



Safeguarding Sub (Community & Children's Services) Committee

Date: THURSDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2024

Time: 11.00 am

Venue: COMMITTEE ROOM - 2ND FLOOR WEST WING, GUILDHALL

Members: Ruby Sayed (Chairman) Deputy Ceri Wilkins
Mary Durcan Joanna Tufuo Abeyie
Helen Fentimen OBE JP (Deputy Chairman) Jacqui Webster
Anne Corbett Philip Woodhouse

Enquiries: Blair Stringman
blair.stringman@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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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 agree the public minutes and non-public summary of the previous meeting held on 2 July 2024.

For Decision
(Pages 5 - 10)

4. **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE SELF-EVALUATION 2024**

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

For Information
(Pages 11 - 14)

5. **VIRTUAL SCHOOL HEADTEACHER ANNUAL REPORT FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/2024**

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

For Information
(Pages 15 - 16)

6. **CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24**

Report of Executive Director, Community & Children's Services.

For Information
(Pages 17 - 30)

7. **SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS 2024-27**

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

For Information
(Pages 31 - 48)

8. **2023–24 PRIVATE FOSTERING ANNUAL REPORT**
Report of the Executive Director, Community & Children’s Services.
For Information
(Pages 49 - 60)
9. **CICC SAILING TRIP FEEDBACK 2024**
Report of the Executive Director, Community & Children’s Services.
For Information
(Pages 61 - 68)
10. **EDUCATION AND EARLY YEARS SERVICE SAFEGUARDING UPDATE**
Report of the Executive Director, Community & Children’s Services.
For Information
(Pages 69 - 78)
11. **CITY OF LONDON POLICE VULNERABILITY REPORT 2024**
Report of the City of London Police.
For Information
(Pages 79 - 96)
12. **CITY AND HACKNEY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24**
Report of the Independent Chair of the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board.
For Information
(Pages 97 - 150)
13. **THE CITY & HACKNEY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP (CHSCP) ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24**
Report of the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership (CHSCP).
For Information
(Pages 151 - 152)
14. **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE PERFORMANCE - MONTH 3 2024/25 (JUNE 2024)**
Report of the Executive Director, Community & Children’s Services.
For Information
(Pages 153 - 160)

15. **ADULT SOCIAL CARE SAFEGUARDING PERFORMANCE REPORT Q1 2024/25**

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

For Information
(Pages 161 - 164)

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

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

18. **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

19. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

To agree the non-public minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 July 2024.

For Decision
(Pages 165 - 166)

20. **LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE- PROVIDER ANNUAL REPORT 2023- 2024**

Report of Homerton Healthcare NHS Foundation.

For Information
(Pages 167 - 188)

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

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

SAFEGUARDING SUB (COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES) COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 2 July 2024

Minutes of the meeting held at the Guildhall EC2 at 2.00 pm

Members:

Helen Fentimen (Deputy Chair – *in the Chair*)
Mary Durcan
Jacqui Webster
Ceri Wilkins

Officers:

Chris Pelham	- Assistant Director - People, Community and Children's Services
Ellie Ward	- Community and Children's Services
Rachel Talmage	- Community and Children's Services
Ria Lane	- Community and Children's Services
Laura Demetriades	- Community and Children's Services
Mandy Horsburgh	- City of London Police
Julie Mayer	- Town Clerks

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Ruby Sayed (Chair), *Joanna Abeyie, Anne Corbett*, Eamonn Mullally and Philip Woodhouse.

**Members joining remotely.*

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

There were no declarations.

Before commencing the business on the agenda Members and Officers said thank you and farewell to the Committee Clerk, Julie Mayer who would soon be retiring.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 16th April 2024 be approved.

Matters arising

- The Independent Chair of the Achieving Excellence Board would be running a 1 hour training session for Members in October 2024, to provide insight into Safeguarding and Scrutiny. The Chair suggested that a face-to-face session would be more interactive.

- A report on the Virtual School would be presented to a future meeting of the Community and Children’s Services Committee, as the agenda for 4th July 2024 is very full.

4. **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE SELF-EVALUATION SIX-MONTH REVIEW**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children’s Services which provided an update on the Children and Families Service self-evaluation (SEF) 2022–23.

In response to questions, the following points were noted:

- Clubs need 8-9 participants and there had been successful half term/summer term activities targeted at lower income families.
- The close links with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), noting that staff had been learning BSL and Maketon.
- Members would be fully briefed with the new SEF ahead of the next Ofsted Annual Engagement Meeting later in 2024.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

5. **CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE AND EARLY HELP SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2024-25**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children’s Services, which provided the fully refreshed Service Development Plan for 2024–25 and set out the overarching programme of work for the Children’s Social Care and Early Help Service. The Deputy Chair noted that the Plan would have been subject to external scrutiny before being presented to the Sub Committee.

The Chair of the EDI Committee, also a Member of this Sub Committee, asked for the EDI Annual Report to be presented to the EDI Committee, which would need to include an update on the impact of ‘City of London Corporation Care Leaver’ as a Protected Characteristic.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

6. **MULTI AGENCY CHILD EXPLOITATION UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children’s Services, which outlined the work of the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) panel over 2023/24.

During the discussion, the following points were noted.

- The number of children contemplating suicide on bridges would be provided to Members after the meeting, noting that these would be non-City of London Corporation (CoLC) resident children. Businesses around

the bridges are trained in responsiveness and there is ongoing support in home boroughs.

- Public Projection Notices (PPNs) can provide some data about information sharing. There is productive partnership working across neighbouring boroughs; i.e. - 'Operation Makesafe', with the hotel industry. Information is also shared with Schools in respect of domestic abuse incidents. Front line Police Officers are upskilled in terms of identifying vulnerability and completing PPNs, and the Police representative had high confidence in this work. There are 6-monthly scrutiny sessions looking at shared PPNs; in March, 80% were for children outside the City of London.
- It can be difficult to measure relationship building, which is a strong core of the work in this field, but evidence can be found in early safeguarding interventions and the prevention of formal action. The Police representative advised that there are number of areas which can be tested; i.e. the Joint Targeting Inspections, which are supported by Ofsted, together with HMIC and FRS inspections.
- The true definition of anti-social behaviour in terms of legislation and the distinction with play was considered. A Member agreed to raise this at the Sports Strategy Board in terms of the availability of CIL funding for outside play areas.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

7. INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER (IRO) ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services which provided an overview of the Independent Reviewing service in the City of London covered in the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Annual Report for 2023–2024. Good news re 100% dental checks

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

8. QUALITY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services in respect of the Quality Assurance of the operational Children's Social Care and Early Help Service.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

9. CHILDREN'S PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services which updated Members on service performance across the Children and Families Service.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

10. **ADULTS' PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services, which updated Members on safeguarding performance across the Adult Social Care Service during 2023/24.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

11. **LOCAL AUTHORITY DESIGNATED OFFICER (LADO) ANNUAL REPORT**

The Committee Received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services in respect of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) role. The Annual Report outlined the activity of the LADO from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, the impact on safety for children, and effect on learning for individuals and organisations. Members noted that there is a general LADO Overview every 6 months.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

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

There were no questions.

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

The Assistant Director advised of a Learning Review, undertaken by the Kent County Safeguarding Children Partnership, which had focused on the practice involved in a child being removed from a City of London Corporation care leaver, who was living in Kent with their partner and baby. The review noted that the findings of non-accidental injury, which had resulted in the removal of the baby, were not substantiated and reversed, with the baby returned to its parents, and the conclusion of care proceeding and police involvement. The baby is doing well back in the care of the parents. Members noted that the Executive Summary is now publicly available on Kent County Council's Website and would be circulated to Members of the Sub Committee. The report noted that the care leaver had publicly commended the exemplary support of the City of London Corporation Social Workers. The Chair agreed that the report could be circulated outside of the Sub Committee meetings and Members would be able to raise any questions at the next meeting.

14. **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
15 - 19	1 and 2

15. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 16th April 2024 be approved.

Matters arising

There was one matter arising.

16. **NON PUBLIC APPENDICES**

Members noted the non-public appendices:

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

There was one question.

19. **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 2.55 pm

Chairman

**Contact Officer: Julie Mayer
julie.mayer@cityoflondon.gov.uk**

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Agenda Item 4

Committee(s): Community and Children’s Services Committee – for information Safeguarding Sub Committee – for information	Dated: 11/11/2024 14/11/2024
Subject: Children and Families Service self-evaluation 2024	Public report Non-public appendix
This proposal a) delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes providing excellent services and diverse, engaged communities.	
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 Information
Report author: Hannah Dobbin, Strategy and Projects Officer, Department of Community and Children’s Services	

Summary

This report presents to Members the City of London Corporation (City Corporation) Department of Community and Children’s Services (DCCS) Children and Families Service self-evaluation (SEF) 2024.

The SEF sets out the DCCS’s assessment of the quality and impact of children and families services and areas for development over the next year. Areas for development include increasing the visibility of Early Help, exploring disproportionality of access to children’s services, further developing the Children in Care Council (CiCC) and continuing to strengthen the Care Leaver Offer. The SEF also reflects on progress against areas for development in the previous SEF 2023.

Overall, the City Corporation is committed to providing excellence and constantly improving. Strong relationships and a willingness to learn, as well as being open to scrutiny and new ideas, results in high-quality services and positive outcomes for children, young people and their families.

The SEF 2024 was submitted to Ofsted as part of the children’s social care services inspection in September 2024.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The children and family services SEF is completed annually. The most recent version is for 2023-24 and was completed in September 2024. The SEF sets out achievements across Children's Social Care and Early Help services, linking to Special Educational Needs, the Virtual School and Adult Social Care. It also identifies areas for development over the coming year.

Current Position

2. Our vision for children and young people is that the City of London is a place where they feel safe, have good mental health and wellbeing, fulfil their potential and are ready for adulthood while growing up with a sense of belonging.
3. The City Corporation is ambitious for the children and young people we work with and strives to achieve the best possible outcomes for them. This is underpinned by a commitment to equality, equity, diversity and inclusion, as well as safeguarding. Teams effectively work together across the Department for Community and Children's Services as well as with external partners.
4. An experienced, generic Children's Social Care and Early Help team supports children, young people and their families using a systemic relationship-based practice model and with a focus on early intervention.
5. At the end of July 2024, Children's Social Care supported 14 active Early Help cases, 6 children in need, 3 children subject to a Child Protection Plan, 5 children in care and 51 care leavers. 2 children in care had an Education, Health and Care Plan.
6. Children and young people are supported throughout their journeys which starts with effective screening through the front door. A strong Early Help offer is driven by a co-ordinated, multi-agency approach. There is a strong record of intervening when necessary with appropriate child protection processes in place.
7. The City Corporation is a proud corporate parent. Children in care receive a bespoke offer according to their needs and a robust Care Leaver Offer is in place. The City Corporation has adopted care experience as being akin to a protected characteristic. A diverse enrichment programme, alongside increased apprenticeship opportunities, provides young people with a wide range of experiences to support them through their transition to adulthood.

8. The Virtual School has responded to changing demands on its remit with a new structure due to be in place in January 2025 that will provide increased capacity.
9. Clear governance structures are in place which support, strengthen and scrutinise services for children and young people. The Safeguarding Sub-Committee acts as the corporate parenting board.
10. Evidence in the SEF highlights a wide-range of services and support that helps children, young people and their families achieve positive outcomes. Evidence from independent practice reviews reflects this; findings include good outcomes for children, timely and appropriate interventions and efforts to involve children's families as much as possible amongst others.
11. The City Corporation is committed to excellence and has identified areas for development over the next year including increasing visibility of Early Help in the community, exploring disproportionality of access to children's services, further developing the Children in Care Council and continuing to strengthen the Care Leaver Offer.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications – the Children and Families Service SEF aligns with the Corporate Plan 2024–2029 outcomes of providing excellent services and ensuring that there are diverse, engaged communities. DCCS strategic objectives include: people of all ages and all backgrounds are prepared to flourish; people of all ages and all backgrounds can live independently, play a role in their communities and exercise choice over their services; people of all ages enjoy good mental and physical wellbeing; people of all ages and all backgrounds feel part of, engaged with and able to shape their community. The SEF also aligns with the statutory framework for children's social care.

Financial implications – none.

Resource implications – none.

Legal implications – none.

Risk implications – none.

Equalities implications – Equalities implications are considered within the SEF and where any new services are developed or services change, an Equalities Impact Assessment would be carried out.

Climate implications – none.

Security implications – none.

Conclusion

12. Overall, the City Corporation is ambitious for our children and young people and a commitment to providing excellence and constantly improving is underpinned by strong relationships and a systemic relationship-based practice model. Children and young people are supported by high-quality services resulting in positive outcomes. The SEF enables teams to reflect, monitor and assess progress against areas for development. A six-month review against the identified

areas for development 2024/25 will be completed to ensure focus remains on achieving the best for children, young people and their families.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Children and Families Service Self-evaluation 2024 – non-public.

Hannah Dobbin

Strategy and Projects Officer

Department of Community and Children's Services

T: 020 3834 7622

E: hannah.dobbin@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Agenda Item 5

Committee:	Dated:
Safeguarding Sub-Committee	14/11/2024
Subject: Virtual School Headteacher Annual Report for Academic Year 2023/2024	COVER REPORT: PUBLIC REPORT: NONPUBLIC
This Proposal delivers the Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes:	Diverse Engaged Communities Leading Sustainable Environment Providing Excellent Services
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: 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 2023 to August 2024 and presents an overview of the activities and impact of The City of London Virtual School for the academic year 2023/2024.

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 2024/2025.

Highlights 2023/2024

- 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.
- Outstanding enrichment provision.
- Four apprentices recruited, one a City of London care experienced young person.
- Attendance of Children in Care Reception to Year 11 was 99%.
- No children in care, aged 0-18 years, were permanently excluded.
- The impact of enrichment projects was excellent according to pupil voice and outcomes.
- Training for Aldgate School staff in trauma informed learning was well received.
- All Personal Education Plans were quality assured as good or outstanding and were completed on time, within ten days of arrival and then termly.
- All children in care, aged 3-18 years, attended good or outstanding schools and colleges.
- Excellent partnership work across London, culminated in a second Shining Stars Celebration, that recognised the work of Virtual Schools, and rewarded the exceptional achievements of care experienced young people across London. Funding was secured for this ceremony for the next five years.
- Excellent education support available on arrival, for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking young people.
- Virtual School staff 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 2023/2024

Debby Rigby

Headteacher of Virtual School for Children with a Social Worker

T: 07941 072737

E: debby.rigby@cityoflondon.gov.uk

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee(s): Safeguarding Sub-Committee	Dated: 14/11/2024
Subject: Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2023/24	Public report: For Information
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes • provides statutory duties 	Providing Excellent Services Children and Social Work Act 2017
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
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 Finaly, Executive Director, Community and Children's Services	
Report author: Ellie Ward, Head of Strategy and Performance, Community and Children's Services	

Summary

The Corporate Parenting Annual Report updates Members on the City of London Corporation's (the City Corporation) role as a corporate parent, and the outcomes that have been achieved for the children in care during the period April 2023 to March 2024.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The City Corporation is a corporate parent to the children in its care aged 0 to the eve of their 18th birthday who cannot safely remain with their family, or those for whom the City Corporation acts as a parent in the absence of family. Children in care (Children in Care) can include unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC), children with disabilities and those who have suffered abuse and/or neglect. As such, Children in Care are one of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in our community.
2. The City Corporation's legal and financial responsibility to the children and young people for whom it is a corporate parent extends into their lives as care leavers and as they transition to independence.
3. As a Corporate Parent the City Corporation is focussed on achieving positive outcomes for all its Children in Care and Care Leavers. The Annual Report focuses on this and what the Children and Young People have achieved.
4. The Annual Report is attached at Appendix 1.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

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.

Financial implications - None

Resource implications - None

Legal implications - None

Risk implications - None

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.

Climate implications - None

Security implications - None

Conclusion

5. The Corporate Parenting Annual Report sets out the outcomes that have been achieved for City Corporation's children in care during the period April 2023 to March 2024.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2023 / 24

Ellie Ward

Head of Strategy and Performance
Community and Children's Services

T: 020 7332 1535

E: ellie.ward@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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Corporate Parenting in the City of London

Annual Report – 2023/24

Safeguarding Sub-Committee Nov 2024

1 Introduction and context

- 1.1 This annual report updates on the City of London Corporation's (the City Corporation) role as a corporate parent, and the outcomes that have been achieved for the children in our care during the period April 2023 to March 2024.
- 1.2 The City Corporation is a corporate parent to the children in its care aged 0 to the eve of their 18th birthday who cannot safely remain with their family, or those for whom the City Corporation acts as a parent in the absence of family. Children in care (Children in Care) can include unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC), children with disabilities and those who have suffered abuse and/or neglect. As such, Children in Care are one of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in our community.
- 1.3 The City Corporation's legal and financial responsibility to the children and young people for whom it is a corporate parent extends into their lives as care leavers and as they transition to independence.
- 1.4 The City Corporation's Children's Services received a focus visit from Ofsted to inspect the City Corporation's arrangements for the 'front door' in November 2022. This found 'high-quality practice which ensures that children benefit from effective and responsive front door services'. This builds on Ofsted's full visit in 2020 which found the service to be overall 'Outstanding', finding that the City Corporation's corporate parenting is 'very strong, and there is a high commitment throughout the service to ensuring a personalised response to individual need'.
- 1.5 This report highlights how the City Corporation has supported our Children in Care and care leavers over the past year.

2 The children in our care

- 2.1 At the end of the reporting period in March 2024 the City Corporation had a total of 7 children and young people under the age of 18 who were being looked after by the local authority, including 4 UASC (57%). Fifteen children came into care during the year.
- 2.1 In total 18 children and young people ceased to be Children in Care and of these 15 had also come into care during 2023-24. 12 young people were transferred to the services of other local authorities via the National Transfer Scheme. The City Corporation's Children in Care were all male; (7 of 7) on 31 March 2024. 43% of these young people were Black African (3 of 7).
- 2.2 At the end of March 2024, there were two Children in Care and one care leaver who had an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).
- 2.3 There was one final Adoption order granted during 2023/24.

3 Corporate Parenting Board (Safeguarding Sub-Committee)

- 3.1 Within the City Corporation, the function of the Corporate Parenting Board is undertaken by the Safeguarding Sub-Committee. This reports to the Community and Children's Services Committee.
- 3.2 The Safeguarding Sub-Committee, which includes the Chairman of Community and Children's Services Committee, meets four times each year and, in its capacity as the Corporate Parenting Board, is responsible for:
- achieving improved outcomes for Children in Care and care leavers
 - Overseeing progress of the City Corporation's Corporate Parenting Strategy to drive improved outcomes
 - providing challenge to ensure that the City Corporation's duties as Corporate Parent are carried out effectively and consistently
- 3.3 Between April 2023 and March 2024, the Sub-Committee has considered reports on topics including:
- Care Leaver Compact
 - unregulated placement commissioning and oversight arrangements
 - children and families service performance
 - Children's Social Care and Early Help service development plan 2022-2023
 - private fostering annual report 2022 to 2023
 - corporate parenting annual report 2022/2023 and corporate parenting strategy update
 - Virtual School Headteacher annual report for academic year 2022/2023
 - Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) annual report 2022-2023
- 3.4 The Sub-Committee also formally received the Annual Report of the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership and Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Annual Report.

4 Corporate Parenting Strategy and Service Development Plan

- 4.1 The Corporate Parenting Strategy sets out the City Corporation's commitment to ensuring that Children in Care and care leavers have the support, care and encouragement they need to reach their full potential. Our current strategy will be refreshed during autumn 2024 to reflect progress and ensure we capture the views of our Children and Young People.
- 4.2 The children's social care and school Service Development Plans for 2023-24 included specific objectives for Children in Care and care leavers.
- 4.3 In delivering the City Corporation's roles and responsibilities as a corporate parent there were the following key achievements:
- a pan-London celebration of care experienced young people was set up and hosted by the City of London Virtual School in July 2023. Twenty-two local authorities from across London recognised and celebrated the

achievements of young people from Virtual Schools. Three City of London young people were recognised as ‘Shining Stars’

- experience of care was agreed as a being akin to a protected characteristic by the Court of Common Council in January 2024
- the Children in Care Pledge was reviewed, and a revised version launched in November 2023. This has been translated into the 11 most spoken languages among City of London Children in Care and care leavers

4.4 The year also saw ongoing mechanisms and processes which support our role as Corporate Parent. These included:

- the Virtual School responding to changing demands. Increased capacity will be added to the team by January 2025 to ensure it can support all children and young people within its remit to achieve the best possible outcomes
- Children in Care and care leavers experienced a diverse, enrichment programme that helps develop their personal and life skills to support their journey through education, employment or training
- quality assurance mechanisms provided a strong framework to ensure children and young people are getting the right support at the right time
- practice reviews and scrutiny of commissioned services ensured a continued focus on quality and equity
- there was a continued focus on workforce development to support skilled, knowledgeable and kind professionals. The continuous professional development and sharing of skills are essential to ensuring children, young people and their families get the support and services they need

5 The Children in Care Council

5.1 The City Corporation’s Children in Care Council (CiCC) was established in November 2014. The Children in Care Council usually meets six times a year during each holiday and half term.

5.2 A range of activities and sessions were made available to Children in Care and care leavers during 2023-24. Communication methods with young people were strengthened which resulted in more consistent attendance at events and the start of the development of a core membership. An overview includes:

- opportunities to meet with senior leaders including the Town Clerk and the Lead Elected Member
- four care leavers attended a Committee Dinner with elected Members
- 11 young people went on a 4-night residential trip completing outdoor and trust building activities
- 7 young people attended a pan-London CiCC visit to King’s College University to hear about support available to them to access higher education opportunities

- a monthly supper club to provide social support and foster friendships through food
 - opportunities to experience a trip to the theatre and free or highly subsidised theatre offers via the CiCC website.
- 5.3 The activities helped the young people come together to form friendships and support each other, helping to tackle isolation due to not having family networks in the UK. Young people now attend CiCC activities together. The residential trip enabled young people to enjoy a shared experience and discover new talents.
- 5.4 The CiCC Pledge was reviewed in 2023 following consultation with Children in Care and Care Leavers. It sets out the promises the City Corporation has made in response to asks from Children in Care and care leavers and will form the basis of the revised Corporate Parenting Strategy. The Pledge was launched at the Virtual School annual celebration event. Twenty-one young people attended, two had completed degrees, others GCSE's, some had been successful at various levels of ESOL training, and some had successfully completed vocational training in plumbing and electrics. The Pledge was translated into eleven different languages.
- 5.5 To ensure that all care leavers know about the CiCC Pledge, a CiCC website was developed with children and young people, the Pledge was promoted with care providers and through the CiCC newsletter and monthly information sessions increased knowledge and understanding of care leaver entitlements.
- 5.6 The CiCC provided feedback on initiatives including the Pledge, training and apprenticeship options and the Care Leaver Offer. A 'you said, we did' mechanism enables young people to see what is done with the information they share about their lived experiences. For example, young people raised issues around access to working laptops and the you said, we did provides a clear point of contact for young people to contact to raise these issues.

