary of responsibilities table.
- Provide each school with a named point of contact in the School Attendance Support Team who can support with queries and advice, and with whom Targeting Support Meetings will be held.
- Maintain relationships with school leaders and offer opportunities for all schools
 - (regardless of type) to regularly come together to share effective attendance practice.
- Show leadership and work together with all schools to tackle common issues across the geographical area.

5. Legal intervention

The City of London will actively work with schools to address any attendance issue and where necessary support schools in having challenging conversations with families. When required, the City of London will issue penalty notices in line with local codes of conduct where absence from school is unauthorised and support has been provided but has not worked or been engaged with, or would not have been appropriate in the circumstances of the offence (e.g. an unauthorised holiday in

term time). The City of London will initiate prosecution as a last resort where all other routes have been exhausted or deemed inappropriate.

6. Priorities

The City of London School Attendance Strategy 2023-25 has five priorities. These are:

Priority 1: Develop systems and processes to collect and monitor data; to manage and report on performance of school attendance for all city based schools in the local area.

- To ensure that the local authority and all service areas recognise that good attendance is everyone's business and the responsibility of us all. Educational neglect through poor attendance is detrimental to children and a significant safeguarding concern.
- To ensure consistency in data collection methods, reporting and data sharing across all City of London schools
- To identify issues that highlight barriers to good / excellent attendance for pupils and their families.
- To ensure that attendance is monitored robustly, poor attendance is addressed promptly and interventions / support actioned in a timely manner

Priority 2: Establish a City of London School Attendance Support Team

- To ensure that dedicated expertise is allocated to oversee the timely and effective implementation of the new government / LA strategy
- To ensure that four core functions are provided to schools, pupils and their families. These are: Communication and advice, Targeting Support Meetings, Multi-disciplinary support for families and Legal intervention
- Ensure early intervention to establish good patterns of attendance for pupils and pupil cohorts throughout their education

Priority 3: Establish a City of London multi-agency governance framework approach to monitor performance outcomes for school attendance

- To ensure that all agencies required to be involved in the delivery of this strategy are actively engaged, involved and take accountability for their actions

Priority 4: Establish governance to ensure there is an emphasis on vulnerable children and children missing education that focuses on their school attendance, progress and attainment.

- To maintain an overview of all known vulnerable children who continue to experience issues with school attendance and engaging with education, particularly those with SEND and on SEN Support.
- To provide an added level of safeguarding for our most vulnerable children

Priority 5: To ensure there are sufficient good quality options for alternative provision for all children that need this type of provision.

- For all children and young people living in the City of London to have access to high quality alternative provision

7. Implementation and delivery

Governance

The governance for implementation of this strategy is with the Education Safeguarding Forum, a multi-agency board chaired by the Assistant Director, People.

Reports will also be submitted to the City of London Safeguarding Sub-Committee and the Children and Young People's Board and the SEND Programme Board.

Partners and Stakeholders

Delivery of this strategy will require a multi-agency approach, consisting of partners from the following organisations:

- City of London Schools
- City of London Education and Early Years Service
- City of London Children's Social Care and Early Help Service
- City of London Virtual School
- City of London Commissioning and Contracts Team
- City of London Strategy and Performance Team
- City and Hackney Children's Safeguarding Partnership
- City of London Policy
- City of London Health Providers

Our challenges

- The majority of our young people attend school and access services outside of the local authority boundary
- Children and Young people living in Portsoken Ward and in the East of the City of London have high levels of deprivation and need
- Health services for City of London residents are fragmented in different locations and across local authority boundaries
- The majority of our Looked After Children are Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children
- The small size of our resident population presents a challenge to our strategic and commissioning planning
- The Covid-19 pandemic has increased demand for child and adolescent mental health and speech and language services, as well as impacting on children's personal, social and emotional development.

Children in The City of London

- 1977 children and young people aged 0-25 live in the City of London (2021 census)
- 23 children with an Educational Health and Care Plan (April 2023)
- 19 Children in Need (March 2023)
- 9 Children Looked After (March 2023)
- 59 Care Leavers (March 2023)
- 69% of Annual Health Checks and 78% of Dental checks were up to date within our Looked After Children Cohort (March 2023)

- The percentage of young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) is significantly lower than the England average
- 81% of children are placed in secondary schools that are their first preference choice (March 2023)
- 96% of children are placed in primary schools that are their first preference choice (April 2023)

Average year group

If all City children attend one school, what would the average year group of children look like?

- 52% would be male
- 48% would be female
- 57% would be BAME
- 22% would receive Free School Meals
- 60% would speak a first language other than English

How will this be delivered?

The strategy will be delivered in the form of an action plan, which is being developed to plan and monitor the delivery of this priorities in the strategy.

