



HSCP Annual Report

2023-24

Welcome to the Havering Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report April 2023-March 2024.

This year we are presenting a joint report covering the activities of both the Havering Safeguarding Adults' Board (HSAB) and the Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP).

We want to start by thanking all partners and their frontline staff who have worked hard to ensure that children and adults in Havering are healthy, stimulated and safe so that they can fulfil their potential. In particular we thank everyone, both professionals and family members, who have acted to protect children and adults from abuse, neglect and exploitation, and who have engaged in the work of the Partnership.

We have worked hard as a Partnership to drive continual improvement in our local safeguarding system through 2023-24.

Introduction

What do the Partnership activities mean for Havering? For children and adults? For residents? For our workforce and volunteers?

The Partnership continues to provide a focus on improving local joint arrangements to help keep adults and children safer in Havering. Most important, is ensuring evidence of our impact to help make children and adults safer in Havering. Key examples are noted throughout this annual report but this introduction highlights our priorities and impact in 2023-24:

- Our Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) Pathway has been refreshed after further local learning and the North East London CSA Hub where support is considered has been relaunched as the Sunrise Hub- with more referrals going into the Hub, CSA Consultations and referrals to MASH for CSA this year. We have also written to NHS London and the London Safeguarding Children Partnership about the need for more resources for CSA medicals for children in North East London.
- In Havering, there has been a rise in the identification of Neglect and Child Protection planning- more need and risk has been recognized and more families are receiving support



- We can see the positive impact of learning from a local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) and Independent Scrutiny on a local area, where Police are leading on the project Clear, Hold, Build-people who are living in the area are safer from crime.
- As a result of learning from another local CSPR, Early Years' settings have developed extra guidance and good practice regarding missing children, and there is a stronger focus on their engagement with Early Help.
- This year we have seen an improvement in engagement for secondary schools with Police Schools' Officers. DS Lisa Ryan attended School Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Forums and the Educational Strategic Partnership (ESP) to explain the value of closer engagement, and as a result communication and engagement with Schools' Officers has improved to help support students.
- In December 2023, Children's Services or Starting Well were inspected by Ofsted. Partnership working to safeguard children was noted as positive and mature. Similarly the Adults' Social Care Peer Review in March 2024 noted our positive SAB working relationships.
- Very sadly, there have been 20 child deaths this year, which have been or will continue to be reviewed by the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP). There have been 24 deaths this year which have led or will lead to LeDeR reviews (Learning from Lives and Deaths - People with Learning Disability and Autism). For these children and adults we send our sincere condolences to their families and friends.
- The SAB has been raising awareness of the PIPOT (People in Positions of Trust) Guidance and as a result, we have seen a rise in PIPOT and LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) investigations (where there are concerns for staff members or volunteers who work with adults or children), including a situation of whistleblowing by staff in a care home for adults.

Reviews/Audits

- During the year, the HSAB completed one SAR (Safeguarding Adults' Review-River). The HSCP has been working on a Child Safeguarding Practice Review, "Henry CSPR" which will be published in the autumn term, and completed another, which was not published, in Autumn 2023, regarding a local area of concern. Further reviews are underway, as you will read in this report.
- Learning from our findings in response to our audits and reviews has highlighted a need for greater acknowledgement of protected characteristics and cultural competency within our work which has led to the priority of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion for our Business Plan 2024-27.
- As a result of an audit and review of the DVMARAC in October 2023, (risk assessment meetings for serious concerns of Domestic Abuse) GPs and schools are now more engaged with the DVMARAC, meaning that they will know about any patients or students facing situations of Domestic Abuse, and can help with offering extra support and signposting as required.
- Scrutiny of performance around those working with people with Learning Disabilities or Autism, training and information sessions have led to 86% of people aged over 14 years of age who have a



Learning Disability and /or autism having an annual GP health check in 2023-24 - an improvement on previous years.

- We have some learning from LeDeR reviews identify good practice within the Partnership, such as personalised care planning to achieve patients' goals, good Health Passports, evidence of information sharing among all professionals; implementation of reasonable adjustments where applicable. The CDOP reviews have led, for example to focused work on safe sleeping for babies in the borough.