6 Health and wellbeing

- 6.1 As a corporate parent, the City Corporation takes responsibility for assessing and promoting good physical and mental health among the children and young people in our care. This is achieved through annual assessments of health and dental health, and by ensuring children and young people are immunised or have enough information on immunisation to make their own decisions about vaccinations.
- 6.2 The health and education needs of UASC are identified immediately when they arrive in the City of London to ensure there is a responsive service to meet their needs.
- 6.3 During 2023/24, the Children in Care Health team carried out all health assessments as required (IHA and RHA) with 86% of them being within timescale.
- 6.4 All children who had been in care at least 12 months on 31 March 2024 had up-to-date immunisations or were in the process of undertaking the UASC Booster programme at year end.

- 6.5 100% of children and young people who had been in care at least 12 months received their annual dental checks. The City Corporation used the Healthy Smiles referral route (set up in response to the shortage of dentists taking public work) to get our children dental care. The City Corporation also paid for some private treatment where dental need was impacting on mental health.
- 6.6 No Children in Care were recorded as having a substance misuse issue.
- 6.7 All Children in Care received their health histories in 2023-24. All children 18-25 have their health histories which contains a summary of a young person's overall health and is provided just before their 18th birthday.
- 6.8 Children's social workers support early adoption and pre-birth work when appropriate. For example, one children's social worker delivered pre-birth work, care proceedings and legal permanency work resulting in early adoption being considered as a parallel plan pre-birth.

7 Safeguarding our children

- 7.1 All our Children in Care and care leavers are allocated a fully-qualified social worker. Social workers offer support in areas such as identity, health, leisure, education and friendship.
- 7.2 At the end of Quarter 4, there were no Children in Care missing from their placements.
- 7.3 Children who go missing can be at risk of serious harm. There are concerns about the vulnerability of missing or runaway children to sexual exploitation or other exploitative harm such as violence, crime, gang exploitation or drug and alcohol misuse. Therefore, if a child in the City Corporation's care goes missing, they are considered vulnerable to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and are reviewed by the Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation Group. This results in vulnerability factors being addressed in case planning and multi-agency meetings.
- 7.4 In March 2024, a scrutiny process with the City of London Police reviewed a random sample of Police Protection Notices received in a six-month period with the aim of facilitating joint working and identifying learning and any barriers. Actions included the Police agreeing to dual notify the home local authority and the City Corporation when children who are not City of London children come to the notice of the Police. This scrutiny activity will be undertaken twice a year.

8 Education and employment

- 8.1 The Virtual School has embraced its additional duties and is now also providing a service for post looked after children and children with a social worker It recognises the challenges for Children With a Social Worker Ever 6 and recognises the benefits of working with children receiving Early Help services to

prevent escalation. A temporary structure is in place to meet the additional duties, whilst increased capacity is put in place.

- 8.2 The Virtual School team works with colleagues in Education, Health and Social Care providing advice and support and promote the importance of education in decision making for children and young people. The Virtual School also works with Prospects to ensure young people get informative careers advice and support to get into further and higher education, apprenticeships and work.
- 8.3 The Virtual School Advisory Partnership was established in December 2023 and acts as a body of colleagues who promote the education of children and young people within the Virtual School They work with the school to ensure that it continues to develop and provide the very best service for the children and young people it serves.
- 8.4 For the period April 2023 to March 2024, a total of 121 young people were held on the Virtual School register:
- 7 Children in Care 5-16-years old - 4 of these subsequently moved to other local authorities on the National Transfer Scheme
 - 27 children with a social worker on CiN and CP plans
 - 6 children living with kinship carers and 4 previously looked-after children
 - 19 young people aged 16-18-years-old were supported and monitored before leaving Key Stage 5 or being transferred on the National Transfer Scheme - 4 of these were subject to a CiN plan and 15 were Children in Care
 - 58 care leavers 18-25-years-old were monitored and supported
 - 4 children who had had a social worker in the past (CWSW Ever 6) requested and received support
- 8.5 The overwhelming majority of Children in Care and care leavers have good attendance at all education enrichment placements, and engagement with learning is high. Of note, many colleges only record attendance when the young person is on site attending lessons. There are times when students are given permission to be off-site, e.g. completing work experience, but these are recorded as absent.
- 8.6 Children with attendance concerns are discussed at the monthly Vulnerable Children's Group meeting which brings together representatives from the Virtual School, Education, Children's Social Care, SEND and Early Years teams.
- 8.7 The City Corporation ensures that Children in Care and care leavers have opportunities to explore the arts, culture, sport and nature as part of the wider school offer:
- an Oracy Project delivered by the City of London Virtual School in partnership with the Freemans School delivered drama to improve confidence and spoken English. Young people said that the sessions gave them more confidence to speak out in college and at interviews. Care experienced young people from across London also invited

- the Virtual School ran a forest school project focusing on forest school skills, science, nature, wellbeing and resilience. Young people enjoyed being outside in nature and were able to talk informally about their hopes and dreams and Virtual School staff were able to support them in their education journey. Care experienced young people from across London were also invited
 - City of London young people attended an enrichment project called 'Flying High' held at the City of London Boys School. Lessons have included music, cookery, PE, Science and English
- 8.8 The Virtual School put in place additional resource during the August 2023 summer holidays to support young people with college applications and interviews. This resulted in more young people entering college at the start of the school year.
- 8.9 Electronic Personal Education Plans (PEPs) are now fully established and can now be exported and uploaded onto Mosaic ensuring centralisation of essential documents. This has resulted in a more integrated process where professionals can access shared information more effectively and efficiently. It has also enabled professionals to identify and respond to need quicker. The Virtual School Head attends each child's PEP meeting to ensure that targets are SMART and young people are supported.
- 8.10 Children's Social Care and Adult Education continue to work closely to develop an extended pre-apprenticeship programme. In February 2024, young people attended an information event making them aware of the options and jobs available. The Partnership for Young London and Virtual School are supporting four young apprenticeships, one of which is a care leaver from the City of London. Of the 100 Corporation funded apprenticeship posts, 10% are ring fenced for care leavers. Information on apprenticeships has been added to Children in Care Council (Children in Care Council) website so it is consistent and accessible.
- 8.11 . There were bespoke sessions at the London Careers Festival in February and March 2024, running small groups with care leavers on increased employment opportunities and working with care leavers on longer term financial planning through apprenticeships.
- 8.12 In March 2024, 36 (67%) of City of London care leavers had applied for the Transport for London's scheme giving them 50% off bus and tram travel. The City Corporation will cover the other 50% so City of London care leavers get free bus and tram travel. This will save around £800 per person compared to an annual bus and tram pass. Other care leavers have accessed a free bus pass via benefits to support them at college.

9 Assessments, case planning and permanency planning

- 9.1 The City Corporation's independent audits Children in Care reflected that assessments are of a high standard. Most aspects of a child's life are explored fully, and partners' contribution is regularly sought and adds value. Timescales are adhered to and there is good management oversight and analysis.

- 9.2 Permanency planning meetings during 2023-24 were chaired by the Assistant Director for People Services. Public Law Outline and care proceedings were tracked as part of these meetings.
- 9.3 100% of Children in Care Pathway Plans were completed and 96% of care leavers had up to date Pathway Plans at the end of 2023/24.

10 Independent Reviewing Officer service

- 10.1 The Independent Reviewing Officer's (IRO) statutory task is to ensure that the care plan for the child fully reflects the child's needs and that the actions set out in the plan are consistent with the local authority's legal responsibilities towards the child. There is one full-time IRO who is responsible for carrying out the functions of the role to all children in the care of the City Corporation.
- 10.2 The IRO sits away from the Children's Social Care and Early Help Team and is not involved in the preparation of the child's care plan, management of the child's case, or the control over resources to ensure their independence.
- 10.3 The Children's Social Care and Early Help Team notifies the IRO of all children received into care within 72 hours. During 2023 – 24, the IRO conducted looked after child review meetings for all newly accommodated children within 20 working days of them being accommodated.
- 10.4 The IRO service has made significant contributions to the quality assuring and improving of services for children. This includes:
- consistent participation of children in their review meetings
 - implementation of new pathway plan process, leading to increased completion in statutory timescales
 - increase in completion of statutory care plans
 - increase in extra tuition services for Children in Care
 - decrease in placement disruptions
 - IRO contacts are now being conducted by text message, phone or face-to-face to increase their uptake and success

11 Accommodation

- 11.1 Stability is key to a successful placement. It provides the child or young people with a more stable foundation on which to build relationships and feel safe and secure. We support this by holding placement stability meetings in advance of a placement, being aware of the number of moves children have previously had, and managing the expectations of children and young people around the placement before they go so that they know what to expect, this is particularly important for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.
- 11.2 Foster placements for the City Corporation's Children in Care are carefully commissioned on an individual basis, to ensure the needs of each child and young person are met. Arrangements are systematically monitored to ensure they are providing a suitable, supportive and stable environment that promotes physical, social and emotional wellbeing.
- 11.3 Foster care is always considered as the starting position for the City Corporation's Children in Care, however semi-independent accommodation will

also be considered based on the young person's needs, wishes and any risk identified.

- 11.4 The City Corporation has a Quality Assurance Framework which, along with an effective Placement Panel chaired by the Assistant Director for People, assesses and prioritises the suitability and quality of accommodations and placements.
- 11.5 The City Corporation's Sufficiency Strategy is reviewed annually and guides our commissioning of placements and accommodation.
- 11.6 57% of children were accommodated in fostering placements and 14% were placed in semi-independent accommodation. 57% of children were in their placement for less than 12 months, with 43% having been with their placement for over one year.
- 11.7 The City Corporation places all Children in Care outside of borough boundaries as we don't have any foster care placements or semi-independent units in the City of London. Therefore, Children in Care are placed as close to the City of London as possible. The two children placed more than 20 miles away from the City of London Office are in specialist placements due to their additional needs. By definition 4 UASC children are placed 20 miles or more from home.
- 11.8 Wherever it is appropriate to do so, siblings that are looked after are placed together. However, the Corporation did not have any sibling groups within its care cohort during 2023/24.
- 11.9 The National Transfer Scheme (NTS) resulted in most new UASC who were initially accommodated by the City of London being moved to a local authority outside of London within a few weeks of being accommodated. This has also led to a reduction in City of London Children in Care numbers. Eight UASC became care leavers upon reaching the age of 18 during this reporting year and are being supported by the Corporation accordingly.
- 11.10 Of the seven children in care at the end of the reporting year, four were in foster placements, one was in a semi-independent provision, one residential school, and one was in a children's home annexed to a specialist school.
- 11.11 The City Corporation is a member of the West London Commissioning Alliance, a system developed for purchasing social care placements. This created a broader marketplace and has built-in quality assurance functions, and so the City Corporation is better able to meet the needs of our young people.
- 11.12 The Social Work team has continued to work with a main placement provider to work around race and racism and how to support young people with issues around this. It was commented by the provider that they had not received this amount of engagement or level of care from other local authority partners.

12 Areas of development and priorities for the year ahead

- 12.1 The Corporate Parenting Strategy and Annual Report will support the outcomes of the Children and Young People's Plan. These include that our children and young people are safe and feel safe, are happy, healthy and enjoy good mental health and wellbeing, have the tools to fulfil their potential and are prepared for success in adulthood, and grow up with a sense of belonging.

12.2 The Corporate Parenting Strategy sets out the City Corporation's commitment to ensuring the children in and leaving its care meet their full potential and have lives in which they thrive. We will drive the achievement of this in 2024/25 through continuing and enhanced services, and the delivery of targeted actions. These include:

- Increase visibility of Early Help in the community
- Explore disproportionality of access to children's services
- Further develop the CiCC
- Continue to strengthen the Care Leaver Offer
- Strengthen information for families around housing
- Increase the capacity of the Virtual School
- Reduce the number of children and young people who are NEET
- Strengthen the offer for young carers and kinship care
- Embed a new quality assurance framework methodology
- National children's social care reform

Committee: Safeguarding Sub-Committee	Dated: 14/11/2024
Subject: Sufficiency Strategy for Children in Care and Care Leavers 2024-27	Public
This proposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes 	Providing Excellent Services
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	NA
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	NA
Report of: Judith Finlay, Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Report author: Greg Knight, Head of Commissioning, Community and Children' Services	

Summary

The report provides Members with the Department's Sufficiency Strategy for Children in Care and Care Leavers 2024-27.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the contents of report and the Sufficiency Strategy for Children in Care and Care Leavers 2024-27

Main Report

Background

- Local authorities have a statutory duty to take steps to secure placements to meet the needs of children in care and care leavers. The Sufficiency Strategy for Children in Care and Care Leavers 2024-27 sets out the Department's approach to ensuring this is achieved.

Current Position

- The Sufficiency Strategy for Children in Care and Care Leavers was updated in 2024 and details the Department's approach to securing accommodation for the children that come into our care, and for those leaving care.
- Through delivery of the Strategy and the detailed approaches to securing placements the Department ensures the statutory duty is met. The Strategy runs until 2027, and will be reviewed annually, with the next review in September 2025.

Key Data

4. None

Sub-headings

Strategic implications – The Strategy aligns with and will support the delivery of the Corporate Plan 2024-2029. Notably, the sub heading of Providing Excellent Services: Supporting people to live healthy, independent lives and achieve their ambitions is dependent on excellent services. Vital to that continued pursuit is enabling access to effective adult and children’s social care, outstanding education, lifelong learning, quality housing, and combatting homelessness.

Financial implications – None.

Resource implications – None.

Legal implications – None.

Risk implications – None.

Equalities implications – The Strategy ensures delivery of the Corporations public Sector Equality Duty 2010. It details an approach that meets individual’s diverse needs and ensures a positive impact on people protected by existing equality legislation.

Climate implications– None.

Security implications– None.

Conclusion

5. The Strategy provides assurances of the Department’s ability to meet its statutory duty to provide sufficient accommodation to for children in our care, and those leaving our care.

Appendices

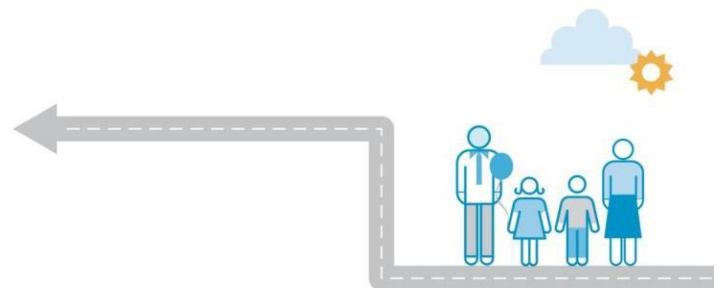
- Appendix 1: Sufficiency Strategy for Children in Care and Care Leavers 2024-27

Greg Knight

Head of Commissioning
Community and Childrens Services

T: 020 7332 1173

E: greg.knight@cityoflondon.gov.uk



SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS

2024-2027

About this document

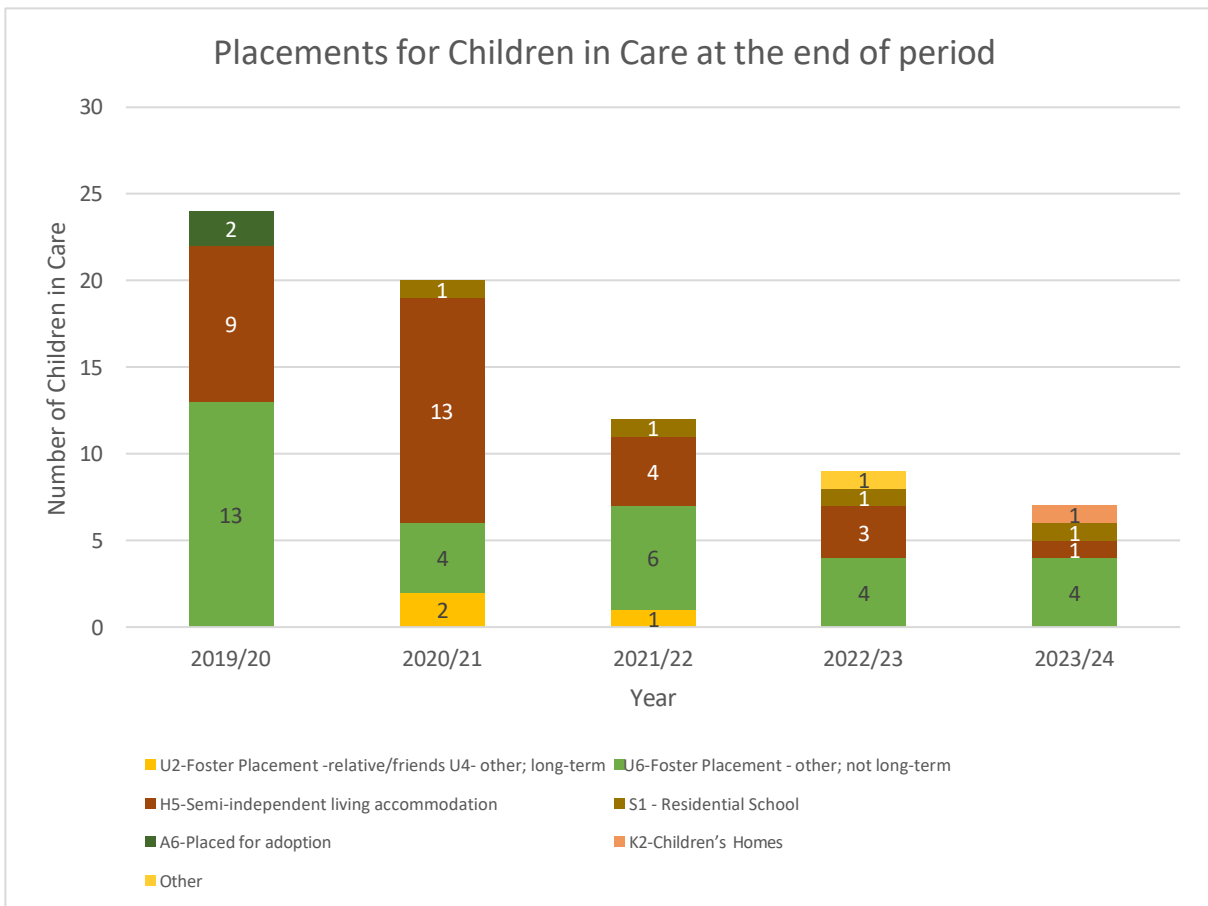
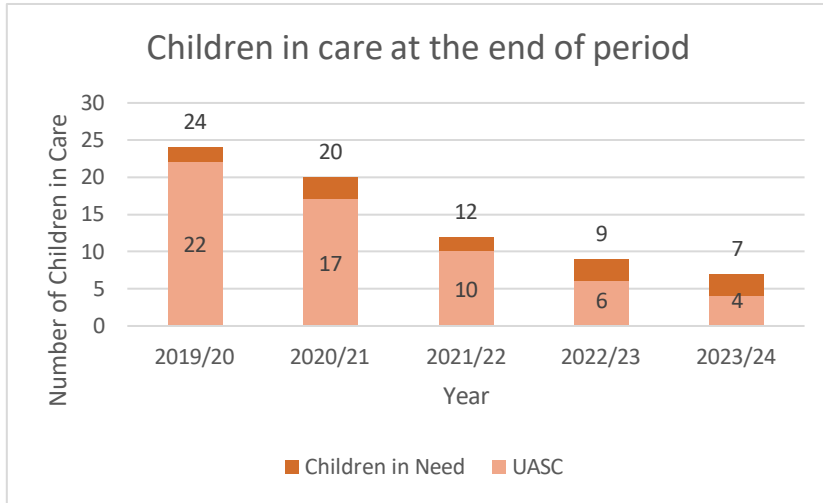
Title	Sufficiency Strategy for Children in Care and Care Leavers
Purpose	To set out the City Corporation's approach to secure sufficient accommodation for children in our care, and those leaving our care.
Updated by	Head of Commissioning
Approved by	Director of Community and Children's Services
Date	August 2024
Version number	1
Status	Final
Review frequency	Annual
Next review date	September 2025