Committee(s): Safeguarding Sub Committee Health & Wellbeing Board – For information	Dated: 23 November 2023 24 November 2023
Subject: The Child Q Update report – Why was it me?	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	Contribute to a flourishing society <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People are safe and feel safe. 2. People enjoy good health and wellbeing. 3. People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential. 4. Communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need.
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Jim Gamble QPM & Rory McCallum	For Discussion
Report author: Jim Gamble QPM & Rory McCallum	

Summary

In 2020, Child Q, a Black female child of secondary school age, was stripped searched by female police officers from the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). The search, which involved the exposure of Child Q's intimate body parts, took place on school premises, without an Appropriate Adult present and with the knowledge that Child Q was menstruating.

A Local Child Safeguarding Practice was initiated by the City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership (CHSCP). It was authored by Jim Gamble QPM (Independent Safeguarding Children Commissioner) and Rory McCallum (Senior Professional Advisor) and published in March 2022. The review made eight findings and 14 recommendations for improving practice.

At the request of Hackney's Mayor, the Independent Safeguarding Children Commissioner committed to providing an independent update on the progress made in response to the first review.

The Child Q update report - *Why was it me?* was published in June 2023. It is 104 pages long, covers 9 sections and provides an evaluation of progress against the review's initial 14 recommendations and looks at the work undertaken on trust and confidence in the police, schools and anti-racism.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The Child Q update report and an accompanying video can be read/seen on the CHSCP website – [HERE](#). A short summary is set out below.

1.2 Overview

- The immediate response to the Child Q review reflected the shock that went through the system. The police and school in question initially adopted a defensive position.
- Hackney council's leadership responded with a clear vision regarding the issues and recognised the need for a coordinated multiagency response. This leadership was key.
- There was evidence of strong and effective leadership from many individuals and organisations.
- The appointment of the new BCU Commander has seen a shift in approach and there is some cautious optimism.

1.3 Engagement / Voices

- The report primarily focuses on the voice of children. The update engaged with about 100 local children (overwhelmingly from the Black community).
- They were engaged in spaces and places where they felt able to speak and we believe that their input is an authentic reflection of their own experiences.
- For many adults, the incident involving Child Q caused shock, disbelief and fear. There was also anger. However, for children, many felt no sense of shock. They saw Child Q as another example of a Black child being treated unfairly by the police.
- They could also draw parallels with their own experiences and what some saw as the insensitive practices within their schools. Their comments focused on discipline and welfare, racism, how schools search children and their views about the police.
- The views of children were echoed in those of parents, carers and community representatives.

1.4 The Police

- There has been progress in the MPS, but much remains to be done.
- The MPS has improved how they record and present the data on strip searching and there is a much better level of scrutiny. Some pilots have also been started to look at the best way to support young people when they are stopped and searched by the police.
- There have been no MTIP searches of children in Hackney for over a year and a 45% reduction across London. Improvement in the number of Appropriate Adults being used is also noted (although the report acknowledges some wider difficulties on this matter).
- Authority levels have been increased and in Hackney, the BCU Commander has enhanced the requirement to Supt (from inspector and to the Commander on out of hours decisions)
- The Report highlights several other issues including.
 - A call for the MPS Commissioner to acknowledge institutional racism.
 - The requirement for better and more meaningful engagement at a local level regarding the appointment of future BCU Commanders and more insightful and meaningful local scrutiny of policing.
- It also covers issues related to the need to revisit the law (PACE Codes) and the approach to reasonable grounds when conducting a search.

1.5 Education

- Children had concerns about the nature and frequency of searches undertaken by teaching staff in schools and what was felt to be an overly authoritarian approach in some education establishments.
- The report highlights the lack of consistency in the way schools identify what is considered a prohibited item, i.e. something you can be searched for. The report makes recommendations in this regard.
- The report also makes several recommendations that will give the LA and CHSCP greater insight into how children feel or do not feel safe and supported in schools.

Child Q asked, “*why was it me?*” and the report has been given that title. It makes the point that it is time to focus on the root cause and move on from Child Q’s experience. She needs time and space to grow.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications – Whilst the Child Q case relates to a Hackney child, the findings and recommendations from the review have implications for the strategic focus on safeguarding practice within the City of London.

There remains ongoing and active consideration of these issues via the City's statutory safeguarding partners, the CHSCP Exec and the City of London Safeguarding Children Partnership Board.

Financial implications - None

Resource implications -None

Legal implications -None

Risk implications- None

Equalities implications – The issues raised by this case highlight broader issues regarding the need for greater understanding of anti-racist practice, adultification and disproportionality. The learning from the case will seek to support and improve practice across these areas.

Climate implications - None

Security implications – None

Conclusion

As stated in the Child Q update report, following its publication:

'it is now essential that our partnership takes a whole systems approach to improvement. This needs to be coordinated and overseen in a way that drives and demands progress – in a way that practically addresses the alienation and isolation experienced by far too many people because of the colour of their skin. It also needs to engage all relevant partners, including colleagues in adult services and have an unapologetic focus on humanising relationships.'