Learning/Training

- One of our joint priorities this year was to see stronger engagement and representation from the Voluntary Sector in Safeguarding. And we have seen an increase in engagement in training, as well as more strategic representation at the SAB and HSCP. Alongside this, a Voluntary Sector Safeguarding Event took place in October 2023 with 23 people in attendance. As a result of this we can see a growth of nearly 50% in the number of referrals made by Voluntary Sector agencies to the Children's and Adults' MASH Services this year.
- In anticipation of learning from a fatal fire, we have been focusing on fire prevention for the most vulnerable and have contacted all local care providers in Havering for adults and children with information and links to the London Fire Brigade (LFB). The LFB Hoarding Team presented at several Care Providers' Forums this year, trained 600 practitioners, had stalls at numerous events, including at our Safeguarding Conference, and visited 500 local vulnerable people. Their caseload grew from 37 in February 2023 to 191 in August 2024. In addition, the Havering LFB made 112 Home Fire Safety Visits this financial year.
- One key issue we have identified through our local learning and scrutiny of data is an increase in Substance Use. Health figures show large numbers of Havering young people and adults have attended A&E with substance use concerns. In 2024-25, we are planning to provide guidance from our local learning on how to work in partnership as agencies with those service users whom we find hard to engage. However, we have seen increased referrals of adults and young people to substance use services this year, allowing them to receive the help and support required to counter those urgent Hospital presentations.
- We continue to see that most schools are engaged with the DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) Forum, particularly our secondary schools. There has been a rise this year in schools completing their Section 175 annual self-evaluation, which has highlighted that their most significant concerns remain Domestic Abuse and Neglect.
- Following awareness raising of Private Fostering and Young Carers by the Partnership, there has been a rise in schools providing their own internal training this year, leading to rises in identifying and referring these children and allowing them offers of appropriate support.
- Multi-agency workshops took place in August 2023 for semi-independent providers of placements for care experienced young people (supported accommodation); this included guidance about missing children, the Police Philomena Protocol and safeguarding reminders, including LADO procedures. We



have seen a rise in LADO referrals from semi-independent care providers, during the year.

- Safeguarding Week in November 2023 saw more than 120 people take part in our face to face joint Board Conference, which had the topic of Safeguarding and Mental Health, and more people participated in training sessions during the week.
- We saw 530 delegates attend our multi-agency safeguarding training this year, an increase of 9%, and a decrease in non-cancellations. We identified a need to increase the engagement of the Voluntary Sector in our training and with some focus we saw a 67% rise in training accounts held by Voluntary Sector colleagues. As one delegate said, after attending training on Working with Adult Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse,

“I gained a better insight of why people struggle through adulthood when they were a victim of childhood trauma. How it impacts on their mental health and wellbeing. A high number of adults I walk alongside are not living their best life due to trauma as a child that has never been properly addressed. This course allows the skills to be confident to support them going forward”.

Policy/Procedures/Strategies/Guidance

- One of both our adults’ and children joint Partnership priorities is Mental Health. During this year, Public Health has launched consultations on the borough’s Suicide Prevention Strategy with a number of briefings to the Partnership.
- In October 2023, we relaunched our professional Escalation policy for adults and children safeguarding, including letters with contact details. This has led to a rise in escalations between agencies and a current audit regarding education escalations for children. An increase in escalations means better oversight on safeguarding practices and learning, so that more people are being safeguarded and professionals are striving to work better together, within our policies and procedures in line with legislation.
- As a means of promoting Cultural Competency and parity of responses to need, the HSP published an Equalities’ Statement across the Partnership in October 2023, during Black History month, and has been providing training around Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). EDI and Disproportionality are priorities for the Partnerships 2024-27
The joint Partnership statement around anti-discriminatory practice, can be found here: <https://safeguardinghavering.org.uk/training/cultures-diversity/>

Scrutiny

- We scrutinize our training attendance and evaluations, and multi-agency data in terms of performance and disproportionality across the majority of our Partnership meetings, and along many matrices shown in this report- on a borough, London and nation-wide basis. The deep dives into specific areas, have allowed us to get a better understanding of how people are affected by services and the need for further improvement. For example, we have worked hard to promote the role of the LADO and PIPOT; training around the MASH and making safeguarding referrals for



adults and children, seeing improved performance and changes to processes, for example, the Children's MASH has begun its own monthly multi-agency audit process.

- Our themes for children's and adults' scrutiny and improvement this year have included an analysis of safeguarding in a local area to mental and sexual health services; Transitions from children's to adults' services; the DVMARAC, MASH, and London Fire Brigade work with those who self-neglect and hoard in their own homes; PIPOT (Guidance around People in Positions of Trust) and the work of the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer).

Challenges/risks

- This year has seen significant changes in many agencies and challenges in recruitment and retention of staff in East London. There has been a re-organisation of Havering Council Departments, into a People's Pillar with new departments, Starting Well for Children, Living Well for adults aged 18-60 and Ageing Well for older adults; alongside this, the Integrated Care Board (ICB) has had a similar re-organisation. The Council, like many other statutory bodies, has faced significant financial pressures and successfully applied for a Capitalisation Order through DLUH (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (now the MCLG-Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government)).
- We continue to work towards developing effective datasets for both Partnerships, particularly in engaging NELFT (North East London NHS Foundation Trust) for data submissions.
- The Partnership has seen some inconsistency in practice by ethnicity for example, in adult safeguarding referrals, which have illustrated that people from Black and Asian and other ethnic groups are not being referred for support in the same manner as people from a white background, compared to the general population breakdown. This may be about a lack of knowledge by members of those communities, or a professional bias in seeing need.
- Our improved understanding and production of data, has shown that White people are over-represented in many aspects of multi-agency data, including young people presenting at BHRUT for Sexual Health Services. We have however seen proportionate numbers of adults having support for substance use. We know that there is more reported Domestic Abuse in areas of greater poverty and need in the borough. Through better understanding of processes, we look forward to more people aged over 60 being referred for the DVMARAC and those aged 16 and 17 years.
- In comparison to our statistical neighbours and London averages, we see growing numbers of children having child protection support or going into local authority care. We do not yet see the people who are projected to have dementia being diagnosed or supported in Havering, nor are all carers receiving support, as they are not coming forward or being identified. This gives us renewed impetus and drive to bring about improvements.
- The Partnership is well engaged with Starting Well's Ofsted Improvement Boards and anticipates seeing improvements in Child Protection Planning and children in Local Authority