1 Introduction

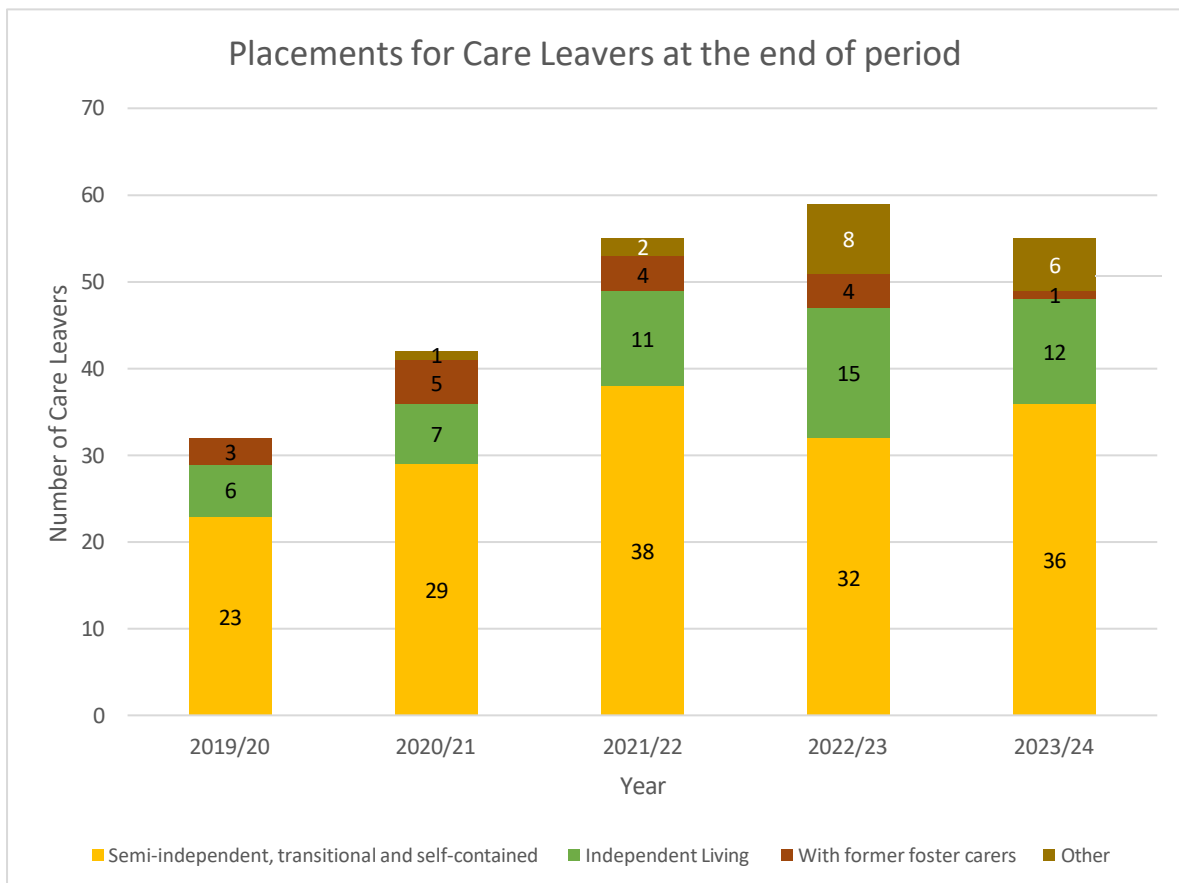
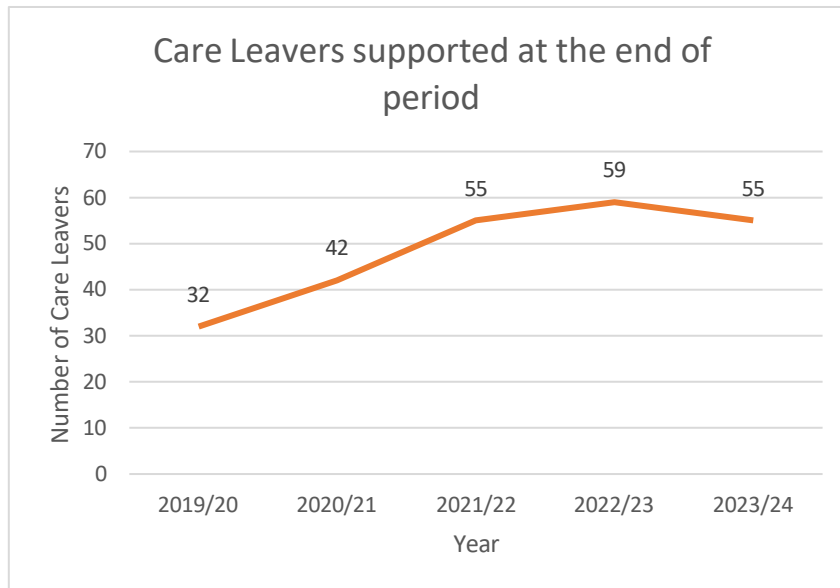
- 1.1 The Sufficiency Strategy for Children in Care and Care Leavers sets out the City of London Corporation's approach to securing accommodation for the children that come into our care, and for those leaving care.
- 1.2 Local authorities have a statutory duty to take steps to secure, as far as is reasonably practicable, enough placements within their boundaries to meet the needs of children in care and care leavers. The approach taken by the City Corporation reflects its size, population and the nature of needs that we respond to.
- 1.3 The City – at just over a square mile – is renowned as a centre of business. However, it is home to 8,600 residents – of whom just over 700 are aged from birth to 18 years of age. The size of the City, the predominance of commercial property, and its population are such, that very few children come into care from our residential community, the opportunities for fostering within the community are limited and rare, and there is no registered children's provision within our boundaries.
- 1.4 Most children and young people who come into our care – and who we support leaving care - are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people (UASC). Their journey into care, their separation from family and community and their needs and aspirations, shapes the demand for accommodation and support to provide their care.
- 1.5 Our approach to securing homes for those for whom we care, is underpinned by skilled social care team, that can work with a child or young person through their care journey to secure independence in adulthood.
- 1.6 Over five years the pattern of demand has shifted from those coming into care to those leaving care, leading to a greater focus on securing suitable accommodation and independence.
- 1.7 This strategy seeks to sustain the strengths of our approach to securing safe, secure and appropriate homes, to respond to the challenge of changing demand and needs, and to provide resilience in the future. It sits alongside the Children and Young People's Plan - supporting the vision of that document that our children in care, and our care leavers *"feel safe, have good mental health and wellbeing, fulfil their potential and are ready for adulthood"*.

2 Our children in care and care leavers

- 2.1 At the end of March 2024 there were seven children in care, of whom four were unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people and three Children in Need. The number of Children in Need - children who have come into care from the City's resident community - has totalled two or three, for each of the last five years. The marked change has been the decline in unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people in care across the period – falling from 22 at the end of March 2020 to just four at the end of March 2024.



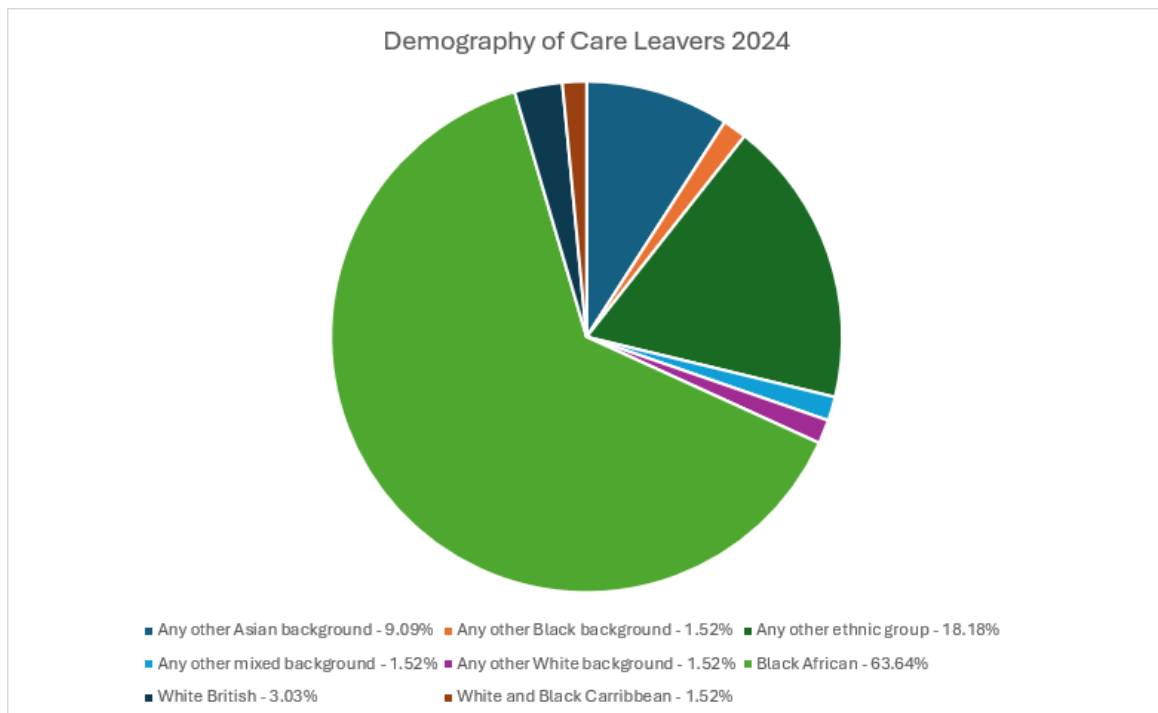
2.2 The total number of children and young people in care has declined as young people have become Care Leavers – the total of which has risen from 32 at the end of March 2020 to 55 at the same point in 2024.



2.3 In terms of sufficiency of accommodation, the total number of children and young people provided homes has remained relatively stable. Taking both children in care, and care leavers together, the total number in accommodation at the end of March 2020 was 56, rising to 68 in 2023 and falling to 62 in 2024.

- 2.4 The most significant accommodation type used is semi-independent accommodation – reflecting the ages, needs and preferences of young people, and accounting for 60 per cent (37 actual) of placements in March 2024. Semi-independent living accommodation has provided the largest proportion of accommodation over the last five years. Other significant accommodation types are foster placements, and independent living – the latter being provided entirely within the City Corporation’s social housing stock.
- 2.5 Ensuring sufficient accommodation in the period ahead is likely to be shaped by changes evident over the last five years. Fewer children and young people are coming into the City Corporation’s care, and those coming into care from the resident community represent a growing proportion (albeit of a declining and small total). Among this group, needs are diverse.
- 2.6 Young people are transitioning from care to become care leavers. At the end of March 2024, 36 of 55 care leavers were in semi-independent living accommodation, and a further 12 lived in independent social tenancies. As young people move towards independence, the trajectory of demand and pressure for sufficiency will be the provision of accommodation supporting independence in adulthood.
- 2.7 Of those leaving care, over 90 per cent are young men. Our care leaver population is ethnically diverse. Two thirds are Black African, ten per cent Asian, five per cent White British or other White backgrounds and 20 per cent other ethnicities.

Ethnic Diversity of Care Leaves Population August 2024



- 2.8 Our approach is to meet the diverse needs of our children and young people, ensuring that they have the support of foster carers who know and understand their needs and journey. We seek to secure the best match for the young person in their placement

through reviewing and assessing a range of carers with similar backgrounds to the young people.

- 2.9 Due to the diverse nature of this population, it is important that we have a range of carers from varied backgrounds. Given the size and demography of the City of London, it is acknowledged that it is difficult to meet these needs within the Square Mile.

3 Securing homes for children in care

- 3.1 The City Corporation is committed to ensuring that children and young people can remain safely within their own families wherever this is consistent with maintaining and promoting their wellbeing. This is supported through a [“Think Family”](#) approach, whereby all services involved with the family work together to prevent children coming into care.
- 3.2 The number children and young people coming into care from the resident community is very low. Where children and young people need to come into care for their own safety and protection, we will seek to ensure that they remain placed as close as possible to their home, community and school, when this is in accordance with their best interests.
- 3.3 For young children who are unable to safely return to their birth or extended families, we will seek permanency for them through adoption. Where this is not possible the City Corporation has sought to achieve permanency through a Special Guardianship Order.
- 3.4 Most of those who come into - and leave - our care are unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people. They tend to be older young people from a diversity of backgrounds often with strong ethnic, cultural and religious identities. In managing the demand for support and the impact on our services, the City Corporation uses the protocol of the National Transfer Scheme to support transfer of responsibility to another authority where that is appropriate and possible.
- 3.5 Where children come into our care, the City Corporation commissions accommodation and support to meet these needs. We have established commissioning arrangements with Independent Foster Agencies, and we have utilised the Commissioning Alliance Framework to support our ability to meet need, secure quality and to mitigate the City Corporation’s limited capacity to shape and build the market of provision. We have also broadened our offer through support for kinship care – supporting the potential of relatives to provide homes for children and young people.
- 3.6 For those leaving our care, the City Corporation provides additional priority for social housing within its Housing Allocations Scheme. Young people are supported by their Leaving Care Social Worker who can draw upon a wider range of services such as the Tenancy Support Team.
- 3.7 We are committed to a continuing programme of social housing development to provide movement within our housing stock, and new homes for those in high housing need. In doing so we continue to provide social tenancies to those leaving care to ensure secure, safe and affordable homes. However, we recognise the competing

demands and needs for social housing, and consequently the need for the City Corporation to explore a wider offer to support independence and the transition to independent adulthood.

3.8 The City Corporation also participates in regional schemes and collaboration to ensure access to specialist provision – such as secure accommodation – should such a need arise.

3.9 Ninety per cent of provision for children in care or for care leavers not in independent tenancies, is within London, with the majority in the North West London subregion. Placements outside of London are specialist residential placements, of semi-independent placements, where the location reflects the preference of the young person.

3.10 Our approach to commissioning services for children in care and care leavers continues to be shaped by the level and characteristics of need we respond to, by best practice and opportunities for collaboration or share approaches, by market supply and by the voices of children and young people.

3.11 As set out, demand is low and differs from patterns in other local authorities due to the high proportion of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children supported. There are very limited opportunities to meet need within the City, although our social housing stock here, and across six other London local authorities provide opportunities for move on into independent living.

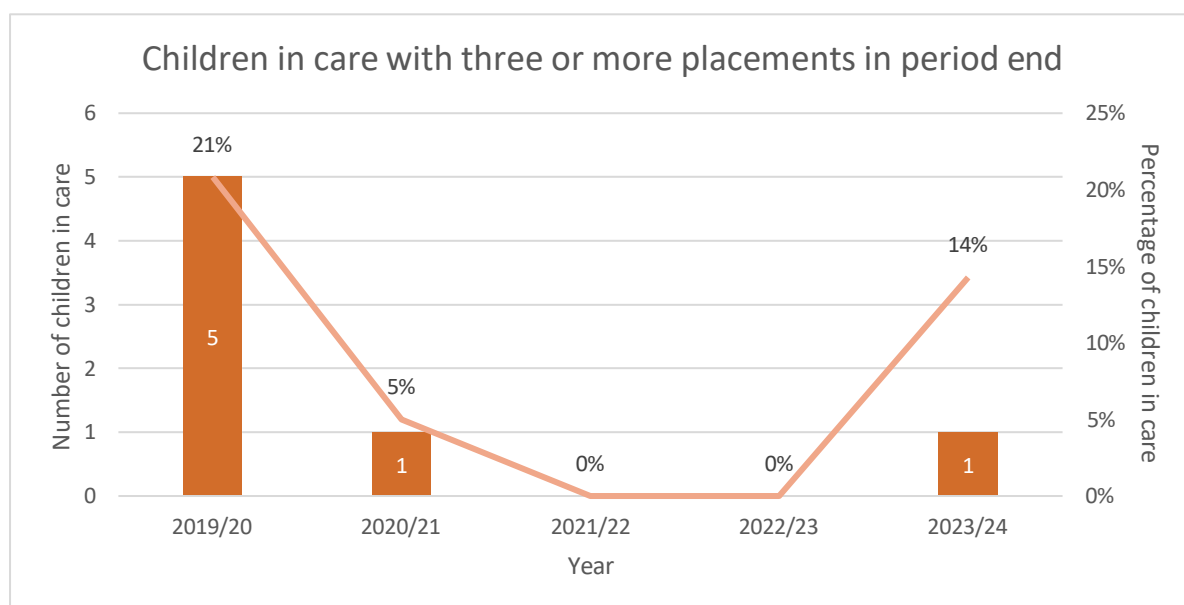
3.12 Our strategic approach to meeting need assumes that:

- **Foster care placements** will usually be best for looked after children who are under the age of 18 (except the youngest children, where adoption may be best).
- The option of **remaining in a successful foster care placement** should be considered for older children: we are committed to providing continuity for children beyond 18 wherever possible.
- **Unregulated Supported Accommodation** will not be used for anyone under 18 years old. Those aged between 16 and 18 years must be placed in Ofsted regulated accommodation.
- **Semi-independent living** (Ofsted registered and regulated) may be suitable for older children in care, but for 16-18 year-olds (subject to assessment) this may require features such as 24/7 onsite staffing and access to specialist support.
- **Semi-independent living** can be good alternative option to foster care for young people leaving care and Unaccompanied Single Children (UASC).

3.13 In addition to the above, it also assumes that:

- Provision in or near the City of London wherever possible, may be best for children with a local connection.
- In seeking a suitable home we will take into account the individual's ethnic, cultural and/or religious identity.

3.14 Our approach has delivered improved stability for our children in care. In 2019/20 five of our children in care (21 per cent) had three or more placements in the period. Since then just one child in 2020/21 and 2023/24 had three or more placements, and zero children in the years between.



Options assessment

3.15 The City Corporation focusses on six key criteria in making our initial options assessment in securing a home:

1. *Are placements available in the City of London or within neighbouring areas?* This is beneficial for some children.
2. *Are placements subject to regular and rigorous quality checking?*
3. *Does our approach to placements provide us with enough capacity of the right sort to meet changing need?*
4. *Does our approach meet the diverse needs of our children and young people?*
Recognising that this is not going to be possible within the City of London itself.
5. *Does our approach provide stability, and minimise placement breakdown?* This is difficult to assess directly. For us, if we are meeting criteria 1-4, then placements will tend to be stable, so long as they are supported by good social work practice and robust provider support
6. *Do placements provide 'value for money'?* How do the costs compare with alternatives of similar or better quality and with those of other local authorities?

3.16 We remain flexible in our approach, so that we are not exclusively reliant on one option, so that we manage risk appropriately, and can meet the diverse needs of the children and young people looked after and leaving care.

Purchasing

- 3.17 The City Corporation accesses the Commissioning Alliance’s framework for sourcing and purchasing of Children’s Placements via the CarePlace portal. This framework provides access to Foster Care, Supported Living, Residential Placements and Family Assessment Centre provision.
- 3.18 This framework has a set of Dynamic Purchasing Vehicles (DPV) which hold a panel of pre-qualified and experienced care providers which have been pre-approved and appointed in accordance with national procurement governance and regulatory body requirements. The framework also provides a complete package of administrative tasks, quality assurance, monitoring functions and offers the best value for money. In addition, the Commissioning Alliance also manages a series of monthly referral and provider forums to discuss placement quality and feedback on the framework in collaboration with both Local Authority and residential, IFA and SIL provider members.
- 3.19 Additional City of London quality assurance approaches are also in place through the implementation of our senior leadership visit programme and regular quality assurance review meetings with providers, which take place either quarterly, bi-annually, or annually dependent on the number of residents placed with the respective provider and the level of complexity of the placement.
- 3.20 Through the Commissioning Alliance, placements for children and young people are commissioned as set out below:
- **For Foster Care:** Our primary approach to sourcing Foster Care Placements is through CarePlace to secure foster placements who are registered with Independent Fostering Agencies. We will seek to secure foster carers who are willing to enter ‘staying put’ arrangements to provide stability for those leaving care and transitioning to adulthood to ensure that they are as readily prepared in an environment positively comparable to their peers. This period of transition utilises existing support networks to avoid social exclusion and avoid possible housing and tenancy breakdown.
 - **For semi-independent living:** Through the Commissioning Alliance, we procure semi-independent living appropriate to individual needs as this is the preferred option of UASCs. The City Corporation’s Commissioning Team work closely with the Commissioning Alliance and existing placement providers in the process of Ofsted registration for semi-independent living and the subsequent Quality Standards, which came into force in October 2023. For unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people in semi-independent accommodation, the City pays accommodation, support and agreed subsistence costs as required by legislation and up to the point they have been given status to remain and become eligible for State Benefits. Where required, any rent subsidies or top ups are negotiated with the young person and Semi-independent providers on an individual basis.

Quality and diligence checks continue to be made on the services being provided by the semi-independent provision in relation to the accommodation, quality of support

being offered to young people in respect of life skills, health, cultural needs, education and accessibility to facilities, such as Mosques, Churches, shops and leisure facilities.

- **For Residential Care:** We aim to secure placements through the Commissioning Alliance portal, which assures full adherence to current regulatory frameworks and requirements. Where the Commissioning Alliance provision is unable fulfil the placement referral – for issues of complexity or supply for instance – accommodation placements are searched and sourced directly by City Corporation with the implementation of a full and robust due diligence process.
- **For residential placements with education provision:** these are sourced directly by City Corporation and contracted through the National Schools and Colleges Contract template, with the City Corporation’s Virtual School Head providing support to quality assure provision.
- **For SEND:** SEND placements are sourced through the Commissioning Alliance SEND Brokerage Team. Referrals are sent to them directly and they will conduct a search. For resilience and to mitigate risk, the City Corporation will often run a parallel search to this, ensuring that providers meet standards.
- **For Family Assessment Centres:** Family Assessment placements will be sourced through the Commissioning Alliance CarePlace framework.
- **Adoption:** Adoption is generally the best option for younger children who cannot return to their birth or extended families. The City of London is a founding Member of the Coram Ambitious for Adoption Regional Adoption Agency; this is in place until 2029.
- **Out of hours emergency placements:** Our children’s social care out of hours provision is delivered in partnership with the London Borough of Hackney who may, when required, place a child or young person outside of office hours in the first instance. Hackney utilises the same stringent placement protocols and criteria as the City of London and has access to the Corporation’s client records system and works closely with the City children’s duty team to ensure a co-ordinated and smooth placement handover.
- **Secure Accommodation:** The City Corporation is part of the London’s Secure Accommodation Project – a regional consortium - for the provision of secure accommodation.

3.21 The City Corporation recognises the importance of quality support in securing success, and strengthens this approach by including:

- A high level of support for all children and young people in placement from their social worker, Independent Reviewing Officer, commissioned advocacy/Independent Visitor and the Virtual School.
- Immigration support through our partnership with the South London Refugee Association [Immigration support pledge](#) which supports children in care and care leavers to access quality legal support and to enable those who are eligible to apply for permanent status and British citizenship.

'...reviewers saw consistently that care experienced young people in the City of London have somewhere secure and stable to live that best meets their needs, where they feel safe and where they can develop their independence skills. This was consolidated by many of the young people having been supported to secure refugee status and leave to remain in the UK for 5 years.'

Aidhour practice review – July 2024

4 Leaving Care and Moving On

- 4.1 The City Corporation has a statutory duty to provide accommodation and care for young people that are looked after up to 18 years, and to provide support to Care Leavers up to the age of 25 years.
- 4.2 We recognise the diversity and individuality of need in the journey to independence and life after care.
- 4.3 Whatever their current situation, we will ensure care leavers in the City are prepared for life after care. An individual pathway plan will be agreed to help prepare young people for independence in accordance with their needs.
- 4.4 The transition to adulthood for all young people, including care leavers, is about progression. For care leavers, this may be a series of small or larger steps, both preparing for independence, leaving care and beyond. Some young people may get their own independent accommodation at 18 years, which is recognised as a very young age to live alone. If this is the case, they will continue to need support as they develop their skills, learn from experience and react to their changing life circumstances.
- 4.5 The emotional wellbeing of young people leaving care is a critical consideration. Alongside support in relation to managing their accommodation, we will continue to offer emotional and practical support, up to the age of 25 years, to ensure that our care leavers, often living on a tight budget and living alone, can manage in a tenancy and engage positively with their community. Our Care Leavers retain their allocated Social Workers once they turn 18 years.
- 4.6 Young people also need timely and easy to understand information about what will happen when they leave care, the type of accommodation they should expect, where

they might live and the pros and cons of various options. When young people are ready to leave care in the City, they will be provided with practical information about moving on and supported to secure their moving on accommodation. This is detailed within the accessible [Care Leaver Offer](#) that contains a specific section on [housing](#).

- 4.7 Our young people tell us they want permanent homes. They often want homes in specific locations – reflecting the geography of their existing accommodation or other personal factors.
- 4.8 Our social housing offer provides good quality, secure and affordable homes. The demand for such homes is high for the City Corporation, across a range of needs groups. Our care leavers are predominantly eligible for a studio flat – offered from a housing stock sits within estates across seven inner London authorities – including the City. Availability of suitable vacancies can be a constraint, and we anticipate this may lead to longer waits and the continuation of high-cost placement for longer than necessary. For some the geography of our housing stock, or the limitations of a studio flat can be a barrier.
- 4.9 To mitigate the City Corporation will broaden its offer, developing approaches based on the approaches and learning of other local authorities, such as shared accommodation and support to secure private sector tenancies through initiatives such as rent deposit and rent guarantor schemes. These will add to our social housing offer, which will be underpinned by continued housing development.