Appendices

<https://www.chscp.org.uk/case-reviews/>

Background Papers

The initial Child Q review, the update report and associated statements are available on the CHSCP website:

<https://www.chscp.org.uk/case-reviews/>

Jim Gamble QPM

Independent Safeguarding Children Commissioner

Rory McCallum

Senior Professional Advisor

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Committee: Safeguarding Sub-Committee	Dated: 23/11/2023
Subject: Youth Justice Service Action Plan	Public Appendix 1 – non-public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	<i>Contribute to a flourishing society, sections 1–4</i>
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	n/a
What is the source of Funding?	n/a
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	n/a
Report of: Judith Finlay, Executive Director of Community and Children’s Services	For Discussion
Report author: Rachel Talmage, Head of Service, People Department, Department of Community and Children’s Services	

Summary

The City of London commissions Tower Hamlets to operate our Youth Justice Service (YJS). It is a statutory requirement, given the local authority function of the City of London, to provide a service to any children who use offending behaviour who are resident within its boundaries. In April 2022, an inspection of the commissioned service was undertaken by His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP), and the improvement plan was brought to the Safeguarding Sub-Committee in October 2022. This report provides an update on progress in the Youth Justice Service and summarises the inspection findings.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The City of London commissions Tower Hamlets to operate our YJS. It is a statutory requirement to provide a service to any children who have any offending behaviour who are resident in the City of London. The service is outsourced due to our small resident population and the consequent small size of Children’s Services.
2. The service has been commissioned since 2014.

3. In April 2022, an inspection of the commissioned service was undertaken by HMIP. The report is appended (Appendix 1). The overall grading received was 'requires improvement', with five sections being graded 'inadequate'.
4. A swift and thorough response was made by the YJS Management Board which developed an improvement plan.
5. The Tower Hamlets and City of London Youth Justice Improvement Plan has been informed by the outcome from the HMIP inspection that took place in April 2022. This improvement plan focuses on strengthening the Youth Justice Management Board and the Youth Justice Service (YJS) to ensure that there is a 'child first' approach to meet the needs of children and to protect the public.
6. The YJS submitted its YJS strategy, including its improvement plan (see Appendix 2) to the Youth Justice Board and to HMIP on 14 August 2022.
7. The inspection raised seven recommendations that need to be implemented to impact positively on the quality of Tower Hamlets and City of London YJS.

The Tower Hamlets and City of London Youth Justice Management Board should:

Recommendation 1. Review its membership to ensure that the right people, at the right level of seniority, are included to engage actively in achieving better outcomes for YJS children.

Recommendation 2. Ensure that there are comprehensive quality assurance arrangements to understand performance and respond to the profile and needs of all children supervised by the YJS.

Recommendation 3. Make sure that all data and management information is accurate, reliable, and enables informed decision-making.

Recommendation 4. Review its out-of-court provision to ensure that the arrangements are effective and support diversion.

The Tower Hamlets and City of London Youth Justice Head of Service should:

Recommendation 5. Improve the quality of assessment, planning, and service delivery work to keep children safe and manage the risk of harm they present to others.

Recommendation 6. Ensure that robust contingency plans are in place for all children to address their safety and wellbeing, and risk of harm to others.

Recommendation 7. Make sure that safeguarding and public protection arrangements are comprehensive and understood by all staff.

8. These recommendations have been adopted in full. The consequent plan aims to address the areas highlighted via the HMIP inspection. It has been developed with the involvement of the Youth Justice Management Board and the YJS.

Current Position

9. The Youth Justice Management Board has made many improvements at pace over the last 12 months. The Board has been separated into an operational and a strategic board and has been supported by the national Youth Justice Board (YJB).
10. The immediate action was to improve out-of-court disposals (OOCs). This diverted young people away from the criminal justice system, and the first-time entrant rates have reduced by approximately 45% over the last 12 months.
11. The YJS now has a robust quality assurance process that has been highlighted as an area of excellent practice by the YJB. This is demonstrating that there are fewer cases of concern, with more cases that are being counted as 'good'. This is supported by an external auditor.
12. The YJB has referred the YJS to be de-escalated due to the progress made in the last 18 months. The YJB are very happy with the actions taken so far.
13. There are no specific City of London issues.

Key Data

14. No City of London child is currently accessing the YJS. Two children committed an offence in the last five years. It is our view that our robust Early Help offer and outstanding social care service contribute to low levels of either justice or recidivism, in addition to our small volume of children.
15. Black children have been and are disproportionately impacted by Youth Justice, nationally and locally. Change is important so that black children have better outcomes and are not discriminated against. One key example is spotting poor legal advice regarding OOCs. Black children are more likely to be advised to say 'no comment'; this means that, instead of receiving a caution (an OOC), they would have to go to court and would likely receive a sentence – such as a referral order. The data above shows that the first-time entrant rate is much lower due to intervention. Black, white and Asian children are less likely to receive a sentence compared with other residents in Tower Hamlets. Mixed Black/white children are now over-represented, and work is being undertaken to understand and address this issue. The Board regularly reviews disproportionality as a core element of their work.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

16. Strategic implications – This report and appendices align with all four elements of the corporate strategy:

Contribute to a flourishing society:

- People are safe and feel safe.
- People enjoy good health and wellbeing.
- People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential.
- Communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need.