Care. Similarly, we look to see improvements in effective referrals to the Adults' MASH. We continue to see improvements in the timeliness of Initial Child Protection Conferences and regular quorate Core Group Meetings taking place. We have seen some improvements in the timeliness of Initial Health Assessments for children who enter Local Authority Care, the use of the Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) Sunrise Hub, and the performance of PELC- Partnership of East London Cooperatives (all issues on our risk register). Learning in our reviews highlight areas of improvement in our understanding of Neglect and CSA for children; self-neglect and hoarding for adults, and those who have mental health and substance use problems. We need to continue to improve our work in engaging with these people in Havering.

Priorities 2024-27

Over 50 people took part in a local survey this summer 2024 to determine our forthcoming priorities for safeguarding children and adults, which are Transitional safeguarding, including for those with Disabilities and Special Educational Needs, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Neglect and Self-Neglect, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Child Sexual Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation, and .

- A Deeper focus on Early Years, SEN and Early Help
- A Review of our Transitional Safeguarding arrangements
- A Refresh of the HSCP Exploitation and Neglect Strategies
- Development of Local Guidance on working with those affected by Substance Use
- Promotion of Advocacy, Best Interests, and support for Carers, including Young Carers
- Identification of Private Fostering arrangements
- Rough Sleeping and Safeguarding with Housing Providers
- Development of Mental Capacity Act Champions and Suicide Prevention pathways
- Task and Finish Group on Gender identity

Throughout this report, you will see strong examples of our strong multi-agency safeguarding working and its impact.

On behalf of the Lead Safeguarding Partners, Andrew Blake-Herbert, Chief Executive, Havering Council, Commander Stuart Bell, EA BCU, Diane Jones, Chief Nurse, NEL ICB, and Barbara Nicholls, Director of People, Havering Council, and Deputy Safeguarding Partners, Detective Superintendent Lewis Basford, EA BCU, Korkor Ceasar, Deputy Director Safeguarding Children NEL ICB, Tara Geere, Director Starting Well and Trevor Cook, AD Education, thank you again for your hard work.



Brian Boxall HSAB and HSCP Chair

This report consists of three Sections, Safeguarding Learning and Development Annual Report, Havering Safeguarding Partnership details, and then the Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) Annual Report. An Appendix then follows. Our Partnership structure is here:

<https://safeguardinghavering.org.uk/childrenpartnership/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/03/HSCP-Organogram-Feb-23-1.pdf>

CONTENTS

About Havering

Learning and Development Annual Report 2023-24

Team and Finances

Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2023-24

Independent Scrutiny

Appendix 1 HSCP attendance



ABOUT HAVERING

262,000 people live in Havering. Havering has one of the fastest growing child populations in the country. We saw the second highest growth of all Local Authorities of those aged 0-4, the 12th highest growth nationally and the 2nd highest growth within London for children aged 5-9. At the time of the 2021 Census, 24.3%, or roughly one in four people living in Havering, was aged under 19. The population of those aged over 65 years is 17.6%, which exceeds the London average of 11%.

Havering's General Fertility Rate (GFR, 2021) is higher (58.5 per 1,000) than London (52.9 per 1,000) and England (54.3 per 1,000). There are more people of ages likely to have children, particularly 25 to 39 years old, and as such there has been an increase of 28% in the number of 5 to 9 year olds living in the borough. The median age is 39 years. Infant mortality remains lower than England and London, and Havering has the lowest rate of A&E attendance in London for under 5 year olds.

Havering is more similar to England as a whole, than London, in terms of ethnic diversity: in 2021, 75% of the local population identified as White. However, there have been increases in diversity over recent years and this is predicted to continue. After English, the most common languages are Romanian, Polish, Urdu and Bengali.

Compared to London (51.9%) and England (51.6%), Havering has a higher proportion of households living in deprivation (52.7%). In 2021-22, 11.45% of children aged under 16 years lived in absolute low income families in Havering, and 14.2% in relative low income.

8,000 households in Havering experience fuel poverty. There are disparities in disability prevalence within Havering. There are nearly three times more households with a disabled person in Harold Hill East (1,605 households) compared to Emerson Park (596 households).

The Census question on sexual orientation was a voluntary question asked of those aged 16 years and over. The number of people responding was very high with 93% (195,099) Havering residents answering the question; similar to the national response rate of 92.5%. In total, 91.07% (191,007) Havering residents identified as straight or heterosexual. 1.95% (4,092) Havering residents identified as one of the LGB+ orientations ("Lesbian or Gay", "Bisexual", "Transsexual" or "Other sexual orientation"). Havering has the lowest proportion of residents aged 16 and over in London who identify as LGB+ orientation.



Havering's current child population is more diverse than the all-age population data from the January 2021. The Schools' Census indicates 70% of Havering pupils are White British.