5 Our Plan

Priority	Action	Outcome/Impact
Child and young person centred approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure children and young people are at the centre of every decision, with regards to their well-being, safety and outcomes Provide choice and address what matters most to young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Placement satisfaction amongst children and young people Children and young people are actively involved within decision making and their voice is heard
Quality and stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure high quality placement provision through our engagement with collaborative commissioning approaches, and directly with the market Use feedback from children and young people, Children in Care Council volunteers and social workers to review placement quality and suitability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Placement satisfaction amongst children and young people Reduced placement disruption

Diversity and cultural sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect cultural sensitivities when informing placement provision, involving Children and Young People (CYP) in decision making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placement satisfaction amongst children and young people • Reduced placement disruption
Move-on and independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop supported shared housing offer • Develop private rented access scheme offer • Consider provider market approaches which may support CYP and care leavers towards independence and educational and employment opportunities and tenancy sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful transition to independence and improved life skills
Collaboration and Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with neighbouring local authorities to achieve greater collaboration on a regional and sub-regional basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater levels of placement choice and possible economies of scale

6 Reviewing this Strategy

- 6.1 This strategy sets out our commissioning intentions to ensure that we have sufficient placements of the right kind and quality to meet the needs of children and young people in care within the City of London.
- 6.2 Central to this strategy is children and young people and the support they need to thrive, develop and reach their full potential. This means considering their health, education, connectedness and emotional wellbeing when reviewing how we meet their placement needs.
- 6.3 We are committed to ensuring that children and young people have their views taken into consideration; this will be achieved by consultation through and engagement with forums including the Children in Care Council.
- 6.4 To ensure that progress against the action plan is measured and receives full support, updates on the implementation of Our Plan will be reported at the following regular Management Group meetings:
 - Strategic Placements Group
 - Children’s Senior Management Team
 - Achieving Excellence Board
 - Safeguarding Sub Committee – reporting to City Members.
- 6.5 The strategy will be reviewed annually to ensure that our approach and commissioning intentions are effectively meeting the needs of children looked after in the City of London. Review will also take account of any complaints or complements regarding placements.
- 6.6 This updated strategy runs until 2027, and will be reviewed annually, with the next review in September 2025.

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Committee(s): Safeguarding Sub-Committee – For Information	Dated: 14/11/2024
Subject: 2023–24 Private Fostering Annual Report	Public
This proposal a) provides statutory duties	
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 Information
Report author: Laura Demetriades, Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, Department of Community and Children’s Services	

Summary

The Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service within the People’s Directorate oversees awareness raising in relation to Private Fostering arrangements. The Private Fostering Regulations apply when children or young people, aged under 16 years (18 if they have a disability) live with a person who is not a close relative for 28 days or more. It is a legal duty for parent(s), private foster carers, and professionals to notify the Local Authority where it is suspected or known that a child is residing in a private fostering arrangement. The report details how the City of London has complied with its duties and functions in relation to private fostering. The report also outlines the activities which have been undertaken to promote awareness of the notification requirements regarding children who are living in private fostering arrangements. There have been no private fostering arrangements identified in the City of London from 1st April 2023 to the 31st of March 2024.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The Private Fostering Regulations apply when children or young people, aged under 16 years (18 if they have a disability) live with a person who is not a close relative for 28 days or more. The term ‘close relative’ has a specific definition

within the legislation it includes grandparents, brothers, sisters, uncles and aunts (whether of the full or half blood or by marriage) and stepparents. Children living with people who are not defined as a close relative, such as a cousin, great aunt or family friend need to be assessed and reviewed under the Private Fostering Regulations to ensure the arrangement is able to safeguard and promote their welfare.

2. Private Fostering regulations come into force as a direct action from the Victoria Climbié Inquiry, recognising that children who are not living within their family network can be vulnerable and there needs to be clear assessment and support provided to ensure their welfare is safeguarded and promoted.
3. Nationally Private Fostering arrangements are under reported and there needs to be consistent efforts made to raise awareness amongst the community and professionals and ensure children in Private Fostering arrangements are visible and supported.

Current Position

4. During the last year we have had zero notifications in relation to Private Fostering arrangements in the City.
5. Private Fostering continues to be promoted by the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership (CHSCP) with the information App available on their website.
6. In person awareness raising has taken place with partnership colleagues across the City via the People's Service Induction and in person visits to all schools and several nurseries within the City. Internal awareness raising across DCCS has taken place via circulation of information in the Buzz.

Options

7. Awareness raising work will continue inline with statutory expectations, progressing the priorities outlined in the Annual Report.

Proposals

8. The above arrangements continue to be overseen by the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service within the People's Directorate.

Key Data

9. There have been 0 Private Fostering Notifications received in the City in the reporting period. There were 0 Private Fostering Arrangements receiving support in the City at the end of this reporting period.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

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

Financial implications - None

Resource implications - None

Legal implications - None

Risk implications - None

Equalities implications – None

Climate implications - None

Security implications - None

Conclusion

11. There is low reporting of Private Fostering arrangements nationally and within the City. Action will be taken to prioritise the updating of promotional material and recirculating it to a wide range of partners. As will promotion of the CHSCP training in relation to Private Fostering. As an when notifications are received prompt action will be taken by the Service to ensure the welfare of any children in such an arrangement.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – 2023-24 Private Fostering Annual Report

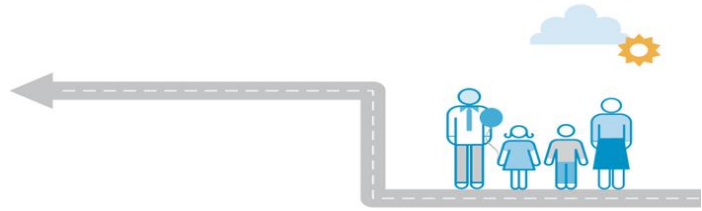
Laura Demetriades

Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance
Department of Community and Children's Services

T: 020 7332 1215

E: laura.demetriades@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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City of London

Department of Community and Children's Services

Private Fostering Annual Report 2023-24

Author: Laura Demetriades,
Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance

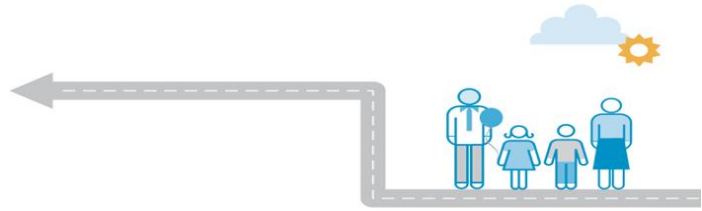
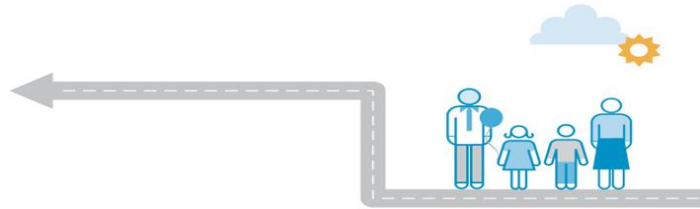


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1. Introduction

The Private Fostering Regulations apply when children or young people, aged under 16 years (18 if they have a disability) live with a person who is not a close relative for 28 days or more. The term 'close relative' has a specific definition within the legislation it includes grandparents, brothers, sisters, uncles and aunts (whether of the full or half blood or by marriage) and stepparents. Children living with people who are not defined as a close relative, such as a cousin, great aunt or family friend need to be assessed and reviewed under the Private Fostering Regulations to ensure the arrangement is able to safeguard and promote their welfare.

This annual report gives an overview of activities in relation to privately fostered children in the City of London in the last financial year. The report details how the City of London has complied with its duties and functions in relation to private fostering. The report also outlines the activities which have been undertaken to promote awareness of the notification requirements regarding children who are living in private fostering arrangements. The responsibility for the promotion and awareness raising in relation to private fostering sits within the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service which is part of the People's Directorate, within the Department for Community and Children's Services.

2. Context of City of London

The City of London is the smallest local authority area in the country at 1.12 miles, and the second smallest by population. We have 8600 residents and around 800 children and young people under the age of 19 years. We have one state maintained primary school and six private schools in the City.

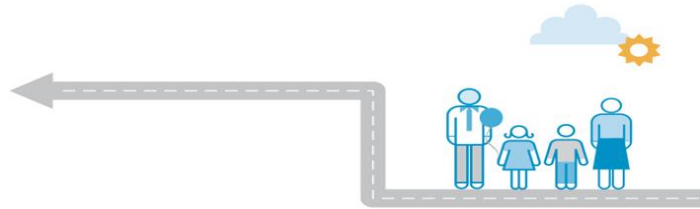
There are high levels of affluence with pockets of deprivation. More diverse communities live in the east side of the City and the younger population is growing there. The resident population of the Square Mile is predominantly white, though this is projected to decrease over the period to 2026. The Asian population (the largest Black and Global Majority group in the Square Mile) is projected to remain as a similar proportion of the population (around 13%) and groups which are relatively under-represented, including Black and other populations, are projected to increase. Older population is growing but overall high life expectancy.

3. Meeting National Minimum Standards on Private Fostering,

Standard 1: The local authority has a written statement or plan, which sets out its duties and functions in relation to private fostering and the way in which they will be carried out.

The City of London's 'Statement of Purpose for Private Fostering' was reviewed and updated in April 2024. Raising awareness around Private Fostering is led by the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service and monitored by the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership. The key objectives are to ensure.

1. Professionals understand what their responsibilities are relating to private fostering and know how to report any arrangements appropriately.
2. Parents understand what private fostering is and whether it is a suitable option for them and their family.



3. Carers understand their responsibilities if they are offering care to someone else's child(ren).
4. Children know what to expect if they are cared for someone who is not their parent or a close relative, how they should be treated, and where they can get support if needed.

Standard 2: The local authority: promotes awareness of the notification requirements and ensures that those professionals who may come into contact with privately fostered children understand their role in notification.

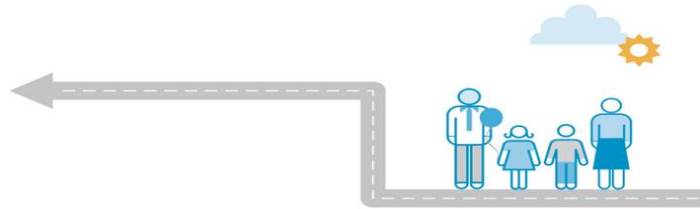
Information is available for professionals via the City of London website [Private fostering - City of London](#) and via the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership [Private Fostering | chscp](#), specifically an easy to use downloadable app which was developed in partnership with the Ineqe Safeguarding Group. The App aims to help everyone better understand this important safeguarding issue. Easy to access & simple to understand, the Private Fostering App is the go-to guide that fits right in your pocket. Get our new Private Fostering App by downloading the CHSCP poster or via the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).

Leaflets and posters available are sent out periodically to schools, early years settings, religious establishments, libraries, housing offices, and community centres for display and to remind them of their reporting duties.

In January 2024 an in-person People's Directorate Induction was held, with 29 attendees from internal staff to external partners and commissioned services, within this there was a specific section on private fostering and duty to notify. There has also been in person visits to all primary and secondary schools in the City this year which highlighted private fostering as a priority.

The Aldgate School	03/10/2023
City of London School for Girls	31/10/2023
City of London School for Boys	01/11/2023
Charterhouse Square School & Nursery	07/11/2023
St Paul's Cathedral School & Nursery	05/10/2023
David Game College	04/10/2023
Guildhall School of Music and Drama (Higher Education)	03/08/2023
Bright Horizons City Child	18/07/2023
Newpark Childcare Centre	26/10/2023
The City of London Child and Family Centre	03/10/2023

Responds effectively to notifications; and deals with situations where an arrangement comes to their attention, which has not been notified.



There are effective processes in place to respond to notification when they arise. This reporting period there have been 0 private fostering notifications, so these processes have not needed to be enacted. However, there is a duty worker available every day to respond to any queries or notifications in relation to privately fostered children. An annual refresher in terms of awareness is undertaken with the Children's Social Care and Early Help team, there is also training available through the CHSCP for staff members to attend if they need additional clarity, as is guidance and advice from the lead for Private Fostering in the organisation.

Standard 3: The local authority determines effectively the suitability of all aspects of the private fostering arrangement in accordance with the regulations.

There have been no Private Fostering Assessments completed in the City during 2023 to 2024; however, there are procedures in place to assess the placement and ascertain the views of the child. Assessments would include and cover the expectations within the National Minimum Standards by:

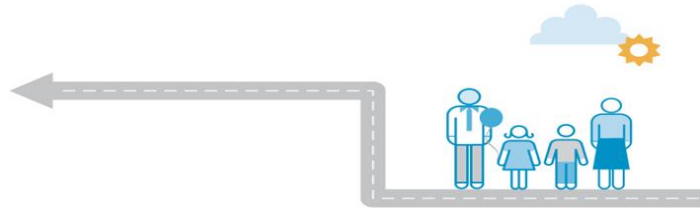
- Ascertaining the wishes and feelings of the child about the proposed/actual private fostering arrangement. The child would be spoken to alone as part of the assessment process.
- Understanding the child's physical, intellectual, emotional, social and behavioural development needs, and the carers capacity to meet these needs.
- Assessing the child's religious, ethnic, cultural and linguistic needs and how these are being met in the care arrangement.
- Ensuring that consideration has been given and steps taken to make arrangements for the child's education.
- Conducting a risk assessment of the home, those within the household and the standard of care offered from the care arrangement.
- Ensuring that the child is registered with appropriate health services.
- Completing DBS checks in respect of all the adults within the household.
- Supporting the child to access local leisure activities and engage in age-appropriate extra-curricular activities.

Standard 4: The local authority provides such advice and support to private foster carers and prospective private foster carers as appears to the authority to be needed:

The Children's Social Care and Early Help Service are aware that it is their role to assist and advise all private foster carers with general care skills and provide advice on an on-going basis. There would also be assistance with practical issues for carers around benefits, housing and immigration status as required. The City would ensure that all carers have support in accessing education and health provision for the child(ren). All team members have access to the CHSCP Private Fostering App [Private Fostering | chscp](#). All new starters in Children's Social Care have an induction with the lead for Private Fostering and all workers are able to access advice and guidance from the lead at any time.

Standard 5: The local authority provides advice and support to the parents of children who are privately fostered within their area as appears to the authority to be needed:

Where possible all parent(s) would be met with as part of the Private Fostering Assessment, and their understanding and written consent gained as part of this process. Where parent(s) are not living in the UK contact would be made via phone/video call as able. In any case it would be essential



that the parent(s) can be contacted and provide their informed consent for the arrangement, if parent(s) were not able to do this then consideration to seeking legal advice would be required.

A leaflet designed for parents, carers and children about private fostering arrangements is available and would be given to anyone entering such an arrangement. There is also information available about services and activities in the City of London which would be provided for parents, carers and children from the Family Information Service.

Parent(s) would be included as far as possible in any meetings pertaining to their child and would be required to give consent to any decisions made in relation to their child, as they retain Parental Responsibility. They would also be responsible for any financial support needed to maintain the arrangement.

Standard 6 Children who are privately fostered are able to access information and support when required so that their welfare is safeguarded and promoted. Privately fostered children are enabled to participate in decisions about their lives:

The allocated social worker would consult with any privately fostered child about their views and ensure that their carers understood their needs and wishes and could meet this appropriately. The child's view would be a core part of the assessment report and on-going monitoring visits. They would be seen and spoken to on their own, with direct work being completed to best understand their experiences and wishes for the future.

Children who are living in private fostering arrangements would be given information about what they should expect, where age appropriate, and how they can access support from their social worker or other services. Children who are privately fostered in City of London would also have access to the advocacy and independent visitor service.

Standard 7 The local authority has in place and implements effectively a system for monitoring the way in which it discharges its duties and functions in relation to private fostering. It improves practice where this is indicated as necessary by the monitoring system:

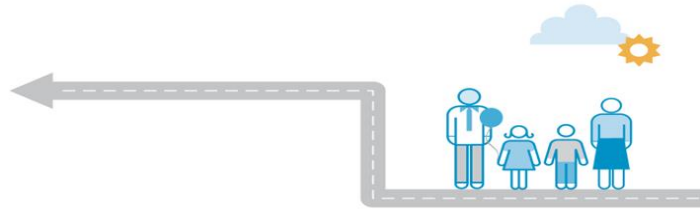
All information relating to children who are privately fostered is recorded on Mosaic, the integrated children's system used by the Children's Social Care and Early Help Service. This information can be utilised for performance reports and National Indicator returns, including age of the child, place of birth, ethnicity, first language and any disability.

As part of the Quality Assurance Framework any private fostering arrangements would be subject to an auditing process and the qualitative and quantitative information obtained would be reported into the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership via the quality assurance subgroup.

4. Oversight

CHSCP Quality Assurance and Training, Learning and Development Subgroups and Safeguarding Partnership Board

The Private Fostering Annual Report is taken to the CHSCP Quality Assurance Subgroup and Safeguarding Partnership Board Meeting for review. Any themes or emerging trends are raised at the



Quarterly Subgroups as required, specifically any learning needs being identified across the multi-agency partnership or new ideas for raising awareness.

Safeguarding Sub-Committee

The Private Fostering Report is taken to the Safeguarding Sub-Committee for consideration of Members, to ensure that there are safe and effective working practices should a notification be received, and to monitor the ongoing awareness raising of the need to notify in relation to private fostering arrangements.

5. Progress against 2022-23 Priorities

- Outstanding action from previous report 2021 to 2022, was to raise awareness around private fostering with faith leaders. This would require cross borough working with neighbouring local authorities. – Links have been made with the Safeguarding Teams for both the Church of England Diocese and the Catholic Church Diocese. A list of religious institutions within and bordering the City have been drawn up and leaflets and posters will be sent, once the information has been updated.
- Information on Private Fostering will be available on the Family Information website. – The Family Information website links to the information available on the City of London website. Updates have been provided for the website content but have yet to put in place.

6. Priorities for the next 12 months

1. Update the Private Fostering information available both as paper copies and online.
2. Send out updated information to all religious institutions within and bordering the City.
3. Utilise Private Fostering Awareness Day to promote awareness and training for staff internally and across the partnership.
4. Ensure internal procedures in relation to Private Fostering are up to date and accessible on the TriX Library for staff to utilise as needed.

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Agenda Item 9

Committee(s): Safeguarding Sub-Committee – For Information	Dated: 11/11/2024
Subject: CiCC Sailing Trip Feedback 2024	Public
This proposal a) delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes (see list below)	
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 Information
Report author: Laura Demetriades, Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, Department of Community and Children’s Services	

Diverse Engaged Communities: Across our residents, workers, businesses, and visitors, everyone should feel that they belong. Connecting people of all ages and backgrounds will help build diverse, engaged communities that are involved in co-creating great services and outcomes

Providing Excellent Services: Supporting people to live healthy, independent lives and achieve their ambitions is dependent on excellent services. Vital to that continued pursuit is enabling access to effective adult and children’s social care, outstanding education, lifelong learning, quality housing, and combatting homelessness.

Summary

The Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service within the People’s Directorate oversees the Participation offer to children in care and care leavers. It is a statutory expectation that all Local Authorities must provide the opportunity for children in care and care leavers to share their experiences in the format of a Children in Care Council (CiCC). However, to support young people to do this the participation offer goes beyond formal meetings and consultation events, providing opportunities for children and young people to develop friendships with each other, relationships with Senior Leaders, to try new activities and cultural experiences which foster a sense of collective belonging and identity. Each year the CiCC runs a residential trip for our children in care and care leavers.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The Children in Care Council offers a young person-centred space, which is supported by workers not directly involved in operational social work practice and decision making. It enables young people to come together to share their experiences and views in a safe, supportive and facilitated way, make new friendships, and try new experiences.
2. The Children in Care Council offers a residential trip each year to support young people to try new activities, experience new environments, develop confidence, new skills, resilience and team work.

Current Position

3. This year we took 7 young people on a 4-day, 3-night sailing trip aboard The Blue Mermaid, which is a traditionally rigged and decked Thames sailing barge. It has no motor which meant the group needed to travel with the tide and wind. They were required to work together alongside the crew to ensure the safe voyage of the boat.
4. During the last year we have offered 6 Children in Care Council meetings, which is one every academic half term, which is in line with our aims. The average attendance at each meeting has been 6 young people, ideally we'd like to increase this to 8-10. However, it is positive to be establishing a core membership.
5. The Children in Care Council has had the opportunity to share their views with the Lead Member, Town Clerk, Executive Director for DCCS, Head of the Virtual School, Head of Children's Social Care, and the Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance. Ensuring that the lived experience of children in care and care leavers is heard and understood at all levels of the Corporation, and they receive feedback about what action was taken following their feedback.

Options

6. The Participation work continues as it has been ensuring a pre-planned calendar of Children in Care Council meetings and events throughout the year. Linking in with partners also working in this space such as the Virtual School, Prospects and Partnership for Young London, to offer a wide range of opportunities which meet the variety of needs of our children and young people.

Proposals

7. The above offer will continue through the Participation Officer who sits under the Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, within the People's Directorate.

Key Data

8. N/A

Corporate & Strategic Implications

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

Financial implications - None

Resource implications - None

Legal implications - None

Risk implications - None

Equalities implications – None

Climate implications - None

Security implications - None

Conclusion

10. The Participation offer is continually developing to respond to the needs and interests out children in care and care leavers. Those who access the offer provide positive feedback about their experiences and the opportunities provided, and we will continue work to increase take up. This residential trip provided a unique experience for our young people

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Sailing Trip Feedback

Laura Demetriades

Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance
Department of Community and Children's Services

T: 020 7332 1215

E: laura.demetriades@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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Children in Care Council (CiCC) Residential Sailing Trip Feedback 15th – 18th July 2024



The City of London Children in Care Council ([CiCC - City of London](#)), supported by the Virtual School and Education Team, took 7 care leavers on a fantastic residential sailing trip. Over 4 days the group sailed The Blue Mermaid ([Sea-Change Sailing Trust](#)) from Ramsgate to St Katherine's Dock in London. Learning lots of new skills, working together as a team, building confidence, developing their communication, and making lasting memories. Our group had an amazing and unique experience. Below is some of their feedback about the trip.

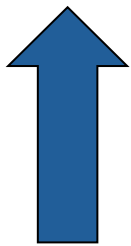


What have you learnt during this voyage?

“I like this sailing so I learnt a lot of things, I have learned how to be brave in the boat and it made me feel I can do things in boats such as steering the small boat. I have learnt being respectful with people.”