17. Financial implications – The City of London contributes our allocation from the YJB to Tower Hamlets.

18. Resource implications – This is a commissioned service, so minimal staff resources are used to manage the contract. In addition, the Head of Service sits on the Youth Justice Executive Board.

19. Legal implications – None.

20. Risk implications – There is a risk that, if the service does not improve, then any resident child who offends in the City will not receive a good enough service.

21. Equalities implications – Public Sector Equality Duty 2010 – racial disproportionality is central to the improvement plan, as is age. Children who offend are deliberately referred to as ‘children’, to recognise their development and vulnerability. The Serious Case Review of Child Q showed that Black children are often seen as older and less vulnerable than their white peers. This is called ‘adultification’ and staff are provided with relevant training to ensure that children are seen as children first.

22. Climate implications – none

23. Security implications – none

Conclusion

24. The main report introduces the inspection by HMIP and the subsequent improvement plan by the service designed to improve safety and wellbeing of children, the community, and victims of crime. Much development work has taken place and it is of note that the National Youth Justice Board is happy with progress and is deescalating the service.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: The YJB Action Log September 2023 – non-public
- Appendix 2: – Unlocking Potential, Transforming Lives, the YJS Strategy

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**YOUTH
JUSTICE
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Tower Hamlets and the
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Tower Hamlets and City of London Youth Justice Service

Unlocking Potential, Transforming Lives.





Unlocking Potential, Transforming Lives



Priority 1: Child First: Embedding a Child First approach in every aspect of the Youth Justice Partnership.

Priority 2: Consistently Good Practice: Continuous raising of practice standards which achieves improved outcomes for children.

Priority 3: YJS Health Offer: Coordinated access and intervention to universal and specialist health provision to meet children's holistic health and wellbeing needs.

Priority 4: Post 16 Education Offer: Increasing children's participation in post 16 education, training and employment which support children's aspirations, desistance and safety.



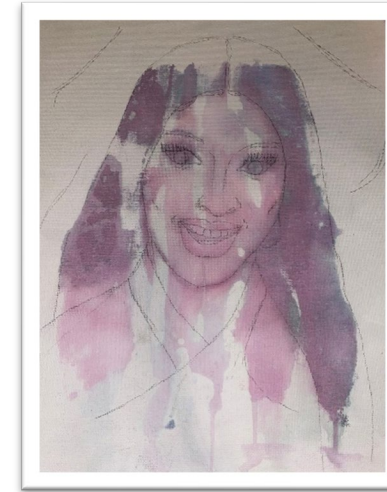


Priority 1: Child First: Embedding a Child First approach in every aspect of the Youth Justice Partnership.



'Everything has been good and easy. I have learned to make better decisions and think more before doing something'.

Response from Child when about Tower Hamlets YJS in the Child Survey 2023



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- Treating children as children
- Building a pro-social identity
- Collaborating with children – **nothing about me, without me**
- Diverting away from stigma





Priority 2: Consistently Good Practice: Continuous raising of practice standards



What was good about your intervention?

'Even though we didn't know each other at the start we got a bond and I was able to trust my Case Worker and talk about how I felt – comfortable - genuinely open with her'.

Child response from Final Self-Assessment

Page 192

- Strong QA and Audit process;
- Workforce development – including supervision and appraisal development;
- External reviewers;
- Basecamp and Practice Standards;





Priority 3: YJS Health Offer: Coordinated access and intervention to universal and specialist health provision to meet children's holistic health and wellbeing needs.



- The introduction of a specialist Nurse within the Youth Justice Service to provide a single holistic health and well-being assessment and coordinate the services around the child;
- A multi-disciplinary meeting with health professionals to support the coordination, sequencing and delivery of health intervention for children;
- Access to leisure activities to support physical and emotional wellbeing.

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Priority 4: Post 16 Education Offer: Increasing children's participation in post 16 education, training and employment