22% of children in reception classes were overweight or obese rising to 39% in Year 6. In 2020 we carried out a learning review following the death of a young person, Child G, with obesity related health concerns which were neglected, Child G. Partly as a result, this year the Healthy Weight Strategy has been launched by Public Health with a number of workshops and outreach events.

Only two thirds of families took up the offer of Early Years' education. 19.5% of primary school children are eligible for Free School Meals but not all eligible children receive them. There was no difference in attainment for those who were or were not eligible for Free School Meals at the end of reception. 12.5% of the child population have SEN (Special Educational Needs), lower than the London and national averages of 14.4%. This cohort of children can be especially vulnerable to exploitation, as they grow older and in the forthcoming year the SEND Partnership Board plans an audit action to consider the quality of Educational Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) from a safeguarding and preparation for adulthood / transition perspective. We offer regular training around autism awareness and this has gone hand in hand with the roll-out of Oliver McGowan training this year across the whole Partnership.

Havering has the highest proportion of unpaid carers in London – 8.7% of Havering residents provide unpaid care, compared to 7.8% in London and 8.9% in England. This may be related to the age demographic seen in the borough. In this forthcoming year, we wish to raise the knowledge of the Carers' Partnership Board which launched this year and ensure carers have access to Carers' Assessments and Advocacy as required. We plan to carry out an audit of Advocacy in October 2024. In Havering an estimated 20,637 residents aged over 5 provided unpaid care in 2021. This is an average of 8.7%, which is higher than London (7.8%) and similar to England (8.9%). Havering had the highest ASP of residents providing unpaid care of all local authorities across London.

Dementia rates in Havering are likely to be high, but we know that there are groups who are not yet receiving formal diagnoses or services, instead receiving informal family care at home or living alone. We estimate over 3,000 people to be living with dementia in the borough, but only 1,757 are recorded so far - this is common to several other East London boroughs. The hidden vulnerability of dementia may be leaving some people more vulnerable to abuse and neglect due to undiagnosed needs.

Primary Care prevalence data for Havering in 2019-20 suggested that 0.4% of the general population have a learning disability, which would equate to around 1,048 people. Across NEL in 2021-22, the percentage of women with learning disabilities was 0.54% among 18-24 year olds, 0.32% in 25 -34 years and 0.28% in 35-44 years . If these rates are applied to the number of women in those age groups who had live births, this would be less than 10 women, and is likely to be an underestimate of the actual prevalence. For example, out of the nearly 2,000 respondents to Mencap's Big Learning Disability Survey 2022, 6.3% stated that they lived with their children. This is significantly greater percentage than the Primary Care prevalence and



suggests there may be many more women locally who require a different approach to support during their pregnancy, and this chimes with our local learning around the vulnerability of younger children and families moving between boroughs, who are more likely to be reliant on social housing and therefore living in poverty and need.

Learning and Development

“Increased confidence to self-challenge what on the face of it appears to be safeguarding, but might in fact be something else.” Training Delegate evaluation

- **We promote use of the HSP Neglect Toolkit, Escalation Policies, Hoarding and Self-Neglect Protocol, the role of the LADO, and website resources during our training- 775 referrals this year to the LADO- the highest yet;**
- **9% Rise in delegates attending our multi-agency training;**
- **MASH Breakfast March 2024- 60 practitioners attend to find out more;**
- **120 people attended our Partnership Conference with a Mental Health theme November 2023.**

This year the HSP provided 153 safeguarding courses in total. Most of our courses are online but we hold some face to face - and most are presented by volunteers from within the Partnership- NEL ICB, CGL, Starting Well, Havering Public Health, NELFT, Ageing Well and Living Well. Thank you everyone!

24 courses were adult safeguarding, 69 were child safeguarding and 60 were joint. 530 delegates attended our safeguarding courses during the year, a 9% increase on last year. There were 228 cancellations and 416 no-shows, resulting in a varied turnout. 2022-23 there were 229 no-shows and 116 cancellations. Most delegates were from Adults' Social Care, Children's Social Care and Primary Schools. This year we have focused on outreach to the Voluntary Sector, hosting an event in October 2023, and can see a 46% increase in accounts held, plus good increases for Justice Services, Children's and Adults' Social Care, Early Years' Settings, Housing, and Health Providers. We want to say a big thank you to everyone who participated!

NEL ICB Designated Professionals provided training sessions for the Continuing Health Care (CHC) staff members and the primary care team, as well as providing level 3 face to face training for all eligible staff members in the ICB wider teams. Some General Practitioners (GPs) received bespoke training sessions to improve their expertise in providing safe practice. All sessions were positively received and obtained positive



evaluations.

The GP training programme, included an interactive chat function, and provided a wonderful opportunity for everyone to learn together and enhance health outcomes. Feedback from attendees included:

“It refreshed and crystallised further on all the elements in relation to decision making for adults - that we don't make the decision for them, but we support them in decision making”..

“As I work with children, mostly in clinic, it will impact my practice in asking more about families and the home situation as part of case history. Amongst colleagues and in developing our tele practice I will disseminate information about looking more closely at homes, share the hoarding scale and other resources with the team”.