“I have learnt how to live on the sea and help others with tasks, also having to manage making food for the whole group.”

“I learned how to live in a confined and restricted area. I learnt how to help crew members to get things going when we are setting off. Lastly I used to cook for myself, but I have never cooked for more than 3 people, but this trip helped and boosted my confidence, which is great as now I can cook for large number of people.”



80% said that they were highly likely to sail again after their experience

60% felt that their confidence had increased after the trip

100% had more belief that they could do things for themselves

100% felt more confident in sailing

80% felt that they were better at listening to others

80% felt that they were better at sticking with things and finishing tasks



What did you enjoy the most or was the most memorable part of the trip?

“The good conversations I had with people on board.”

“I liked the whole experience but my most favourite thing was around the sunrise. Also cooking for everyone.”

“It has been good for my confidence.”

“I have enjoyed everything, especially how I could have lovely conversations with people.”

“I enjoyed every single bit of this voyage. One of the most memorable moments is waking up early and seeing a beautiful sunrise. I enjoyed talking to all the people, last but not least the crew members were very friendly.”

Watch the video to see the incredible time they had!

 [Blue Mermaid trip.MP4](#)



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Committee: Safeguarding Sub Committee	Dated: 14/11/2024
Subject: Education and Early Years Service Safeguarding Update	Public
This proposal a) delivers Corporate Plan 202429 outcomes (para. 31) b) provides statutory duties c) provides business enabling functions	
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?	Y
Report of: Judith Finlay, Executive Director, Community and Children's Services	For Information
Report author: Kirstie Hilton, Head of Service, Education and Early Years	

Summary

The Safeguarding Sub Committee is regularly updated on the work that the Education and Early Years Service delivers to improve the safety and welfare of City-resident children being educated in the City of London (CoL) and other boroughs, as well as non-resident children attending schools within the CoL.

This report provides an update on developments and progress in the following areas:

- 1) The City of London School tracker and identification of children on Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support
- 2) The *Working Together to Improve School Attendance* Statutory Duty
- 3) Children at risk of missing education
- 4) Electively home-educated children
- 5) Performance licences and work permits

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report

Main Report

Background

1. The CoL has a unique educational landscape, with only one maintained primary school and no maintained secondary schools within its locality. There are four independent schools and one independent college (David Game College); most children attending these schools are non-City residents. Most CoL primary-age children and all secondary-age children are educated either in the independent sector or outside the CoL altogether. Consequently, this puts them outside the standard reporting and/or legal framework that governs the CoL's statutory responsibilities.
2. Section 19 of the Education Act 1996 imposes a legal duty on local authorities to provide a suitable education for children of compulsory school age who are out of school. With only one maintained primary school located in the CoL, most children attending school in the state sector attend schools located in other localities. The CoL continues to promote high educational standards locally, ensure fair access to schools, and protect the interest of the most vulnerable pupils.
3. 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 as a statutory document from August 2024, in preparation for the new academic year. 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 in working together collectively to improve attendance by addressing the issues that underpin attendance concerns.
4. The CoL is responsible for regulating all children and young people either performing or working within the City's boundaries. National child employment guidance, which oversees the administration of child work permits, the issue of performance licences, Body of Persons Approvals (BOPAs) and chaperone licences, is available to all local authorities through the National Network for Children in Employment and Entertainment (NNCEE). However, local guidance specific to individual local authorities is less well known. There are statutory laws to help safeguard children of statutory school age while they are performing or working part time. The relevant primary legislation is Part II of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and Part II of the Children and Young Persons Act 1963. The Children (Performances and Activities) (England) Regulations 2014 came into effect on 6 February 2015. These regulations replaced the Children (Performances) Regulations 1968 as amended, which were repealed in their entirety together with all guidance that related to them. The law applies to all children from birth until they reach compulsory school-leaving age.

Current Position

The City of London School tracker and identification of children on SEN Support

5. To provide children who are out of school with a suitable education, the Education and Early Years Service has developed a system to identify CoL children of statutory school age, and monitor their school attendance. The City maintains this record by using primary and secondary transition data, along with the 'No Show Report' provided by Islington. This report is generated at the start of each academic year to confirm that all children transitioning to primary and secondary schools are actively attending. The school tracker is updated and reviewed annually during a census, documenting the names of all CoL children.
6. This work offers several key benefits, such as enhancing our understanding of where City-resident children are enrolled in school. Establishing these relationships improves communication with schools, making them more likely to notify our service if there are concerns about a child.
7. Currently, our records show that there are 332 CoL resident children of statutory school age. Of those:
 - children and young people attend 63 schools
 - children attend 19 local authority areas
 - there are 43 pupils with persistent absence
 - there are 53 pupils on SEN Support (attending 14 different schools).
8. It is crucial for the CoL to have a comprehensive overview of the attendance and outcomes of all children and young people residing in the City who are receiving SEN Support. Anticipating needs is vital when designing and planning services for children and young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND). In the autumn term of 2024, we will reach out to all 14 schools that serve children on SEN Support to gather more detailed information about: the reasons for low attendance; attainment levels and suspensions data; and use of Alternative Provision. This will enable us to begin monitoring the outcomes for these children. By providing referrals and signposting as needed, including offering a free copy of our *SEND Ranges* document (which outlines how the City applies its graduated approach to supporting children with SEND), we can gain a better understanding of how children in out-of-borough schools are being supported.

The *Working Together to Improve School Attendance* Statutory Duty

9. The law entitles every child of compulsory school age to an efficient, full-time education suitable to their age, aptitude, and any special educational needs they may have. Where parents decide to have their child registered at school (the alternative being Elective Home Education), 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 permissible

circumstances, such as being too ill to attend, or being given permission in advance by the school for an absence.

10. In August 2024, DfE published new statutory guidance for maintained schools, academies, independent schools, and local authorities on *Working Together to Improve School Attendance*. The purpose of the guidance is to help all schools and local authorities 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.
11. Where barriers to attendance for a pupil or family are complex, and signposting to services is not sufficient, the CoL, 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 CoL, a referral will be made to the CoL Early Help team. For children attending schools in the CoL but residing in other areas, the School Attendance Support team will work with schools and families to ensure that persistent absence is challenged, and that support and signposting takes place.
12. During the last academic year (2023/24), the School Attendance Support team successfully received attendance data from all CoL schools, creating a platform that the Education Welfare Manager was able to use to discuss pupils with concerning levels of attendance. Attendance data was requested at least every term and visits to the schools took place at least every term (more frequently for The Aldgate School, given it is the only maintained school within the CoL local authority). Schools are engaging well with the Education Welfare Manager, who is supporting the designated safeguarding leads and attendance leads in addressing attendance concerns.
13. All CoL schools attend the Safeguarding Education Forum (SEF) on a termly basis. The SEF provides an opportunity for the CoL schools to meet to share and consider policy, practice and procedural issues relating to safeguarding arrangements in school settings in the CoL. The Education Welfare Manager has also established a School Attendance Network meeting, specifically targeted at the designated safeguarding leads, to discuss more operational matters. The Network meeting will report to the SEF and the first meeting took place in October 2024.

Children at risk of missing education (and those under Section 19)

14. We maintain an accurate record of children who are at risk of, or who are missing education, either as a result of medical reasons, not being enrolled with a school, being educated otherwise, or due to exclusion. This record is accessible to the key people within the service who have knowledge of, or who are working with those families. For any children known to the Children's Social Care, Early Help and Short Breaks services, notes relating to individual children are recorded on the MOSAIC management information system. Children recorded by the service as either missing, or at risk of missing education are monitored regularly. A termly report is produced and discussed with directors for strategic guidance.

15. The Attendance Improvement Group (previously known as the Vulnerable Children Group), have oversight of a list of all children at risk of missing education. This list was established during the first COVID-19 lockdown in March 2020 to ensure that all children known to support services had access to IT equipment and Wi-Fi to enable them to access remote learning. Following the pandemic, the group has continued to monitor attendance and circumstances of our most vulnerable children and young people. The group draws together the key support services to ensure sharing of information, actions for improvement, and the prevention of 'drift' in service provision.
16. Although four years have passed since the pandemic, consideration has been given to continuing an overview of these children by maintaining the Attendance Improvement Group. Children with low attendance or who are not attending school are at risk of not reaching their full potential. An important part of ensuring that children are safe is to make sure that they are receiving an education. The group also monitors young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) and electively home-educated children where there are concerns about the suitability of education being delivered.
17. The purpose of the Group is to maintain an overview of the children that continue to experience issues with school attendance and engaging with education. The group is also a platform for ensuring regular information sharing between services. The Group is for CoL resident children only, including Children in Care who live outside of the CoL.
18. The Group provides an opportunity for key officers to share what actions are being taken to support these children. There are currently 24 children and young people on the list. Many of these children are already known to statutory services, including those who are:
- Children in Care
 - on a Child Protection Plan
 - Children in Need
 - known to the Early Help team
 - with Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans
 - Electively Home Educated
 - missing education (or at risk of missing education)
 - in the Early Years who are transitioning into primary school in the next academic year, and where there may be concerns about attendance.
19. The Education and Early Years Service also works closely with the Children's Social Care, Early Help and Short Breaks services to ensure that support to families is co-ordinated. Our Education Welfare Manager works with individual families of children who attend school outside the CoL, and all schools within our locality to encourage and, where necessary, enforce attendance, and to safeguard and promote children's welfare so they can reach their full potential.

Children in alternative provision

20. Alternative provision (AP) provides specialist places and support for those children and young people who would benefit from spending time away from their current school, or who present with such needs that cannot be met in mainstream or special school environments. CoL is committed to ensuring that all of its children and young people attending AP have access to suitable and high-quality provision.
21. While the CoL does not have any alternative providers within its area, children and young people are sometimes referred to AP through collective commissioning arrangements with the local authority where they attend school or receive support from tutor agencies. In response, the Education and Early Years Service, in collaboration with the Commissioning team, has developed a quality assurance checklist to evaluate providers based on safeguarding, health and safety, quality of education, personal development and behaviour, leadership and management, as well as student entitlement and post-16 engagement.
22. Quality assurance is crucial when arranging AP (including tuition) for children who require it, to ensure effective and safe learning experiences. The City of London Corporation will maintain an approved list of alternative providers that are registered with DfE and rated as 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted. It will also keep a list of tuition services that have been quality assured, and use the quality assurance checklist before services are commissioned. Prior to any placement, we will request the provider's most recent quality assurance framework to confirm that they can meet the individual needs of the pupil, including health and safety, quality of education, and suitability. Further assurances will be obtained through a visit to the provider to complete the quality assurance checklist. When commissioning an out-of-borough placement for AP, this checklist will be completed and presented to the SEND and AP Panel before the child is placed. The Education Welfare Manager will lead the checklist completion when a placement is needed.

Electively home-educated children

23. Parents are responsible for ensuring that their children receive a suitable level of education according to their age and ability. While our goal in the CoL is to collaborate with parents to support their children's learning and development, parents have the right to decline entry for their children to educational services. This could potentially lead to significant harm for the children involved.
24. The CoL has established a thorough process to ensure that all children who are electively home educated receive an appropriate level of education. Although the number of CoL children being electively home educated is small (currently two), the Education team proactively reaches out to families, collaborates with key professionals, and completes referrals as needed. MOSAIC is also used to facilitate effective information sharing. The Education team conducts home visits to electively home-educated children twice a year. Updates on family engagement are regularly reported to the Departmental Leadership Team. Any concerns are promptly communicated to the Children's Social Care and Early Help services.

25. The CoL's Elective Home Education Guidance is regularly reviewed and updated in line with DfE guidance and local decision-making. The current guidance was reviewed and agreed in April 2023.

Performance licences and work permits

26. Children and young people of compulsory school age who work for an organisation or company, in paid or voluntary work, must have a valid work permit. The CoL is responsible for issuing child work permits to all organisations and companies located within the CoL. The Education team continues to ensure that all employers carry out a health and safety risk assessment in the workplace. They also make sure that, at the point of application, all children are given adequate breaks, work no longer than they are legally permitted, have appropriate insurance cover, and do not carry out dangerous or risky tasks. Over the last year, the service has issued four work permits.

27. There are also specific rules covering children working in entertainment. It is essential that local authorities recognise this statutory duty and fulfil their safeguarding responsibility towards children taking part in performances, paid sport and modelling. All children of compulsory school age require a performance licence to take part in any performance. There are also strict rules regarding the conditions under which children and young people can perform, including when children are taken out of school to either rehearse or perform.

28. The Education team has established and maintains excellent working relationships with key individuals working in venues located in the CoL, such as the Barbican Centre. This helps to ensure that the service is informed of all productions and performances involving children within the CoL, so that support and advice can be offered on the relevant rules and requirements. Inspections are carried out to ensure that children involved in performances are safe and happy and are not being exploited.

29. Due to the relatively complex nature of issuing performance licences and Body of Persons Approvals (BOPAs), the service has local guidance on:

- a. BOPAs
- b. individual performance licences
- c. issuing of work permits
- d. chaperone licences.

30. Over the last year, the service has issued 25 BOPAs, and visited 15 performances. All visits are followed up with a letter, including any recommendations following any concerns raised during the visit. The Education team has issued no new chaperone licences recently.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

31. **Strategic implications** – Corporate outcome: **Providing Excellent Services:** Supporting people to live healthy, independent lives, and achieve their ambitions, is dependent on excellent services. Vital to that continued pursuit is enabling

access to effective adult and children’s social care, outstanding education, lifelong learning, quality housing, and combatting homelessness. **Diverse Engaged Communities:** Across our residents, workers, businesses, and visitors, everyone should feel that they belong. Connecting people of all ages and backgrounds will help build diverse, engaged communities that are involved in co-creating great services and outcomes.

32. **Financial implications** – Support must be offered to schools free of charge. There is no additional funding available from DfE.
33. **Resource implications** – There is a dedicated Education team that manages the work detailed in this report.
34. **Legal implications** – There is a statutory duty to ensure that all children attend school regularly. The CoL must ensure that all children have a school place, and to ensure that children are safe in employment.
35. **Risk implications** – There is a reputational risk if the CoL does not comply to any statutory guidance.
36. **Equalities implications** – All children have the right to an education and to be kept safe from harm.
37. **Climate implications** – N/A
38. **Security implications** – N/A

Conclusion

39. Over the past year, a primary focus of the Education and Early Years Service has been to safeguard the wellbeing of children residing in the City who are accessing education, both within and outside the CoL. We remain committed to enhancing our efforts to keep children safe in their employment and to improve our understanding of where our children and young people are being educated, and the support they require.
40. In collaboration with CoL schools, we will keep identifying children at risk of missing education and provide support for attendance-related issues. We plan to further develop the School Attendance Networking Meeting and assess the effectiveness of the Attendance Improvement Group to ensure that both operations play a crucial role in fulfilling our educational responsibilities.
41. We will monitor, review and maintaining our policies and processes to keep children safe. We will ensure that children and young people receive a suitable level of education, and that those performing in film, television and the theatre, are safeguarded.

Appendices

- None

Kirstie Hilton

Head of Service, Education and Early Years

T: 020 7332 3274

E: kirstie.hilton@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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Committee(s): Safeguarding subcommittee	Date: 14/11/24
Subject: City of London Police vulnerability report 2024	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: City of London Police	For information
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.

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 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

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

Risk Management (MARM), the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation meeting (MACE) and statutory child protection meetings.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the report.

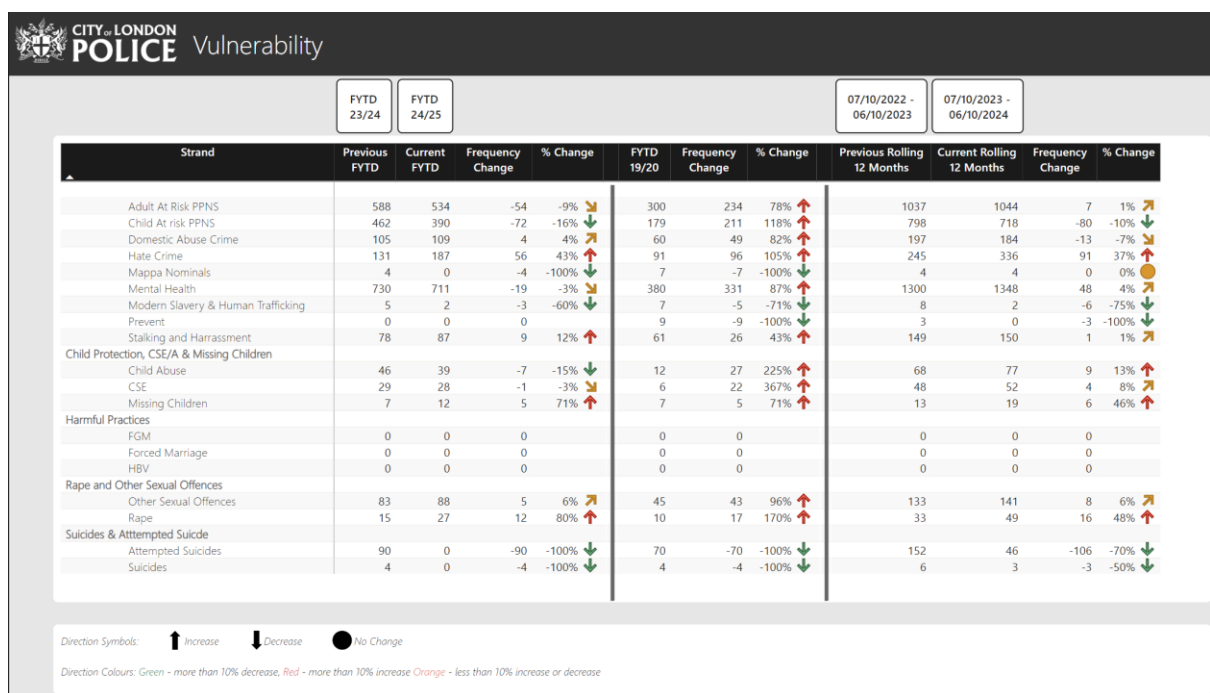
Main Report

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

- 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).
- A vulnerability dashboard is produced monthly that reports on demand and informs activity and tasking across the vulnerability strands. This is complimented by the strategic threat assessment and resulting control strategy that is produced for consideration of Tactical Tasking and Co-ordination Group (TTCG) aiding tactical alignment with threat and demand.



- 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.
- 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.

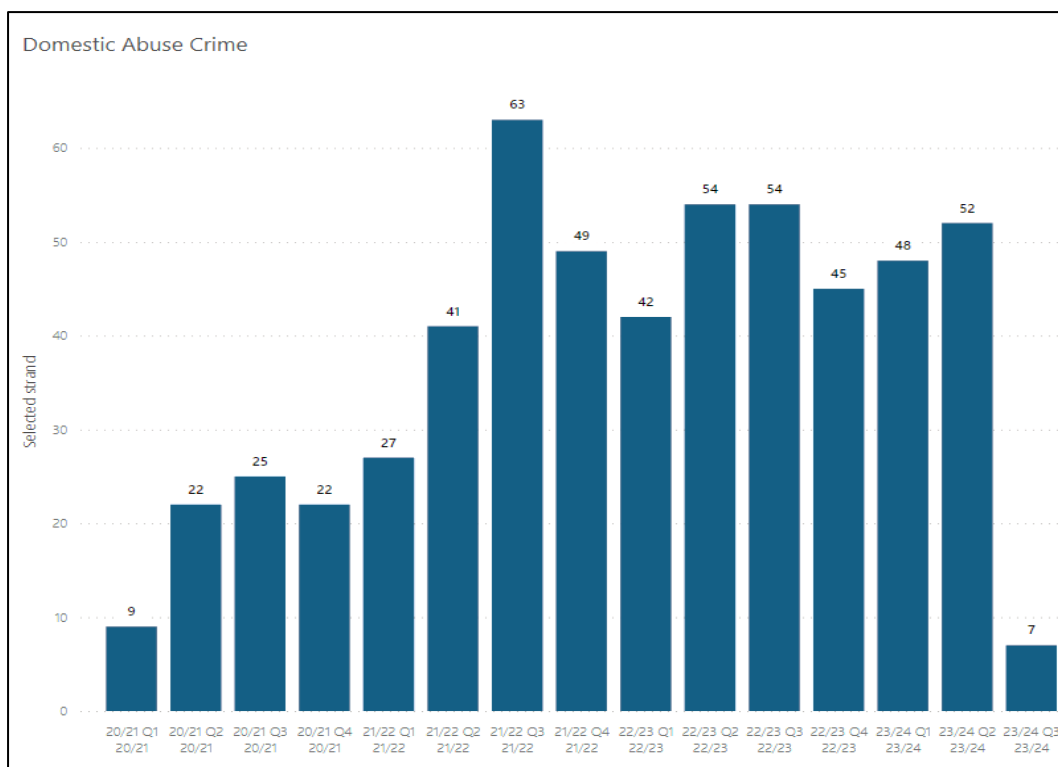
² [VKPP-Voice-of-the-child-practice-briefing-2022.pdf \(college.police.uk\)](#)

11. The role of the Vulnerable Victim Advocate (VVA) is covered by one part time staff member 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.
12. 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 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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.

17. 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 magistrate's 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 a conviction has been obtained in respect of a revenge porn case. 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.

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

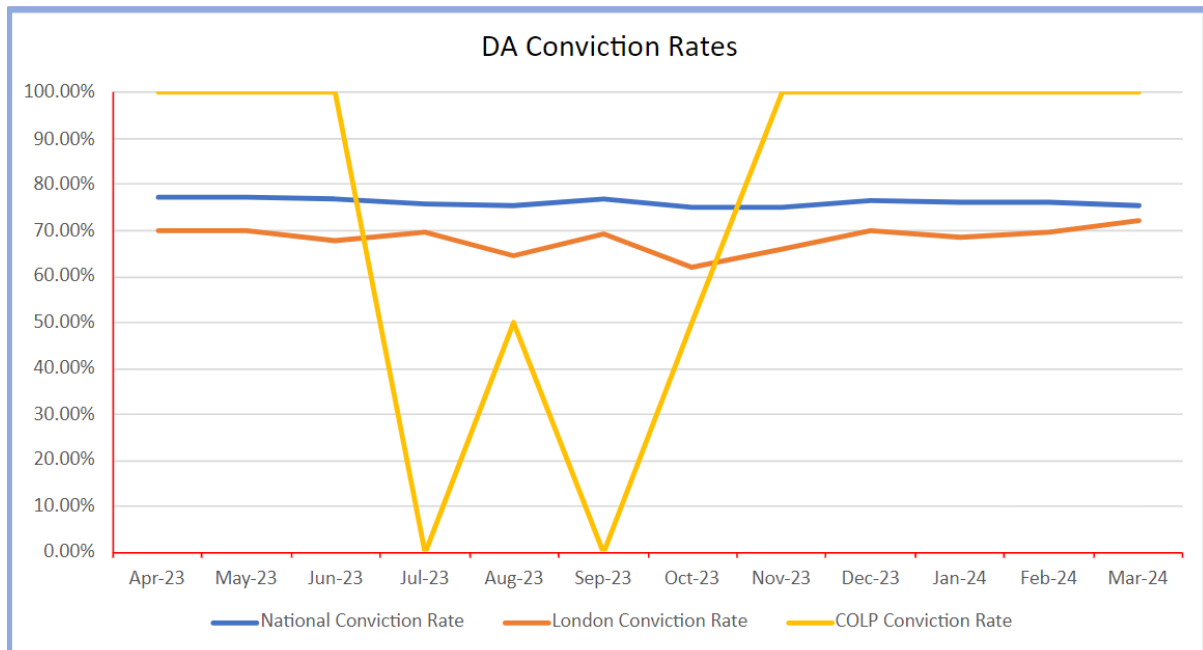
20. The increase can be attributed to the partnership activities since the height of the pandemic to engage with the community through social media and several awareness campaigns alongside perceived confidence in reporting. This is linked largely to the wider Violence Against Women and Girls work. This 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 has currently trained 35 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. The CoLP continues to maintain a higher than average conviction rate – testament to our focus on evidence gathering, supporting the victim and Evidence Led Prosecutions (ELP).