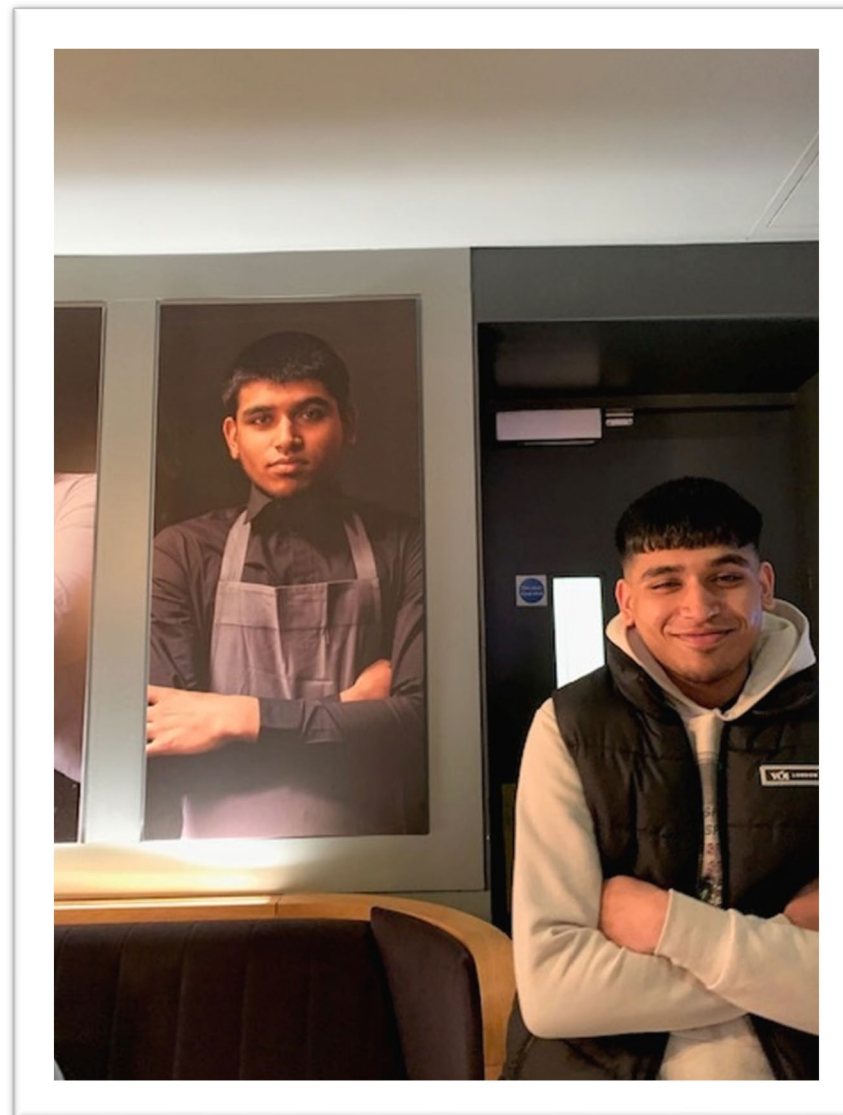


Child described that if it wasn't for their case manager, they wouldn't have had the opportunities they've been able to access particularly in relation to employment and training. The described the case manager as a 'legend' and 'always searching for opportunities'.

Feedback received from a Child as part of our Audit process

Page 194

- Attendance and Engagement
- Post 16 NEET
- Achieving Functional Skills level 2 in English and Maths
- Education in custody





What do you think should be the main 3 priority areas for our YJS in the next 24 months?

'Children, Children, Children'

Staff response to the YJS Staff Survey

- Page 195
- Focus on the Child at the beginning of every Board
 - Child's voice in Quality Assurance
 - Youth Justice Participation Forum
 - Annual Child Survey
 - Next Steps.....rename?





What has been the highlight of being a Board Member over the last 12 months?

‘Ensuring a child’s voice is heard at every board meeting and is at the heart of what we do as a Board’.

Feedback from Executive Board member

Youth Justice Executive Board

Chaired by James Thomas

The Strategic Governance arm of the YJS – holding to account partners as well as the YJS



Youth Justice Operational Board

Chaired by Susannah Beasley-Murray

Holding the YJS Management Team and Operational Partners to account on our Continuous Development Plan