Our training newsletter began in January 2023 and has been well received. The newsletter highlights our upcoming training, training expectations and signposts other agencies' training including London Safeguarding Children Partnership. We have noticed an increase in bookings when the newsletter is shared on the same day, and we have received more queries and requests to share our newsletter.

These tables illustrate the impact of some of our courses, as evidenced in the evaluation forms received.

| Course | How will the course inform your future practice? |
|---|---|
| Drug and Substance Misuse Awareness | <p>“Help me to understand substances available to young people. Which will help me support foster carers.”</p> <p>“The course will enable me to discuss the effects of recreational drug use and things to look out for when working with young people and adults”</p> <p>“I will be able to identify learners who are under the influence and what signs to look out for.”</p> <p>“Thank you very much for all this information. This helped me understand the effects of drug use as there was an incident last week of a young person, who had used a drug and now I know the signs for drug use if this happens again in the future”. (Student Social Worker)</p> |
| An Introduction to LGBTQ+ and Breaking Down Barriers | <p>“Much more awareness around inclusion and how subtle changes can help”</p> <p>“It has increased my awareness which will aid me when working with the LGBTQ+ community”</p> |



| | |
|--|---|
| LADO Awareness | <p>“It has given me confidence in self-awareness and to report immediately with any concern of abuse”</p> <p>“Refresher and reassurance that we are doing what we can to safeguard”</p> |
| Modern Slavery | <p>“It has given me greater awareness of looking beyond the immediacy of what is being presented to me. It brought into focus the "hidden" side of modern slavery.”</p> <p>“Awareness of what routes to use to escalate any concerns about modern slavery. Identifying the new growth areas of modern slavery.”</p> |
| Informed Decision Making and Risk Management | <p>“A very helpful reminder of strength based questioning. An increased awareness of the relevant and current legislation in respect of this area.”</p> <p>“helps with project in LFB”</p> |
| HSP Safeguarding Annual Conference | <p>“Greater awareness of suicide risk - have already completed the training from Zero Suicide”</p> <p>"Lots of useful information on services that can support children & families. I shared a lot of these with my team when I got back to the office. We will all be completing the trauma informed training which was discussed. "</p> |
| Parental Mental Health & the Impact on Children | <p>“Gave me great ways to start conversations with students and parents around mental health”</p> <p>“Greater understanding of the challenges of young people”</p> |

We received more evaluations last year by reiterating that evaluations are required to receive certificates. The majority of our evaluations shows satisfaction with the training; any dissatisfied feedback and recommendations were investigated further and taken into consideration for rebooking courses, i.e. duration of training, breakout rooms, trainers, etc.

Our next stage of evaluation will look at having the delegate’s manager’s feedback on the difference they can see the training has made on the delegate's practice. This is an area of improvement as we wish to work for a stronger response from partner agencies.

MCA (Mental Capacity Act) Champions

As a result of local learning previously, we developed MCA (Mental Capacity Act) Champions across all agencies in 2022-23, including the Voluntary Sector. This work has been steered by Joy Maguire, Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Adults and Samantha Henry, Training Lead for the Partnership. The Champions meet every few months to look at key MCA information to share in



their sector or agency, and to discuss complex situations. This is leading to better information sharing and appropriate referrals.

Communications

In August 2022, we published our first monthly Safeguarding Partnership newsletter. Our newsletters this year have included the following themes- Private Fostering, Core Group Meetings, PIPOT, Modern Slavery, Child Sexual Abuse, Exploitation and Information Sharing guidance.

National Learning is disseminated through our newsletters, local training and in our Partnership meetings. For example, the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children, Paul Archer, presented on the National Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's reports on the deaths of Star Hodson and Arthur Labinjo-Hughes. In February 2024, the Assistant Director for Education, Trevor Cook, presented on the Government's Transgender guidance for schools and its local implications.

Havering Safeguarding Partnership Team

During the financial year, there have been several changes to the Team. Elisabeth Major remains as the Manager. Thilini Perera began work as HSP Coordinator in January 2023. Samantha Henry is the Training Lead for the Partnership. Lynn Glancy provides project support to the SAB and Maria Laver provides financial support to the HSP, and administrative support to the HSCP. Thilini, Samantha and Elisabeth work full-time. Maria and Lynn work part-time. During Samantha's leave this year, Rachel Tomkins joined the team. Thank you to them for their hard work this year, and for their work in preparing this report

Finances

The Partnership's funding is shared jointly by the SAB and SCP. The Team are hosted by Havering Council. We are also supported by many generous gifts in kind; chairing, room provision and training support, for example NEL ICB chairs the Case Review Working Group; NELFT chairs the Children Quality and Effectiveness Working Group. The Children's Partnership was given a DfE £43,700 grant in January 2024- we have spent this on developing our local safeguarding arrangements, staffing and in training, focusing on our greatest basic needs, namely Neglect and Child Sexual Abuse. The NSPCC Graded Care Profile 2 License will be purchased and training rolled out, as we refresh our Neglect Strategy. In recent years, there has been a 3% rise in Havering Council salaries for Team Members; increases in financial contributions were requested from Partners to mirror this rise, but they have not been able to increase their funding. NEL ICB funding fell to £50,000 from £58,000 in 2021-22 and BHRUT has a £2,000 shortfall in funding from 2021-22. Havering Council has supported the shortfall within the Partnership.