24. COLP have well developed Domestic Abuse partnerships across the Criminal Justice System. COLP forms part of the London South DA Focus Group which meets bi-monthly to discuss performance data, cracked and ineffective cases and consider best practice and joint training opportunities.

The Courts DA Steering Group, including CPS, MPS, victim support services and courts considers partnership working and driving improvements for victims across the CJ system. COLP has a dedicated Domestic Abuse Court at Westminster Mags, which is seen as national best practice and gives rise to increased greater victim focus and improved outcomes for victims. COLP are active partners in the London South Joint Operational Improvement Meeting (JOIM), following the national Criminal Justice Meeting structure, attended by AOJ DI/DCI. A range of performance metrics and issues are discussed at this meeting, including disclosure, case file quality and discontinuance rates. The JOIM feeds into the newly formed Strategic Joint Improvement Board (JIB) attended by Commander Operations and Senior Crown Prosecutors. This is focussed solely on COLP performance and identifies COL specific areas of focus. For example, currently considering CPS/police review of current open DA cases with suspects on bail/RUI – something which would not be available across other forces due to our size. The COLP DA relationship with CPS is extremely positive and has been commented

by CPS leads as being well developed and an example of how this can lead to positive outcomes for victims (as evidenced by conviction rates).

Honour based abuse and female genital mutilation

25. 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.
26. 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.
27. Reported volumes are very low and 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.

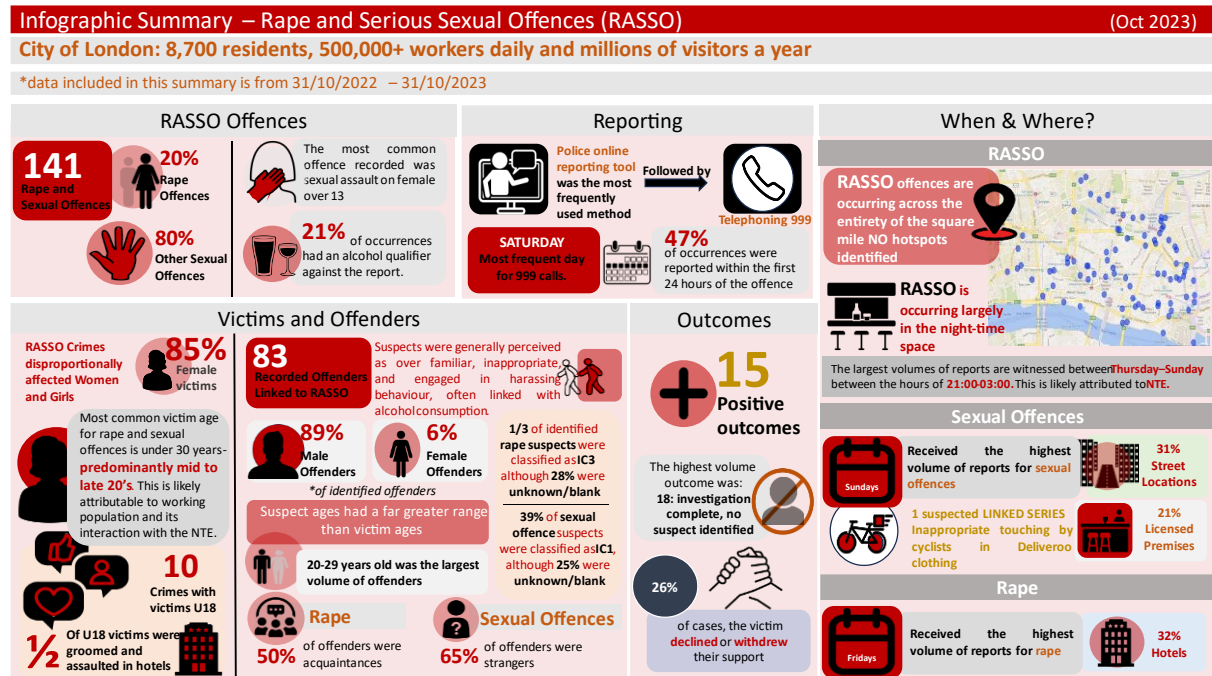
Sexual Violence

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 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. An implementation plan has been developed following feedback from the National Op Soteria team and progress is monitored through the monthly RASSO working group chaired by the Soteria lead D/Supt Waight.

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

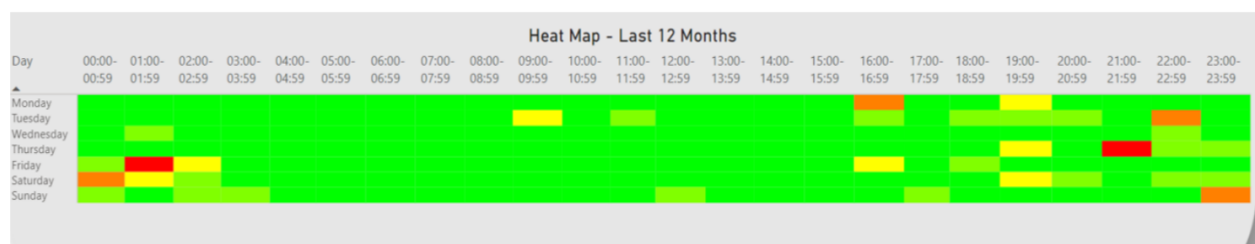
31. Most sexual offences reported in the City of London are lower-level sexual touching offences, often linked to the night-time economy, alongside exposure offences

Data



32. 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.

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

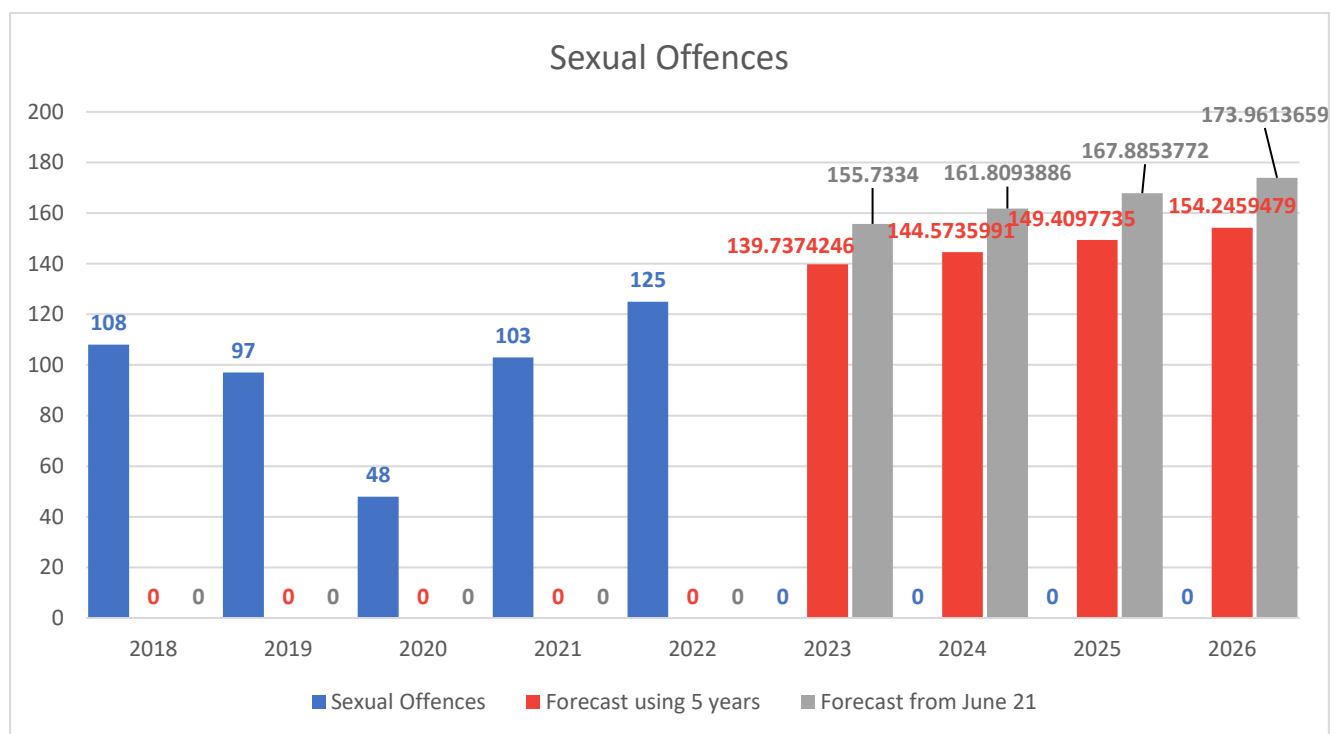


34. The CoLP response in this respect of focus within NTE, patrols plans and initiatives.

35. 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.

36. 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.
37. 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.
38. 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. A joint CPS and CoLP scrutiny panel is due to meet in October 2024 to review a dip sample of cases discontinued by police and the rationale behind closing them.

Predictive Analysis – Sexual Offending

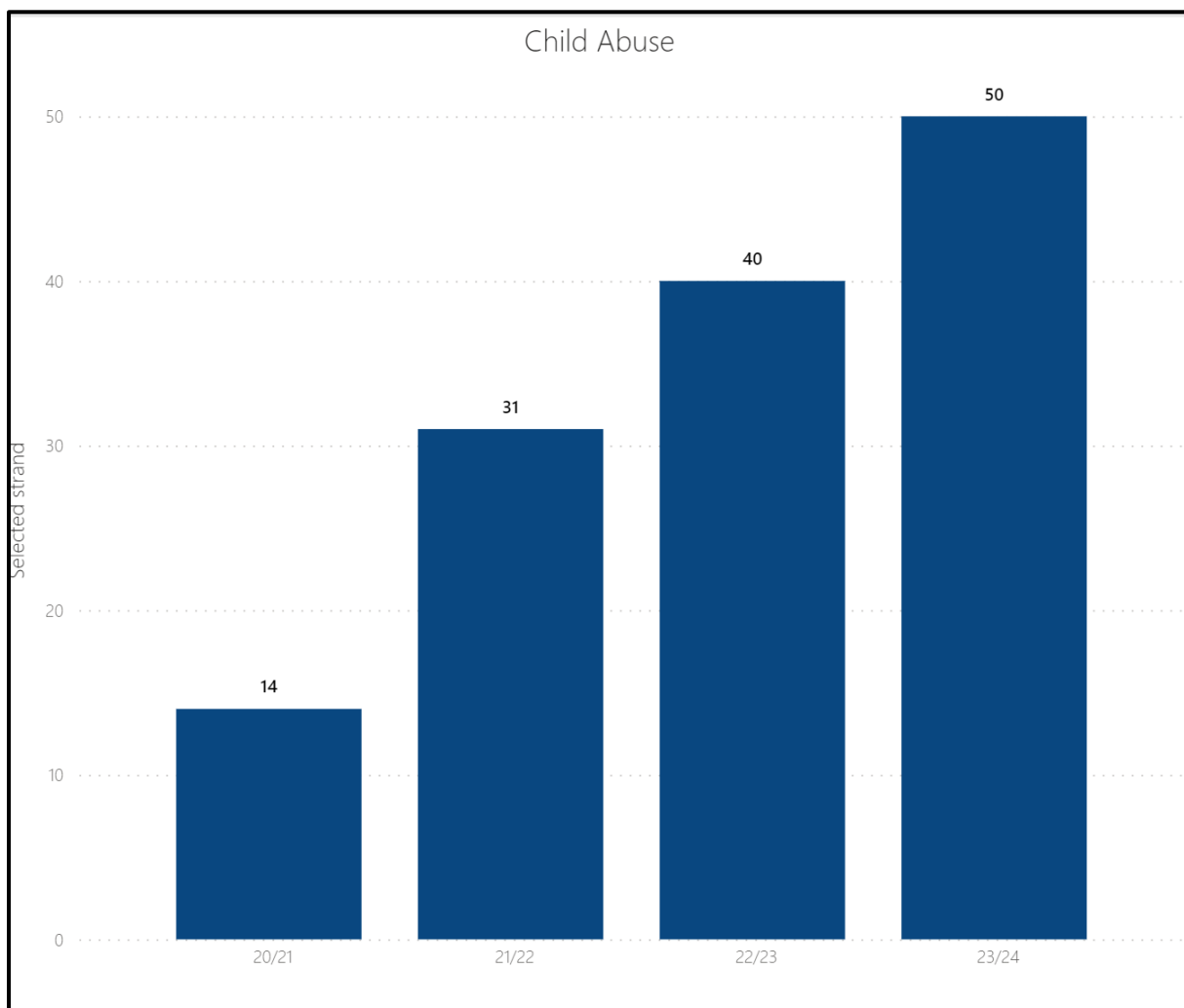


39. Forecasts for sexual offences have been completed using the current process of performance and then five years. Sexual offences have been forecasted because they are a high harm crime type, representing more serious and complex investigations, and due to the increases being seen in this area. 2022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

40. 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

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



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

42. 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.
43. 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.
44. 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.
45. 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.
46. 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. Operation Makesafe was rolled out in July 2024 testing the response of hotels in the city to suspected CSE and a further roll out is planned for November.
47. 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.
48. 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. This system enables officers to differentiate between first generation images and those previously circulated by offenders. First generation images represent the greatest threat as the victims need to be identified and safeguarded. To date no first-generation images have been discovered as a result of any CoLP Indecent Images of Children (IIOC) investigations. The CoLP Cyber Crime Unit assist with any proactive online work required to target offenders.

Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime (MSOIC)

49. 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.
50. A substantial proportion of CoLP National Referral Mechanism referrals result from defences raised by individuals arrested for drug supply offences.
51. 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.
52. 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.
53. 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.
54. 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.
55. A City of London MSOIC problem profile has been developed setting out the nature of the threat on a national, regional and local basis. Utilising this plan a CoL specific 4 P plan has been developed in consultation with the MSOIC regional co-ordinator and the implementation of this will be governed through the SOC oversight board.

The CoLP was recently inspected by the national MSOIC lead and is awaiting their findings.

Hate Crime

56. 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.
57. CoLP is a member of the South Eastern Regional Hate Crime Group where best practice is shared.
58. 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.
59. 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.

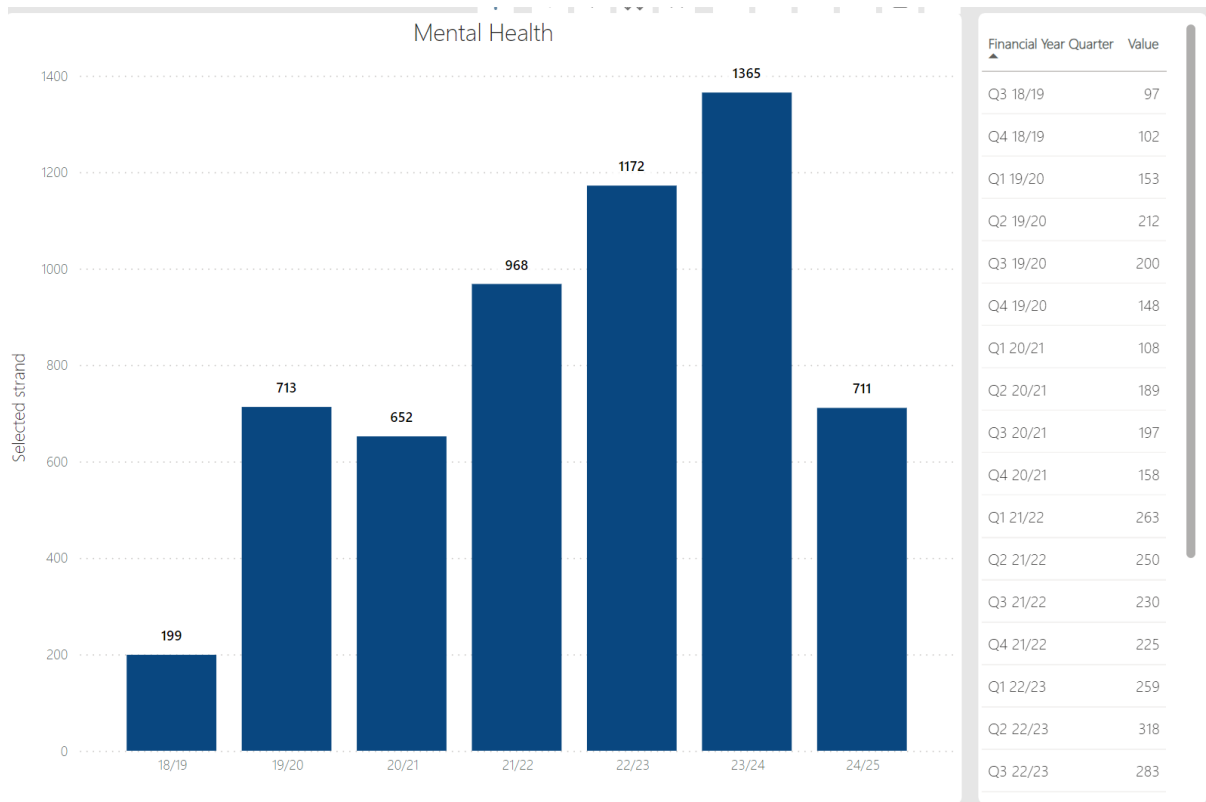
Mental Health

60. 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.
61. 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).
62. 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.
63. 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.

64. 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.

65. Data



Conclusion

66. 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.

Committee(s): CoL Members Safeguarding Sub-Committee - for information	Dated: 14/11/2024
Subject: City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2023/24	Public
This proposal a) delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes (see list below)	
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 of the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board	For Discussion/For Information
Report author: Shohel Ahmed, City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board Manager	

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 City of London Corporation 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 2023/24. It focuses on the new principles underpinning the strategy, its strategic priorities and how these will be delivered for 2024-25, key achievements and data for 2023/24.

3. In line with its strategy, some of the key achievements for the Board in 2023/24 include:
 - The Board commissioned two discretionary Safeguarding Adults Reviews throughout the year.
 - A learning event for the John SAR was held in June 2023, whereby the key themes from the SAR were discussed amongst relevant agencies and a multi agency action plan was drafted in line with the recommendations of the review.
 - 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 safeguarding courses delivered quarterly throughout the year. Courses on offer included the following:
 - ❖ Safeguarding awareness training (webinar).
 - ❖ Trauma informed approaches to safeguarding (in person).
 - ❖ Safeguarding, Self-neglect & Hoarding (webinar).
 - ❖ Safeguarding Adults Workshop for Manager & Safeguarding Leads (webinar).
 - ❖ SAMs – Exploring the Roles, Responsibilities and Expectations of Safeguarding Adult Managers (webinar).
 - ❖ SAE – Undertaking S42 Safeguarding Enquiries (webinar).
 - ❖ Safeguarding, mental health and social isolation (webinar).

In total, over 150 people attended the various different training sessions on offer.
 - The Board organised a series of events throughout the whole month of November, in recognition of Safeguarding Adults Week. These included events on intergenerational domestic abuse, substance misuse, self neglect, homelessness and mental health. In total, over 120 professionals attended these sessions.
 - The City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board also helped organise a joint North East London conference, which focused on key learning and themes arising from Safeguarding Adults Review.

- The Board undertook a self assessment using the Safeguarding Adult Partnership Assessment Tool, which was analysed by the Board Manager and helped inform the strategic priorities during the partnership development day in March 2023.
- There was Board attendance at a number of partnership groups including the suicide prevention group, strategic vulnerability board, community safety officer group and domestic abuse work streams.
- Four safeguarding champions were trained to deliver 90 min sessions with community groups. Champions have delivered 3 sessions within the community across 2023-24. The Board is continuing to promote this across Hackney and City.
- The CHSAB participated in the Safeguarding Adults Insight Survey from the LGA/ADASS, which sought to identify the impact of winter pressures and the cost of living crisis on safeguarding activity. The London Borough of Hackney was also profiled in a webinar organised by the LGA/ADASS where good practice was shared.

Current Position

4. The Board has set itself the following strategic priorities for 2024/25:
 1. To continue to improve the quality of mental capacity assessments.
 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 safeguarding needs of people who are homeless, people experiencing modern day slavery, people experiencing discriminatory abuse (hate crime) and young people (18-25 year olds).
 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 practitioners 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.

Key Data

5. Key data was collected in relation to safeguarding for the City of London:
 - 49 safeguarding concerns were raised.
 - 25 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, concerns have increased from 48 in 2019/20 to 60 in 2021/22 and then slightly decreased to 49 concerns in 2023/24. The conversion rate has slightly increased from 48% in 2022/23 to 51% in 2023/24.
- Out of 43 individuals that had a concern in the year, 29 were from a white ethnic background. Of which 16 met S42 enquiries.
- The most prevalent risk noted this year in safeguarding enquiries was Self-Neglect, accounting for 61% of all cases. This was closely followed by Financial or Material abuse, which constituted 35% of the risks. Discriminatory abuse, psychological abuse, domestic abuse, physical abuse, and neglect each represented 4% of the total risks identified.
- The majority of safeguarding enquiries related to alleged abuse that happened within the person's own home. Two enquiries happened in the community, 1 in the Hospital-Acute and 2 in other locations. The continued increase in cases in people's own home is consistent with national data which identifies that abuse typically happens within someone's own home.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

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 2023-24

Shohel Ahmed

City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board Manager

E: shohel.ahmed@hackney.gov.uk

CHSAB Annual Report 2023–24

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 Dr Adi Cooper

I am very pleased to introduce the Annual Report of the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board 2023/24 (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 context of 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 Board partners have achieved during the year. It provides a picture of who is safeguarded and why. This helps to inform the Board's annual strategic plan and priorities for 2024/25. There continues to be learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews that provide a focus for improvements in safeguarding practice and processes. This is reflected in the annual strategic plan and out priorities for 2024/25. There continue to be significant contextual factors that impact on people's lives and potentially increase safeguarding risks, such as the ongoing increases in the cost of living and the long-term 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

What is the Safeguarding Adults Board?