Senior Leadership Team

YJS Management Team

Team Meetings



Characteristics of our Children



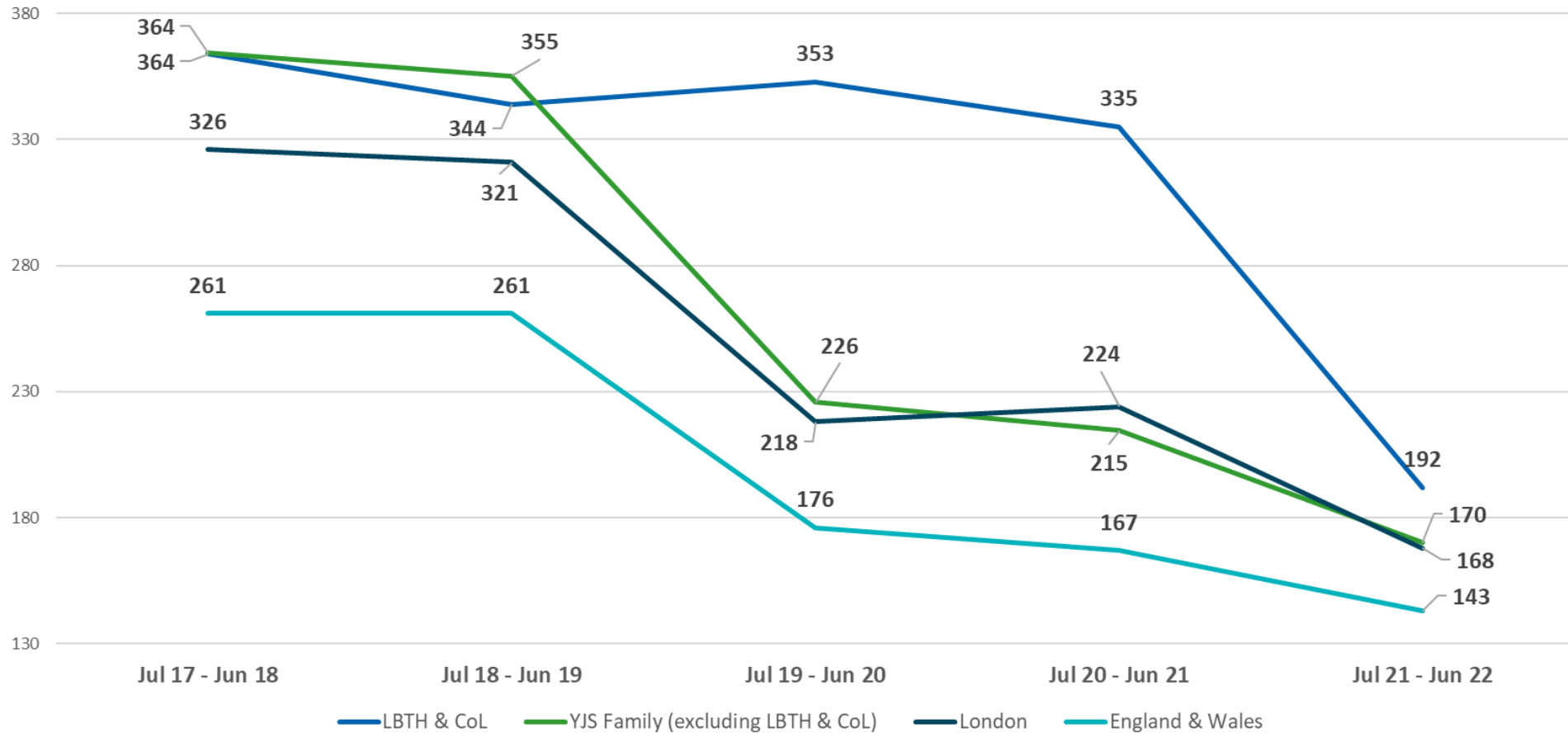
Ethnicity	Tower Hamlets 10-17 population	Sentenced Outcomes 2022/23	Total Sentenced Outcomes 2022/23
Asian	67%	54%	41
Black	11%	4%	3
Other	4%	4%	3
Mixed	6%	13%	10
White	13%	25%	19

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Total number of disposals/substantive outcomes received by children in 2022/23	157
Informal Action (Triage)	55
Community Resolution	17
Youth Conditional Caution	8
Youth Caution	2
Total out of court disposals received by children	82
Referral Order	37
Youth Rehabilitation Order	19
Conditional Discharge	8
Fine	5
Youth Rehabilitation Order ISS Requirement Band 1	3
Detention + Training Order (Custody)	2
Section 250 (was Section 91 Order)	1
Youth Rehabilitation Order ISS Requirement Band 2	1
Total court disposals received by children	75

Offences by type	
Violence Against The Person	225
Drugs	149
Motoring Offences	80
Theft And Handling Stolen Goods	46
Robbery	43
Public Order	35
Vehicle Theft / Unauthorised Taking	29
Criminal Damage	24
Sexual Offences	18
Breach Of Statutory Order	18
Non-Domestic Burglary	14
Racially Aggravated	13
Other	12
Domestic Burglary	10
Fraud And Forgery	8
Breach Of Bail	1
Breach Of Conditional Discharge	1
Arson	1
Total offences	727

First Time Entrants - Rate per 100,000 - 5 Year Trend (Jul 17 to Jun 22)