SAB & SCP Contributions April 2023 – March 2024

| PARTNERS | 2023-24 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| NELFT | £9,556.66 |
| BHRUT | £9,556.66 |
| NEL ICB | £50,000 |
| MOPAC | £10,000 |
| PROBATION | £1,187.9 |
| HAVERING COUNCIL | £202,000 |
| DfE Grant for HSCP | £47,300 |
| | |
| TOTAL | £330,292 |

Expenditure

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Reviews | RIVER SAR £1,100 + Inquest £750 HENRY CSPR £2,000 |
| Staffing | £169,470 |
| Independent SAB Chair | £18,000 |
| Independent Scrutineer | £13,100 |
| Website Development | £8,276 |
| Learning and Development | £9,500 |
| TASP membership | £450 |

| | |
|---|----------|
| Safeguarding Young Advisors | £1,000 |
| Council hosting costs (IT, legal advice, etc) | £19,000 |
| Miscell | £2,000 |
| TOTAL | £266,856 |

Safeguarding Children Annual Report

HSCP Business Plan key achievements 2023-24

- Core Group Meeting survey took place summer 2023 and resulted in the development of draft Guidance through a multi-agency Task and Finish Group to support professional multi-agency practice;
- Promotion of key local preventive issues for Child Safety Week 2023- safe sleeping and water safety in consultation with the Child Death Overview Panel;
- Police Schools Officers, led by DS Lisa Ryan, receive engagement from more local secondary schools after promotions, resulting in young people being safer and more engaged in services;
- Half of local schools responded this year in Private Fostering and Young Carers, demonstrating staff training, resulting more children being supported;
- Publication of a number of 7 minute briefings and posters, including about children who miss appointments (Was Not Brought), Fire Safety, Private Fostering, Professional Curiosity, and additional Escalation Guidance.

The HSCP Business Plan can be found here:

<https://safeguardinghavering.org.uk/childrenpartnership/hscp-business-plan/>

The Business Plan is to be refreshed this year and we are undertaking a summer 2024 survey to ask all who live, work or volunteer in Havering to respond. The HSCP Executive will then choose priorities based on responses. Our current priorities are Neglect, Child Sexual Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation and Mental Health. The Business Plan has the following Objectives: support children in maximizing school attendance; understand how effectively the multi-agency safeguarding system is reaching and affecting Black and minority ethnic communities in Havering, and address any disproportionalities; maximize direct access to children; mitigate the COVID-19 impact on the physical and psychological wellbeing of children; and support staff in the three statutory agencies to manage changes in demands in services. This report comments on the Priorities and Objectives, and the Business Plan is available as a stand-alone document too.

What we haven't done this year.

- Development of a Task and Finish group regarding gender identity with the SAB, following a Safeguarding Adult's Review regarding a young adult;
- Development of a CSA Strategy with Child Sexual Exploitation as a separate priority.

This work is underway to be completed by April 2025.

Young People's Voices

Havering Safeguarding Young Advisors

We are committed to hearing about young people's needs and views in Havering and how we can work collectively to better support them. To ensure we achieved this aim, we recruited 6 Safeguarding Young Advisors in 2023 - Sia, Jessica, Dominic, Shakila, Saffiah, Rachel, and Atiya. These young people aged 16-25 and come from a variety of backgrounds; some are working, some are studying in different schools, colleges and universities.

The Young Advisors play a key part in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in Havering, highlighting areas of strength, and reporting areas for improvement to our Safeguarding Partners.

The Young Advisors completed two surveys for their initial project in June 2023 including Abbs Cross Academy, NCC Rainham and Ardleigh Green Colleges to obtain young people's views regarding the theme of violence against young women. The Young Advisors presented their report at our joint SAB-HSCP meeting in September 2023 to our partners. As a result, the Young Advisors were invited to attend the Secondary Headteachers' Meeting to present their findings in January 2024.

The Young Advisors second project was around mental health in young people in the borough, and was presented by them to our Safeguarding Week Conference in November 2023. Their work has helped to inform our Independent Scrutiny around Sexual and Mental Health, and thus a call for more accessible local Sexual Health Services in the borough.

Thilini Perera, HSP Coordinator, has supported the Young Advisors' project, after it was successfully initiated by David Waddington in July 2022.

The MIND Ready for Adulthood Project was first piloted 3 years ago, following discussions with CAMHs (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) in relation to young people transitioning from children's services to adult services. Many were not meeting thresholds and others having challenges with their mental health as well as social isolation.

The programme provides a six-week in person project for young people aged 16-25 years who are affected by the presentation of challenges in terms of their mental health, wellbeing and development. These can include ASD, ADHD, hyperactivity, depression, suicidal ideation, self-harm, identity and other complex needs.

Research previously conducted by Kooth, engaging 10–19-year-olds in Havering, reported 61% had concerns about their own mental health and would participate in support activities. Of those young people:

- 64.7% were impacted by anxiety or stress;
- 29.4% had experienced suicidal thoughts;
- 29.1% had considered self-harm.