Role

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%
Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture, London Borough of Hackney	50%
North East London Integrated Care Board	75%
Homerton University Hospital	100%
Barts Health NHS Trust	75%
East London NHS Foundation Trust	75%

2022-23	
London Fire Brigade	25%
Metropolitan Police	100%
City of London Police	50%
Hackney Council Voluntary Service	100%
London Borough of Hackney Housing	50%
London Borough of Hackney Benefits and Homeless Prevention	100%
Age UK East London	75%
Turning Point	75%
Older People's Reference Group	75%
Department for Work and Pensions	100%
City and Hackney Public Health	50%

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."
- 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.”

- **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.”*

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.

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.

Workforce Development:

This group meets periodically to review and identify training and development opportunities in respect of adult safeguarding.

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 it allows partners to share their responses and responsibilities in relation to different safeguarding issues and provides updates in respect of their progress against the Board's strategic priorities.

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 group agreed to meet annually

to review the impact of particular workstreams overseen by the group.

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.

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.

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 it allows partners to share their responses and responsibilities in relation to different safeguarding issues and provides updates in respect of their progress against the Board's strategic priorities.

Budget

In 2023/24 the budget was £231,137 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)
NHS City and Hackney CCG	(20,000)
Metropolitan Police Authority	(5,000)
Barts Health NHS Trust	(5,000)
City of London Police	(4,400)
LB Hackney	(127,352)
Total income	231,137

The expenditure for the Board in 2023/24 was £178,779

The remaining £52,348 were transferred to the reserve pot.

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

Ben is a 54 year old man living in Temporary Accommodation arranged by the Hackney Benefits and Homelessness Prevention Team. A safeguarding concern was raised by his support worker at Thames Reach for self neglect. Ben has open sores on both his legs and he was refusing treatment. He would not attend hospital because of a previous negative experience. His sores were becoming necrotic and a safeguarding concern for self-neglect was made. A safeguarding enquiry was commenced. Contact was made with The Greenhouse Surgery, his recovery worker at Turning Point, Community nursing services and Thames Reach to identify what support Ben could access. A mental capacity assessment was completed regarding his capacity to consent to treatment.

Ben was identified as having the capacity to decide on his treatment options. He consented to the doctor from the Greenhouse supporting him with the treatment of his sores and engagement with District Nursing. He also agreed to the support of a care worker visiting him once a day to assist him in maintaining his personal hygiene and managing his home environment..

CASE STUDY 2:

North East London Integrated Care Board

Tommy had a bleed in his brain in December 2016 and as a result he spent six months in hospital for treatment and rehabilitation. He experienced brain damage that led to cognitive impairment. He returned to his family home with a small care package but predominantly to be supported by his wife. Tommy struggled to readjust and was frequently frustrated by his ability to complete everyday tasks. He experienced bouts of confusion that led to aggression and in some instances verbal and physical aggression towards his wife. During a crisis moment, Tommy's wife phoned the police to protect her safety. This phone call triggered a safeguarding response for Tommy and his family, by the police liaising with the Continuing Health Care team.



...He was assessed as having capacity to decide on his accommodation and care needs...

Initially Tommy's wife was supported with emergency alarms. However there were continuing incidents of threats and escalating levels of violence. At the same time, Tommy no longer wanted to engage with care agencies or support in his family home. In partnership with the Continuing Health Care team, options for alternative accommodation were discussed with him and his family. Tommy now lives in a brain injury supported living scheme with a good understanding of his behaviours and triggers. His family visit several times a week, and feel confident to do so as the staff are present in the event of a sudden change in his mood. He was assessed as having capacity to decide on his accommodation and care needs, and consented to remaining living in his flat with a 24 hour support worker and suitable restrictions in place.

CHSAB Achievements for 2022/23

Safeguarding Adults Review (SARs)

- The Board commissioned two discretionary Safeguarding Adults Reviews throughout the year.
- The JL discretionary SAR was commissioned in June 2023 to complement a local learning review by Adult Social Care services in Hackney.
- A practitioners event for JL was held in December 2023, whereby key lines of enquiries were explored and initial learning identified. The 7 minute briefing for JL was published on the Hackney SAR pages online.
- The FN discretionary SAR was commissioned in November 2023, but progress on this SAR stalled due to capacity issues. Work on the FN SAR resumed from April 2024, with plans to publish the SAR towards the end of 2024.
- A learning event for the John SAR was held in June 2023, whereby the key themes from the SAR were discussed amongst relevant agencies and a multi agency action plan was drafted in line with the recommendations of the review.
- The SAR action planning subgroup continued to meet throughout the year, to measure how well learning from published SARs have been embedded into practice.

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 safeguarding courses delivered quarterly throughout the year.
- Courses on offer included the following:
 - Safeguarding awareness training (webinar).
 - Trauma informed approaches to safeguarding (in person).
 - Safeguarding, Self-neglect & Hoarding (webinar).
 - Safeguarding Adults Workshop for Manager & Safeguarding Leads (webinar).
 - SAMs – Exploring the Roles, Responsibilities and Expectations of Safeguarding Adult Managers (webinar).
 - SAE – Undertaking S42 Safeguarding Enquiries (webinar).
 - Safeguarding, mental health and social isolation (webinar).

- In total, over 150 people attended the various different training sessions on offer.
- The Board published quarterly bulletins for frontline staff providing them with updates on adult safeguarding issues.

Safeguarding Adults Week

- The Board organised a series of events throughout the whole month of November, in recognition of Safeguarding Adults Week.
- These included events on intergenerational domestic abuse, substance misuse, self neglect, homelessness and mental health. In total, over 120 professionals attended these sessions.
- The City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board also helped organise a joint North East London conference, which focused on key learning and themes arising from Safeguarding Adults Review.
- The conference was well received, with over 100 professionals across the North East London boroughs joining on the day.

Quality Assurance

- The Board undertook a self assessment using the Safeguarding Adult Partnership Assessment Tool, which was analysed by the Board Manager and helped inform the strategic priorities during the partnership development day in March 2023.
- The Independent Chair of the Board continued to meet with Board partners, in order to ensure that all safeguarding issues affecting residents were identified and addressed and that engagement with Board partners continued to increase. These check-ins also helped resolve any issues partners experienced within the system, and served to improve relationships with key stakeholders.

Multi-agency working

- There was Board attendance at a number of partnership groups including the suicide prevention group, strategic vulnerability board, community safety officer group and domestic abuse work streams.

Anti-Social Behaviour and Safeguarding Task and Finish Group

- The group reconvened in April 2023 to review the impact of the escalation protocol which was drafted as well as the document which mapped the existing panels within Hackney. Both these work streams were promoted widely at the time and were deemed to have led to positive outcomes across the partnership.



CASE STUDY 3:

HealthWatch

Eric was known to the HealthWatch Engagement & Co Production Manager as a volunteer patient representative. He attended various free activities in the community and volunteered helping refugee migrants. Eric himself is a refugee who found safety in the UK, after travelling here through a perilous route at the hands of people Traffickers. It was observed that his appearance has dramatically declined and that his normal chatty demeanour became very withdrawn. It was also spotted he was hungry all the time. A friendly chat with the patient first revealed he had been sleeping rough, due to an illegal eviction from a rogue landlord.

By raising this safeguarding concern, HealthWatch were able to get Eric into immediate, safe temporary accommodation, assist him with benefit & housing applications and support him getting online and trained digitally on the phone and laptop. This meant he could speak to his wife again who is still overseas.

A cohesive multi agency approach to Eric's case has resulted in him having permanent accommodation, a part time job, attending an ESOL course, much better health & financial prospects and increased social connectivity in the borough. An early concern being raised prevented the situation from escalating any further and the right support being put in place for Eric.

CASE STUDY 4:

Barts Health NHS Trust

Veronika was suffering from a chronic cardiac condition, physical disability as well as some cognitive impairment. She reported to the psychologist that she had concerns about her relationship with her mum, who would constantly undermine her and pretend to be Veronika to make health appointments which she would then miss. When she tried to create some distance from her mum, her mum reported her to adult social care saying she was self-neglecting. Veronika did not identify the abusive behaviour and emotional abuse from her mum, so advice was given to her psychologist to help support her in identifying this form of abuse and engage with the support that was provided.

Veronika subsequently consented to a referral to Adult Social Care, which resulted in more support for herself, whilst the GP was contacted about the mum's interference with care. The relationship with the psychologist continued to be a positive influence, who subsequently reported positive changes in Veronika's confidence and emotional health.

This case demonstrates the importance of supporting adults to identify and understand emotional abuse, which can sometimes be hard to identify especially when coming from a family member.

...reported positive changes in Veronika's confidence and emotional health....



Resident engagement

- Four safeguarding champions were trained to deliver 90 min sessions with community groups. Champions have delivered 3 sessions within the community across 2023-24. The Board is continuing to promote this across Hackney and City.
- The Board is committed to engage with people with lived experience, in order to identify how to improve safeguarding services for residents and ensure services are person centred. This remains a key priority for the Board, and plans to facilitate focus groups with service users throughout 2024 in order to ensure their voices can influence all aspects of the Boards work.

Engagement and partnership work

- The Board is part of a wider range of different stakeholder groups that includes the:
Carers Partnership Board, Suicide Prevention Board and domestic abuse work streams.

National work

- Members of the Board attend a number of national work streams including, the London Safeguarding Adults Board, SAB Chairs Network, SAB Manager Networks and Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services Safeguarding worksteam.
- The CHSAB participated in the Safeguarding Adults Insight Survey from the LGA/ADASS, which sought to identify the impact of winter pressures and the cost of living crisis on safeguarding activity. The London Borough of Hackney was also profiled in a webinar organised by the LGA/ADASS where good practice was shared.
- Members of the Board have presented at national safeguarding events that have occurred across England.



...Under Aaron's direction, a blitz clean was undertaken and fire detection equipment installed...

CASE STUDY 5:

City of London Corporation Adult Social Care

Aaron is a 47-year-old man living alone in privately rented accommodation. A referral was made to Adult Social Care by Tenancy Support following concerns around hoarding and self-neglect potentially leading to eviction.

A social worker visited and determined the property to be level 5 on the clutter image rating scale. This was discussed with Aaron who was struggling with his mental health and felt unable to make positive change on his own. A referral was made on his behalf to the Hoarding Self-neglect and Fire Risk panel; where a person-centred multi-agency risk plan was put in place involving Social Care, London Fire Brigade, Tenancy Support, Mental Health services and Environmental Health. Under Aaron's direction, a blitz clean was undertaken and fire detection equipment installed. A full Care Act assessment was completed with Aaron, and ongoing weekly specialist autism support was commissioned to support him in effectively maintaining his home environment.

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 2023/24, the Board commissioned two discretionary Safeguarding Adults Review.

JL: The discretionary Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) into the death of JL was commissioned by the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) in April 2023.

JL was aged 77 when he died in his flat in February 2022. An inquest held in April recorded that his death was caused by pneumonia, frailty, chronic alcoholism, hyperthyroidism and frostbite. The review recommended strengthening input from housing partners within the Board as well as reviewing the Board's Escalation Policy.

FN: The discretionary Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) into the death of FN was commissioned by the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) in November 2023. The FN had been known to services in Hackney since April 2020. FN was an extremely vulnerable individual who had cancer, and a long history of homelessness, trauma, alcohol misuse and substance misuse. A safeguarding referral was made to Hackney ASC in April 2023 due to concerns about his inappropriate housing, self neglect and inability to manage medication safely. FN experienced numerous hospital admissions and discharges between Dec 2022 and May 2023. FN was admitted to hospital in early May 2023 due to a fall and a head injury and died a few days later. The coroner's report noted his cause of death as 1a) Acute Respiratory Failure, 1b) Combined Opioid and Opiate Use and 2) Metastatic Testicular Seminoma, Hypertension, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.

The review is currently still ongoing, with plans to publish the review towards the end of 2024.

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 2023/34:

London Borough of Hackney Adult Social Care

- We developed and published the Self Neglect Toolkit in June 2023, which provided support to practitioners and agencies in identifying self-neglect and hoarding as a safeguarding issue and shape their responses. The guidance aims to help prevent harm to individuals who are at risk of self-neglect and improve consistency of approach across Hackney and the City of London by ensuring that there is a shared, multi-agency understanding and recognition of the issues involved in working with individuals who self-neglect, there is effective multi-agency working and practice and individuals are empowered as far as possible to understand the implications of their actions or behaviours and supported to reduce any possible risks arising.
- We have ensured that our safeguarding approach is really person centred and outcome focused in line with the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal. Of the adults who were asked what their desired outcome was, 93% had their desires partially or fully achieved.

City of London Corporation Adult Social Care

- The City of London Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Service worked in conjunction with Adult Social Care in progressing cross boundary working to support homeless adults. The development of a City of London high support hostel in the London Borough of Southwark demonstrated the willingness of both local authorities to work together to find solutions to support one of the most at risk adult cohorts.
- Additionally, the City of London developed and implemented a more robust quality assurance programme across Adult Social Care (ASC) bringing in a full-time focused Principal Social Worker. This enabled a programme of audits across ASC which covered mental capacity assessments, safeguarding rough sleepers, and wider ASC casework. Actions arising from the audits include updating relevant recording forms and Practice Standards, implementation of good practice guidance and development of practice tools. The learning from audits was not focussed solely on action plans but included reflective practice sessions for practitioners across the service.
- The quality assurance programme also included bringing in external auditing, specifically around safeguarding practice which included interviews with social workers. The findings from this audit are being used to inform specific service wide reflective sessions focusing on broader

wellbeing outcomes for the Adult through curious practice around social isolation. A follow up audit is planned for next year to assess the impact of the work.

North East London Integrated Care Board

- The ICB continues to ensure that Adult Safeguarding is threaded through our health commissioning processes, internal activities and governance across the health economy. In this first full year there has been many opportunities to utilise the ICB infrastructure to grow and develop Adult Safeguarding activities. This is particularly relevant in the arena of learning from serious case reviews. A key example of this is the bolstering of the Learning Disability review programme LeDer: Learning from Lives and Deaths. Our recent achievements within this programme include the appointment of permanent and additional reviewers and the delivery of a learning from reviews conference. Alongside the LeDer programme the ICB continued its participation in other Adult Safeguarding enquiries including Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews. A key aspect of this work has been the strategic analysis of SARs across NEL, drawing trends and key recommendations to share across all of our partnerships.
- As a statutory partner in Adult Safeguarding the ICB fully engaged in a number of projects and initiatives established to better support integrated safeguarding activity. This includes activities such as securing funding for the establishment of domestic violence trainer roles in health settings; supporting our partners to continually reduce the use of out of borough placements for City and Hackney residents who require residential care placements, and the establishment of a NEL wide information sharing forum to monitor quality issues that might arise in private providers. One such example of this partnership work includes our work in leading the local Refugee health steering group – a working group that sought to ensure that individuals placed in Home Office hotel accommodation will have full access to health and wellbeing resources whilst they live as citizens of City and Hackney. This work included arranging timely access to GP registration, vaccinations and immunisations alongside access to broader health and wellbeing activities. This work flourished as the local authority appointed specific staff to follow on project delivery.
- Finally, a significant development this year was the launch of the Serious Violence Duty - a statutory guidance that asks councils and local services to work together to share information and target interventions to prevent and reduce serious violence. There are specific expectations for ICBs within this guidance and we have already established a number of working groups to ensure that we are compliant to these expectations. A key aspect of this work is the collection of data from our health providers and the development of a coordinated strategic plan. We in the ICB benefit from being part of community safety partnerships in each of our local authority areas and we strive to bring this wider footprint of knowledge to each.



CASE STUDY 6: **City of London Corporation**

Michael moved from Ireland to London as a young man and worked on construction sites throughout his working life. He has heart disease, experienced several infractions, and is dependent on alcohol. He tried to stop drinking to improve his health but started again when he had severe pain on his foot and could not find any other relief.

Safeguarding concerns were raised about his accommodation for many years. In addition to infestations, the flat was also not secure, with the front door in a state of repair.

When Michael was admitted to a London hospital with necrosis on his foot, he had to have surgery. Michael discharged himself earlier than recommended and refused to go back to any hospital; nor did he allow for his dressings to be changed. The risk of sepsis was high due to the environmental risks in his flat and his refusal of care.

Several health agencies worked together in ensuring that Michael had the right support in place. London Ambulance Service questioned if professionals had acted correctly in allowing Michael to self-discharge from hospital without a mental capacity assessment. The community matron coordinated service responses and ensured all information about risk was shared appropriately between hospitals and with community services. An Irish health worker managed to build a good relationship with Michael, which led to him trusting the health service enough to have his remaining foot checked regularly. The Single Persons Homeless project kept working with Michael although he no longer 'met their criteria'. Michael is doing well in his new supported accommodation. He is still not fully adhering to his treatment plan but he is engaging with services and doing much better.

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

49 safeguarding concerns were raised.

25 of the concerns led to a Section 42 Enquiry

19 concluded S42 enquiries in 2023-24 compared to **29** the previous year. **52%** of adults were asked about their desired outcomes and they were expressed. **90%** had their outcomes fully or partially met..

Concerns and Enquiries

The trend over the last five years shows, concerns have **increased from 48 in 2019/20 to 60 in 2021/22** and then **slightly decreased to 49 concerns in 2023/24**. The conversion rate has slightly increased from **48% in 2022/23 to 51% in 2023/24**.

Although the concern rate per **100,000** has been increasing in line with the national average in the last seven years, there has been a **slight decline in the last two years from 658 in 2021/22 to 613 in 2023/24**.

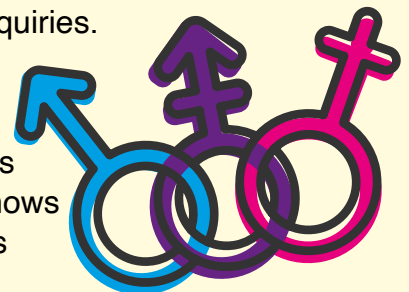


Ethnicity

The population adult structure of the city of London is mostly from the white ethnic background. The data shows the consistency that adults at risk are mostly from the white background. Out of **43** individuals that had a concern in the year, **29** were from a white ethnic background. Of which **16** 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 **43** individuals who had a concern during the year 2023-24, **18** were in the **18-64 age** grouping. The remaining 25 individuals were in the **65+** grouping.



Type of Risk

Upon concluding **19** S42 Enquiries, a total of **22** distinct risks were identified. The most prevalent risk noted this year in safeguarding enquiries was Self-Neglect, accounting for **61%** of all cases. This was closely followed by Financial or Material abuse, which constituted **35%** of the risks. Discriminatory abuse, psychological abuse, domestic abuse, physical abuse, and neglect each represented **4%** of the total risks identified.

In terms of the concerns raised during the 2023-24 period, Self-Neglect again topped the list, representing **57%** of all cases. This was followed by Financial or Material abuse at **24%**, and Neglect and acts of omission at **18%**.

Source of Referral and Risk

There was an increase in other referrals by **9%** from the previous year. The 'In line with the national and London average, the data shows **64%** of the client's risk comes from someone known to the individual. This is a decrease from the previous year 2022-23 of **74%**. A slight increase in service providers at **32%** compared to **24%** the previous year.

Location of Risk

The **majority** of safeguarding enquiries related to alleged abuse that happened within the **person's own home**. Two enquiries happened in the community, **1 in the Hospital-Acute and 2** in other locations. The continued increase in cases in people's own home is consistent with national data which identifies that **abuse typically happens within someone's own home**.

Making Safeguarding Personal

There were **19** concluded S42 enquiries in 2023-24 compared to twenty-nine the previous year. **52%** of adults were asked about their desired outcomes and they were expressed. Of which **90%** 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.

Concerns and Enquiries

1788 safeguarding concerns were raised

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

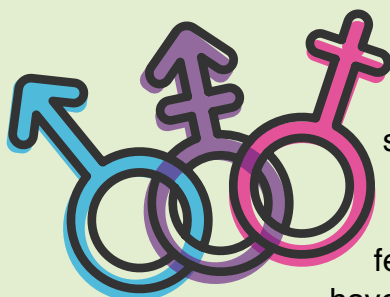


Ethnicity

The proportion of concerns broken down by ethnicity for 2023/24 remains very similar to previous years. The most concerns continue to relate to adults from a White or Black African, Caribbean, or British background, and is generally consistent with the demographic profile of the borough. The proportion without a declaration has **dropped from 18.4% in 2022/23 to 8.5% in 2023/24**; this is primarily due to a better case management system being used now compared to the interim systems used in 2021/22.



Gender



The proportion of concerns split by gender remain very similar to previous years, **with females amounting to 54.1% of concerns**. This is consistent with the 2021 census for Hackney, which shows the borough has more females compared to males, and therefore expected to have a higher proportion of concerns.



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. 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.

Type of risk

The most common form of abuse reported **continues to be self-neglect, which makes up 26.9%** of all concerns reported. **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 over the past two 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 81% of concerns referred** to adult safeguarding. There has been a decrease in the service provider being identified as the source of risk, **from 15% in 2022/23 to 8.8% in 2023/24**.

The number of safeguarding concerns from Hospitals remains the most common source of referrals, amounting to 24.1%. 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 over the past couple of years.

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 **89% of concluded section 42 enquiries**, adults were asked what their desired outcome was. This is **slightly down from the previous year's figure of 85%**.

Of the 89% that were asked, 92% had their desires partially or fully achieved (up from 88% last year). This information is helpful to help ensure that safeguarding is person-centred and the process focuses on the wishes and needs of the individual.

East London NHS Foundation Trust (ELFT)

249 safeguarding concerns were raised for 2023/24,
There were **95** accepted section 42 enquiries, which is generally in line with the previous two years.