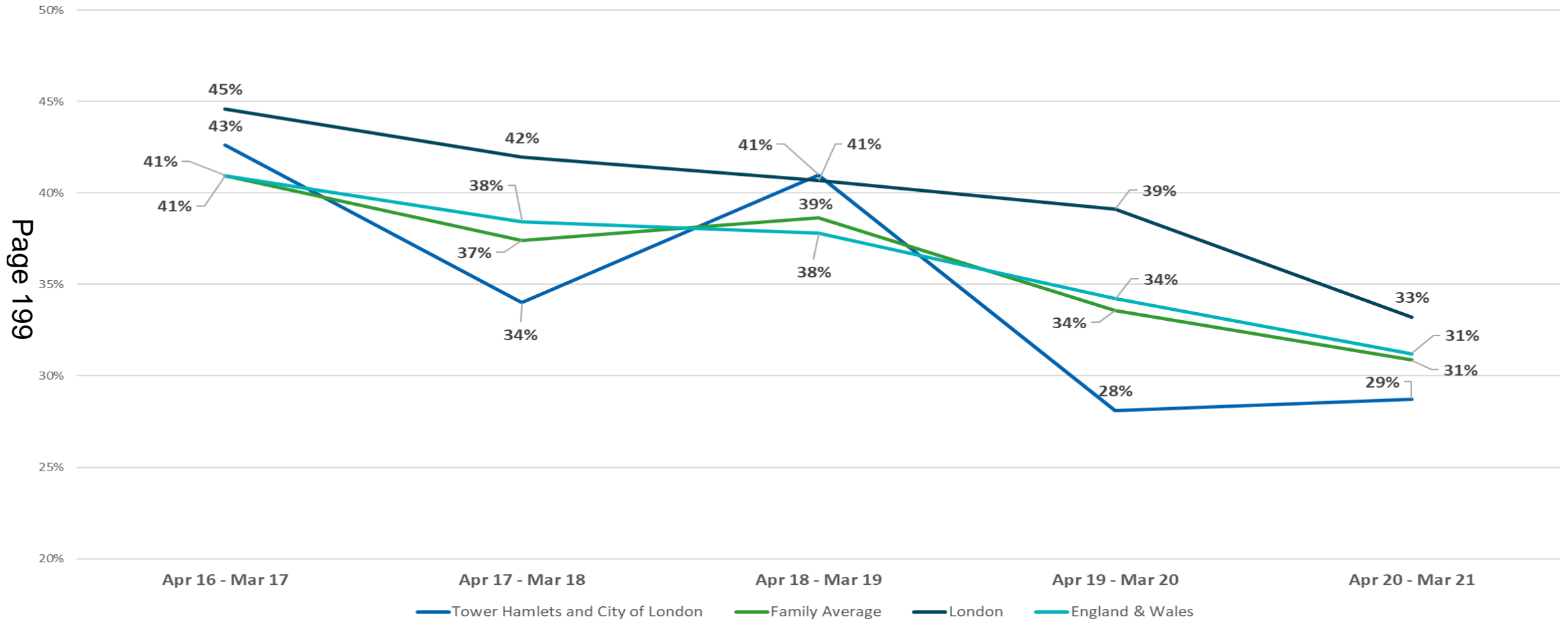




Key Performance Indicators – Re-Offending Rate



Reoffending Binary Rate (Apr 17 to Mar 21)