Through the “Ready for Adulthood” project, young people have shared their experiences and feel empowered to follow-up on the signposting advice and suggested coping strategies. The topics include life and living skills, wellbeing, relationships, identity, challenging stereotypes and prejudices, trauma, communication, adolescent neuroscience, resilience and their future plans and aspirations. At the conclusion of the 1-2-1 support programme, young people are encouraged to engage in ongoing peer group activities which help them move forward and remain connected. The therapeutic programme is delivered in a supported and safe environment that our young people respond positively to.

“Just to let you know, my son went out today with some young people from the Mind group. They went to a park at 1pm and he is still out (email sent at 6pm). He just face-timed me to say they are all going into town together.

He looked happier than he has been for years. I can't thank you enough for enabling them all to get together.

It really is the best thing that has happened to him”. A

“I must be only parent in world (well probably not - but small minority) happy to be wondering where my son is and what he is up to. He was very apologetic but he looked so happy last night when he face-timed me to say he didn't know what time he'd be home. To think some time ago he was still shaking in bed and I was having to coax him into attending your group.” B

Young People C & D asked if they could volunteer for Havering Mind and one of them will shortly be working with us to deliver a presentation to work experience students at a local college whilst the other will be using their photography skills at fundraising events.

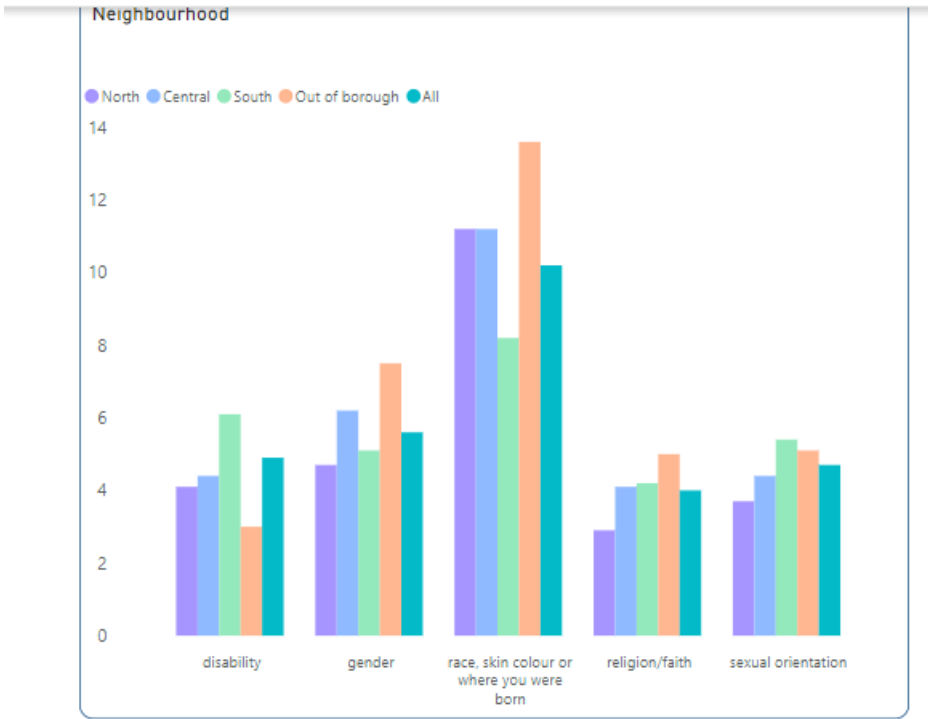
“It's very reassuring, I have learnt that I am a good parent and there are techniques I can employ to encourage a natural flow of communication”. Parent E

As part of the Ready for Adulthood Programme, and in response to feedback from Parents/carers/supporters, MIND also delivers an online Parent Support Group. MIND carefully considered their feedback and the requests they received, and co-designed PSG, which is a 6 week online programme for parents/carers/supporters of young people aged 11 to 25 years, struggling with their mental health.

10 schools took part in the Wellbeing Census in summer 2023, 2,287 students across years 8-10 engaged. In terms of safety, students had the same response to their safety in their local area, whether or not they had Special Educational Need or disabilities or were entitled to Free School Meals. Approximately 75% of students felt safe in their local area. People felt slightly less safe in the north of the borough at 70%. The biggest safety issues were around 30% were around knife crime, violence and theft; Approx. 22% of young people were concerned by sexual harassment - double the amount of females at 28% found this an issue compared to males at 14%. Females were generally more worried about safety. Males had higher scores for feeling happier at home at around 58% compared to females at 47%. 20% of females had low scores compared to 10% of males. 58% of children had caring responsibilities for someone in their home who was unwell, had a disability of a substance use concern. 65% felt that they could ask for help from their neighbours. Approx. 30% felt very stressed by school work.

Students reported the most discrimination in terms of race in terms of their neighbourhood; this was more significant for those in Year 8 than Year 10 at school. For those with SEND, there were higher levels of

discrimination around disability. Females had generally experienced more discrimination, except for males for religious discrimination. 15-20% had experienced bullying (4 times in the last month). 3-5% had experienced cyber bullying- highest for SEN.