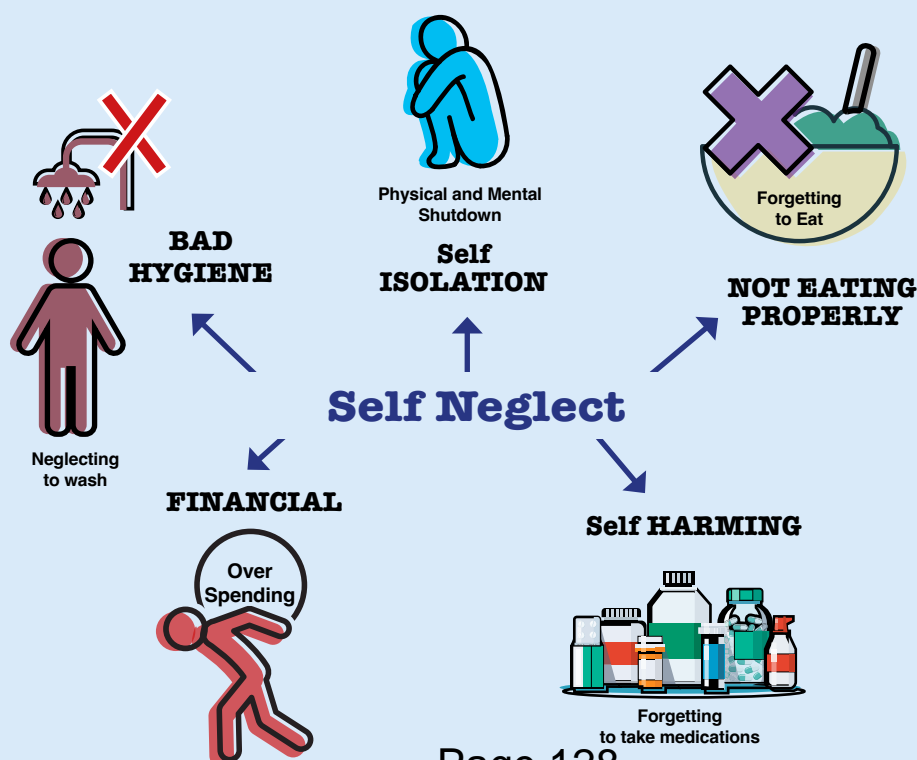
A large number of safeguarding concerns received by ELFT are raised in relation to mental health crises and have often been acted upon when the safeguarding concern is received.

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 couple of years, and many issues often in the safeguarding domain are managed under care coordination in community teams.



Type of Abuse

Financial or Material Abuse amounted to **27%** of all concerns, with **self neglect at 18%** and **physical abuse at 14%**. 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.





CASE STUDY 7:

Department for Work and Pensions

A 59 year-old male with eye condition and reading/writing difficulties was referred into Advanced Customer Support by a Universal Credit work coach, who had lost contact with the customer since July 2022. Multiple contact attempts were made including by phone, letters and with DWP Visiting Officers. The customer was a phone claim customer and notes on the system stated that he lived alone with no family support and there was no indication that he was engaging with any other professional organisations. His claim was at risk of being suspended due to non-engagement. The customer was possibly in financial hardship as DWP did not know if he had been collecting or cashing his payment vouchers. There were also concerns of self-neglect as the social worker had also noted no engagement since April 2022 despite multiple visits. The support worker, rent officer and Neighbourhood Watch team facilitated visits to the customer, who responded to a calling card and attended the Hackney Council office. He advised that he was unaware of the job centre's contact. Hackney supported him with attending a job centre appointment and contact remains consistent as of today. DWP have ensured contact details are kept up to date and that his vulnerabilities are noted on the system.



...eye condition and reading/writing difficulties was referred into Advanced Customer Support by a Universal Credit work coach,...

Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

- Over the past 18 months there have been a number of incidents, serious incident review meetings and investigations that have identified a need for a multi-disciplinary forum to support staff to manage patients with complex behavioural, neurological, psychological and social needs. The complex patient panel has been established to provide staff with responsive, senior multi-disciplinary support to manage complex, ward-based patients. Chaired by the head of adult safeguarding, this meeting takes place weekly and has been effective since July 23.
- Training compliance has increased – over 30% of patient facing staff with a professional registration are now compliant with level 3 training and we will be mandating this from the spring 24.
- Multi-disciplinary simulation training commenced this year - the first time the SAT had used simulation in their training programmes. With the help of the simulation team, we devised an interactive communication course which aimed to help health care professionals explore communication strategies to better manage challenging conversation in the assessment of mental capacity.

East London Foundation Trust

- There has been a significant improvement in the length of time safeguarding concerns are open due to a number of teams reviewing their safeguarding process and assigning leads to oversee the process.
- Additional safeguarding training has been made available for clinicians, with specific training being available on areas such as dual diagnosis and safeguarding, coercion and control and intergenerational abuse. We are taking steps to address any learning needs on a continual basis.
- DIAS and Turning Point workers are now working in house to increase staff knowledge re dual diagnosis and domestic abuse, financial abuse, intergenerational abuse and coercion and control. Prevent training has also been organised by ELFT Safeguarding Lead for clinicians in ELFT.

Barts Health NHS Trust

- At the end of 2022, the structure of safeguarding teams within the Trust changed, with devolvement to the hospital sites and increased staffing for safeguarding processes, with new adult specific roles at the Royal London and St Barts Hospitals. Since then, the team is now fully staffed, which has allowed a significant improvement in the team's effectiveness. For example, with co-working with local authorities, we have reduced the number of open safeguarding concerns against the Royal London and St Barts sites have gone down to from over 60 to less than 20; with none open for longer than 3 months. There had previously been multiple concerns that had been open for over 6 months.

- Barts has also, taking learning from audits, safeguarding cases, and SARs, a Trust wide plan to improve staff knowledge and implantation of the Mental Capacity Act/DOLs, with renewed MCA processes, audits and embedding of MCA training within a wide variety of existing training schemes as well as delivering MCA specific training for staff.

Metropolitan Police Service

- Successful implementation of Right Care Right Person to be able to focus on core policing business driving change in partner agencies to improve and streamline their own processes to absorb the additional demand.
- Maintaining 'business as usual' high level of service throughout the cost of living crisis and associated increased societal unrest.

City of London Police

- We initiated the Bridge Watch Project, which is an initiative aimed to address the public health and safety issues in the areas surrounding the bridges of the City of London. Incidents involving people suffering mental crises and indicating intent to enter the water from these sites, account for a rising number of incidents around Thames bridges annually. The Bridge Watch pilot aims to provide a 'physical presence' of teams of volunteers that will patrol the areas on and around the bridges of London and who have a brief to engage with anybody indicating intent to enter the water.
- The Mental Health Street Triage team (MHST) remains an example of good practice amongst other forces, who are looking to replicate the model. The MHST has 3 full time staff members, and of the 40 referrals that were made to them over the past year, only 4 resulted in a 136 detention by police, with the rest being referred to alternative pathways freeing up valuable police time. The City of London Police remains integrated nationally around mental health and continues to improve the data we hold, the quality of it and how we share it for evaluation and analysis to improve the response to the mental health crisis.

Age UK East London

- In the face of increasing demand and complexity and the consequent recognition that there is a greater risk to vulnerable adults as a result, we have reviewed our processes and record keeping. We now ensure that any safeguarding concerns are case conferenced across our teams as a way of enhancing understanding of good practice.
- We have embedded Levels 2 and 3 training into our mandatory training for all staff and have added 'Safeguarding for Managers' for all managers.



CASE STUDY 8:

Turning Point

Andy is a 53 year-old male with a history of injecting opiates and alcohol difficulties. Currently compliant on methadone, however, continues to drink to dependent levels. Andy is a frequent attendee at several hospitals due to alcohol use, other health complications or because of his foot ulcer. Previously, there were incidents of poor discharge planning from hospitals, seeing Andy return to studio with a POC and often being readmitted within a few days. There are regular professionals' meetings which include Turning Points recovery worker, hospital staff, housing/tenancy support and social workers to discuss Andy's capacity, support and key decisions about his future and risk is discussed.

Andy has had several capacity assessments related to his continued alcohol use and lack of engagement with key services, whilst service professionals continue to work together to reduce the harm of Andy's self-neglect and alcohol use.

Turning Point

- Turning Point has an average of 1800 people registered for support with substance use difficulties and may have a combination of other support needs including mental health, domestic abuse or and homelessness. Our work is challenging as we continue to work with other agencies and professionals in efforts to support people with the complexities they present with, reduce risks and support in their recovery. Following discussions with the senior manager of the adult safeguarding teams, Turning Point now co-locate regularly at the civic centre amongst the various colleagues and teams, providing substance use information, responses to queries about the service and discussing mutual clients. This arrangement has been beneficial to improve communication, highlight where referrals can be made or where other interventions can be implemented to reduce risks.
- Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS) have continued to co-locate within the Turning Point service twice weekly, providing the opportunity for in person consultations on domestic abuse and reducing risks to adults and children, advising on referring to MARAC, using the updated domestic abuse risk assessment tool or encouraging consent from service users to complete a DAIS referral.
- We now have an appointed family, friends and carer worker within the service, who supports those affected by another's substance use. Assessing these individuals is often an effective way to get more information regarding risks and safeguarding concerns related to these individuals and their loved ones who are using substances and are also known to the service.

London Borough of Hackney Benefits and Homeless Prevention

- The service worked with the Head of Safeguarding and Head of Mental Health and Learning Disabilities on our hospital discharge procedure, which highlighted the need for the service to request for an up to date Care Act Assessment for patients being discharged from MH hospital but also for those who are under secondary MH services in the community. This was introduced so that we can be confident on the suitability of placements being considered for general needs accommodation or when considering alternative housing options, which are better suited for the individual's needs. We are currently in the process of embedding the new process.
- The service also has two social workers embedded into the service; one generalist and one mental health specialist social worker who continue supporting our frontline staff to better support residents presenting multiple disadvantages. They also facilitate weekly drop-in sessions for staff and

deliver quarterly lunchtime learning sessions for the service on various topics including; mental health crisis pathways in Hackney, Care Act Assessment and Mental Capacity Assessment.

- The service has delivered Trauma informed approaches and Reflective practice training to all frontline officers to ensure they have the right skills to support residents who present often with multiple traumas. Last year we also made a free training program produced by Aneemo mandatory for all frontline officers to enhance their knowledge and skills. The training is on Improving Access to Services for Clients Experiencing Multiple Disadvantage & Co-occurring Conditions.

Department for Work and Pensions

- The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has a suite of comprehensive guidance and learning products readily available for all colleagues on how to deal with vulnerable citizens including those citizens who discuss harming themselves. When a threat of self-harm is identified, staff follow a six-point plan that helps them take the right action at the right time; this could include alerting the emergency services. All Communications from the SAB are taken forward and communicated to the Jobcentres in local Jobcentres and to relevant national teams.
- DWP introduced mental health training for Work Coaches and this has better equipped them to identify customers' mental health issues or vulnerability, and take appropriate action to support them. The learning continues to be updated to ensure the content is relevant and in Redbridge we have more awareness sessions planned over the coming months for newer starters.
- Every Jobcentre has a complex needs toolkit containing links to local organisations who can help and provide support to those who require it. This toolkit is accessible by most customer facing roles. The toolkit was developed by a range of experienced officials across the department, to support, signpost and raise awareness of citizens with complex needs. All colleagues are currently being trained and refreshed in complex needs at face to face events and this includes Safeguarding.

CASE STUDY 9: City of London Police

A friend of an elderly man suffering from Parkinson's and in supported accommodation identified that his carer was subjecting him to economic abuse and reported this to Social Services who contacted the City of London Police.

A joint professionals meeting was arranged, which led to a safeguarding referral to the agency employing the suspect and access to records in order to establish whether



there were any further vulnerable victims. A meeting between healthcare, social services and police reviewed the suitability of the man's accommodation and put measures in place so he could safely remain in his home address; including updating the police control room in respect of the man's vulnerability.

An interview to obtain evidence and permission to access his financial records was arranged using an intermediary as well as the man's social worker. The presence of the social worker provided support for the man who was anxious due to his condition as well as his limited interactions with the police. As a result, the suspect was arrested and a case file submitted to the Crown Prosecution Service.

CASE STUDY 10: Metropolitan Police

The police became aware of **Amy**, who was a disabled resident with a serious medical diagnosis, being taken advantage of by drug users who were using her residence as a place to meet and take class A drugs. The Police worked with Hackney Council, to move towards a permanent resolution. Amy was safeguarded and moved to alternative accommodation and received ongoing medical treatment. The Police then continued with their investigation and arrested a wanted offender at the address that had been frequented by drug users. Other nearby residents had been victims of anti-social behaviour. Working with Hackney Council, police arranged for the venue in question to be boarded up preventing further drug consumption and anti-social behaviour. The resident who had been relocated is being supported.



...Amy was safeguarded and moved to alternative accommodation and received ongoing medical treatment..

Appendix A:

CHSAB Annual Strategic Plan 2023-2024

CHSAB Annual Strategic Plan 2024 – 2025

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

Partner	Lead
London Borough of Hackney (LBH)	Helen Woodland / Georgina Diba /
City and Hackney ICB	Diane Jones / Celia Jeffreys / Mary O'Reardon
City of London Police	Alistair Marman
Barts Health NHS Trust	Clare Hughes
London Fire Brigade (City of London and Hackney)	James O'Neill
National Probation Trust	Stephanie Salmon
Healthwatch Hackney	Sally Beaven
Hackney CVS	Tony Wong
London Borough of Hackney and City of London Public Health	Andrew Trathen
Turning Point (substance misuse service)	Jude Unsworth
Older Person's Reference Group	Cynthia White
Commissioning LBH	Jenny Murphyl

Partner	Lead
City of London Corporation (CoL)	Chris Pelham
Hackney Metropolitan Police (MPS)	Vijay Gorania
Homerton University Hospital Foundation Trust (HUHFT)	Breeda McManus / Jennie Wood
East London Foundation Trust (ELFT)	Jed Francique
Age UK	Larissa Howells
Department of Work and Pensions	Laura Anderson
Healthwatch City of London	Lesley Oblein
The Advocacy Project	Judith Davey
London Borough of Hackney Benefits and Housing Needs	Jennifer Wynter
City and Hackney Safeguarding Children's Partnership	Jim Gamble
City of London Commissioning	Sacha Lewis
City of London Housing	Liam Gillespie

Sub-group	Chair
SAR & Case Review	Chris Pelham
Quality Assurance	James Pearce
SAR Action Plan Group	Mary O'Reardon

Sub-Committee	Chair
City of London	Dr Adi Cooper

Task & Finish Groups	Chair
Transitional Safeguarding (joint group with Community Safety Partnership & Children's Safeguarding Partnership)	Dr Adi Cooper
Safeguarding and Anti-Social Behaviour	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
<p>1. To continue to improve the quality of mental capacity assessments.</p>	<p>1.1 To undertake a multi agency case file audit including mental capacity assessments as a theme in order to monitor the improvement.</p>	<p>Quality Assurance Subgroup</p>	<p>1. There is assurance that audits on capacity assessments improves practice.</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 train and induct a new cohort of Safeguarding Champions to deliver safeguarding awareness sessions across the community.	CHSAB Manager / HCVS	1. There will be increased awareness of adult safeguarding amongst residents in the City and Hackney	
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 Board Manager will coordinate/ facilitate focus groups for people with lived experience, in order to gain insight and feedback on their safeguarding journey.	CHSAB Manager	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 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 safeguarding needs of people who are homeless, people experiencing modern day slavery, people experiencing discriminatory abuse (hate crime) and young people (18-25 year olds)	4.1 Raising awareness of the safeguarding needs of people experiencing homelessness and modern day slavery	CHSAB/ Executive Group	1. Increased reporting in these categories of abuse. 2.)Increased awareness of these categories of abuse.	
	4.2 Identify areas for improvement and develop plans to address these needs, and monitor how needs are being met.	CHSAB/ Executive Group	3. Increased efforts in prevention and early intervention to mitigate the risks associated with these categories of abuse/exploitation.	
	4.3 Work in partnership with the Community Safety Partnership on modern day slavery and hate crime.	CHSAB/ Executive Group		
	4.4 Work in partnership with the Safeguarding Children Partnership to address transitional safeguarding needs.	CHSAB/ Executive Group		

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 Independent Chair will continue to 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	1. The work of the Board is evenly distributed across Board partners and strategic priorities meet the needs of all partners	
	5.2 The Board will seek assurance around the safeguarding of refugees and asylum seekers placed in hotel accommodations within the borough.	CHSAB/ Executive Group	1. The Board has oversight around the safeguarding mechanisms in place to protect refugees and asylum seekers from exploitation and harm.	
	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	1. The Board is better able to respond to emerging risks and trends within the community.	

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 practitioners to respond to complex issues relating to self-neglect	6.1 The Boards will continue to offer and promote training to practitioners on recognising, assessing and responding to self neglect. This will be done through the Boards training offer, as well as sessions during safeguarding month.	CHSAB Manager	<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 To monitor the usage and impact of the self neglect toolkit.	Adult Social Care London Borough of Hackney & the City of London Corporation.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Board is able to assess the effectiveness of the toolkit and inform decision making. 2. Accessibility of the toolkit is enhanced 	

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
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 will be a reduction in fire related deaths in Hackney and the City of London 	
	7.2 The SAR protocol will be reviewed/ refreshed to ensure the SAR 'journey' is as efficient, effective and responsive as possible from start to finish.	SAR sub-group	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agencies and professionals all have a clear understanding of their roles, responsibilities and procedures when conducting SARs 2. Learning from SARs will be embedded more efficiently 	

Principle 6: Accountability - “I understand the role of everyone involved in my life and so do they.”

Priority	Action	Lead	Intended Impact	Update
<p>8. To ensure that all agencies across the City and Hackney deliver their core duties in relation to safeguarding</p>	<p>8.1 The Board will work with its partners (including the voluntary sector) to raise awareness of safeguarding pathways (for professionals) and safeguarding risks (for residents).</p>	<p>CHSAB/ CHSAB Manager</p>	<p>1. Professionals are better equipped to intervene more promptly when needed.</p> <p>2. Residents are more resilient and empowered to raise concerns early to prevent harm/abuse.</p>	



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

1 Hillman Street

Hackney

London

E8 1DY

Email: CHSAB@hackney.gov.uk

Tel: **020 8356 6498**

Committee(s): Safeguarding Sub Committee – For Information CCS Committee – For Information Health & Wellbeing Board – For Information	Dated: 14 November 2024 January 2025 To Be Confirmed
Subject: The City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership (CHSCP) Annual Report 2023/24	Public
This proposal a) delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes (see list below) b) provides statutory duties	
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: The City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership (CHSCP)	For Information
Report author: Rory McCallum Senior Professional Advisor, CHSCP	

Summary

The City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership annual report for 2023/24 sets out examples of the learning, challenge, impact, evidence and improvement of the statutory safeguarding arrangements in the City of London and the London Borough of Hackney. It reports on the following activity:

- The governance and accountability arrangements for the CHSCP’s safeguarding arrangements alongside a summary of progress against the CHSCP’s priorities and pledge.
- The context for safeguarding children in the City of London and the London Borough of Hackney, highlighting key data and the progress made by partners over the reporting period.
- The lessons that the CHSCP has identified through its Learning & Improvement Framework and the actions taken to improve child safeguarding and welfare as a result of this activity.
- The range and impact of the multi-agency safeguarding training delivered by the CHSCP.
- The CHSCP’s priorities going forward.
- The key messages for those involved in the safeguarding of children and young people.

In line with new statutory requirements set out in Working Together 2023, the CHSCP annual report 2023/24 was published on 30 September 2024 and has been sent to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and Foundations, (What Works Centre for Children & Families).

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

The Annual Report can be accessed via the CHSCP website: [HERE](#)

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications – The publication of an annual report is a statutory expectation defined in [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#).

The report sets out evidence relevant to the Corporation's Corporate Plan 2024-2029. Specifically, *'Providing Excellent Services: Supporting people to live healthy, independent lives and achieve their ambitions is dependent on excellent services. Vital to that continued pursuit is enabling access to effective adult and children's social care, outstanding education, lifelong learning, quality housing, and combatting homelessness.'*

Financial implications - **None**

Resource implications - **None**

Legal implications - **None**

Risk implications - **None**

Equalities implications – The annual report contains no proposals relevant to the City's public sector Equality Duty 2010

Climate implications - **None**

Security implications - **None**

Rory McCallum

Senior Professional Advisor, CHSCP
rory.mccallum@hackney.gov.uk

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee: Safeguarding Sub-Committee	Dated: 14/11/2024
Subject: Children and Families Service Performance – Month 3 2024/25 (June 2024)	Public – For information Appendix 1 (Non-public) – Appendix 2 (Public)
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes • provides statutory duties 	Providing excellent services
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
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 1st April to 30th June (month 3) 2024/25. 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.

Key Data

7. Demand continues to be high. In the first 3 months of 2024/25, there were 196 contacts. Based on this, it is estimated that there will be nearly 800 contacts over the year. This is similar to last year when there were 807, which was also higher than the total number for 2022/23, which was 707.
8. Overall, the number of Children in Need has reduced over the three months from 12 in April 2024 to 10 at the end of June 2024.
9. The number of Children in Care by the City of London Corporation remained the same over the first quarter – 7 CLA. This follows a trend in recent years of decreasing numbers of CLA.
10. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) recorded 5 contacts in the first 3 months of 2024/25 (3% of referrals). It is estimated that the total number of MASH contacts will be similar to the number in 2023/24 which was 21.
11. There were 9 Early Help referrals in the first quarter of 2024/25. It is estimated that the total number of referrals will be higher than 2023/24 but lower than the years 2021/22 and 2022/23 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 first quarter of 2024/25, an average 40% of assessments were completed within 45 days. at timescale out of time are related to a single family. This is lower than the 83% average of 2023/24 due to the assessments that were out of time are related to a single family.

13. Overall, in the first quarter of 2024/25, an average of 40% of assessments were completed within 45 days. The assessments exceeding the timescale were all related to a single family.

14. There were 53 care leavers being supported at the end of June 2024. This has been increasing overall over time (44 at the end of June 2021) but is a slight decrease on the end of June 2023 when the number was 56.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

15. 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 outcome 5 “Providing Excellent Services” of the Corporate Plan.

16. Financial implications – N/A

17. Resource implications – N/A

18. Legal implications – N/A

19. Risk implications – N/A

20. 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.

21. Climate implications – N/A

22. Security implications – N/A

Conclusion

23. This report provides a summary of performance data from the Children and Families Service from 1st April 2024 to 30th June 2024, comparing it to performance from the previous month, quarter or year, and other benchmarks where appropriate.

24. 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 2024/25 June (Non-Public)
- Appendix 2 – Glossary for Performance Dashboard (Public)

Ellie Ward

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

T: 020 7332 1535

E: Ellie.ward@cityoflondon.gov.uk



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)

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee: Safeguarding Sub-Committee – For information	Dated: 14/11/2024
Subject: Adult Social Care Safeguarding Performance Report Q1 2024/25	Public Appendix 1 (Non-public)
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes • Provides statutory duties 	Providing excellent services
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
Report author:	Ellie Ward, Head of Strategy and Performance

Summary

This report updates Members on safeguarding performance across the Adult Social Care Service during Q1 of Year 2024/25.

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 Q1 2024/25. 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 outcome 5 “Providing Excellent Services” 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 2024/25, 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 Q1 2024/25 (Non-public)

Ellie Ward

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

T: 020 7332 1535

E: Ellie.ward@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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