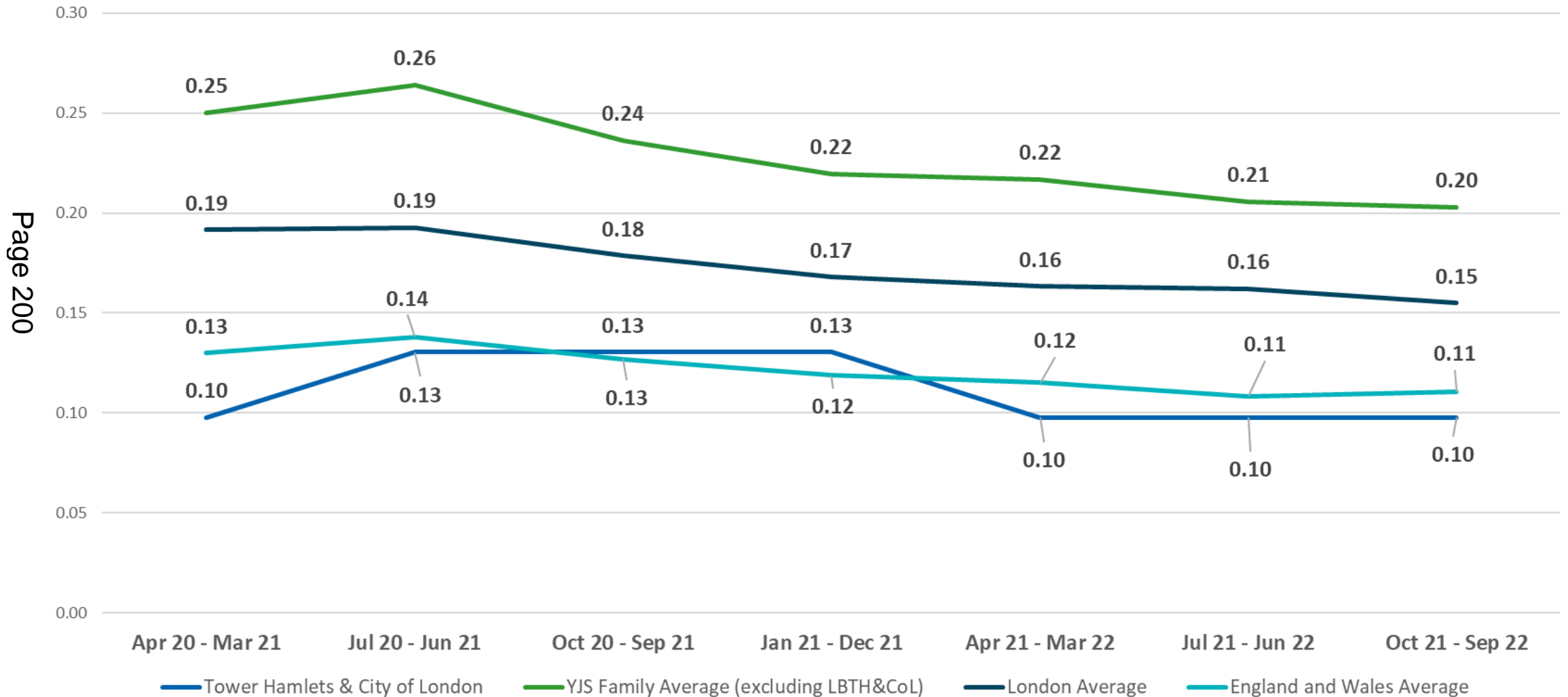




Key Performance Indicators – Children Sentenced to Custody



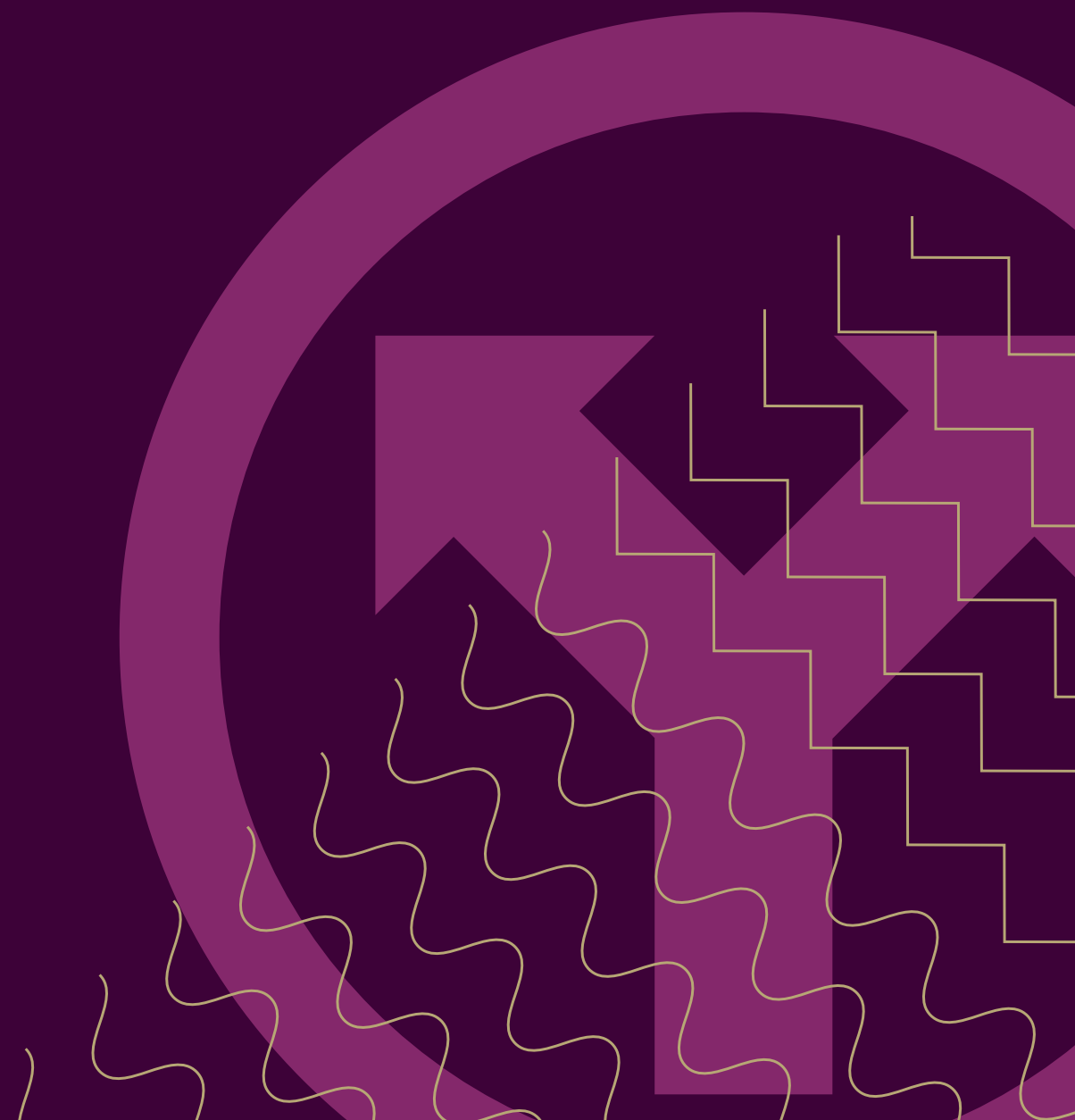
Custody Rate per 1,000 - Apr 20 to Sep 22 (rolling 12-month cohorts)





YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE

Tower Hamlets and the
City of London



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