12-14% could identify no support for substance use concerns, and 6% said that they were vaping, which is often a gateway drug.

Experiences were very similar to experiencing support at home. A small percentage felt they had little support at home (4-6% approx.) 12-19% could identify no support for emotional wellbeing concerns, (similar results for all for males, females, SEND and Free School meals recipients), 11% for sexual health issues. Approx. 87% identified friends as the main source of support for most issues. 7-11% identified the support of specialist sexual health services, approx. 30% saying GP. Approximately 10% of students said that they felt lonely most of the time (males 6%, females 11%).

On average 40% of respondents spent 5 hours or more on social media on an average school day- this was higher for those in receipt of Free School Meals at approx. 50%. Boys used less social media in general. 50% of young people said that they had the amount of sleep they needed and 14% said that they had good self-esteem.

Havering Youth Services supports a number of groups for young people within the Influence and Participation Youth Service, where they can share their views, be a consistent platform and have safe space. From January to December 2023, 8,762 young people cumulatively engaged with the Youth Service. So far for 2024 it is 3,178 young people. Examples of their influence this year include:

Children in Care/Say it Louder Forum

- A number of our Care Experienced young people delivered “Total Respect” training to professionals and corporate parents. This training help participants understand what it is like to be in care and ‘walk’ in that young person’s shoes. This raises more awareness of what it is like to be in the care system and supports practitioners when communicating and working with young people. This training has become mandatory (this year) and over 20 staff attended training.

Youth Council/Youth Parliament

- Make your Mark – British Youth Council work with Members of Youth Parliament on issues concerning young people, those issues are added to a ballot sheet and young people across the country can vote. This year within Havering, ‘mental health’ and ‘wellbeing’ received the highest votes – this will lead to a campaign both nationally and locally;
- Healthy Weight Strategy – Members of the Youth Council were involved in the co-design of the consultation for the Healthy Weight Strategy;
- Youth Council regularly meets with police and other agencies for views and feedback.

Mind of My Own

- This is a tool used in Havering to gain the views and voices of children receiving support from Children’s Service (Social Care, Early Help). Young people have been able to share that things are not going well at home or at school, where they need support and if there is anything that needs to change. There are two apps for young people to use: the One App for young people up to 18. The Express App for those younger (aged 2 plus) and for young people who have additional needs.

Quotes from young people:

*“What’s good in my life right now...? Where I live - Living in a house that is better than a flat
Things I am sad or worried about - How I look
Something I achieved - I spoke to the police regarding being attacked at school. The police officer asked me about what happened and why. I told them that one of the boys stole my money. I was also asked what I wanted to happen, and they explained the options to me. I was told that the police were going to warn the boys who attacked me, if I do not want to take it further, they would record it in case I change my mind. At the moment, I told police that I do not want anything to be done”.*

The Speak Out Challenge at the Queen’s Theatre took place in April 2024. The excellent film about feeling safe or unsafe on public transport and in the streets, by St Edwards Church of England Academy can be seen [here](#)

Partnership Meetings

A new HSCP Executive Meeting was established in April 2022, chaired by Brian Boxall, and attended by the Independent Scrutineer. This was put in place as the formal BHR (Barking and Dagenham, Redbridge and Havering) Partnership structure ended. The HSCP Executive meets bi-monthly and engages only the Statutory Partners. The Statutory Partners, or as Working Together 2023 will name them, the Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs) have been working on the local Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements which they plan to launch and publish at the HSCP and HSAB Joint Conference on 20th November 2024.

This year, the Statutory Partners have signed off every Rapid Review and Serious Incident Review, the Henry CSPR, interviewed for a new Independent Scrutineer, (who will begin in Autumn 2024), considered audit topics, areas of escalation and feedback, and Scrutiny Topics for the Independent Scrutineer to undertake. The DSPs signed off Independent Scrutiny reports and this Annual report, and agreed reviewers for CSPRs. The Lead

Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) for Havering will be Diane Jones, Chief Nurse, NEL ICB, Andrew Blake-Herbert, Chief Executive, Havering Council and Chief Superintendent Stuart Bell, EA BCU.

HSCP Partnership

The HSCP Partnership Partners meet quarterly. Attendance is outlined at Appendix 1 below, and remains stable, it includes representatives from educational settings in Havering. CAF/CASS (Child and Family Court Advisory and Support Service) is not a regular attendee, and this is being followed this up. We have now identified Voluntary Sector representatives. This year the Partnership has considered a number of reports, for example the LADO Annual Report 2022-23 (Local Authority Designated Officer), the CDOP Annual Report 2022-23 (Child Death Overview Panel), the IRO Annual Report 2022-23 (Independent Reviewing Officers); Young Advisors' feedback about sexual violence; the impact of training; and Independent Scrutiny reports by Jenny Pearce (Mental and Sexual Health, draft findings from the Transitional Safeguarding report). At each meeting there is feedback from the Educational Strategic Partnership, Early Help Partnership Board, the Adolescent Safeguarding Strategic Board and the HSCP working groups, with data exception reports. Havering Safeguarding Young Advisors have attended to feedback on their local engagement work, and there have been other presentations of young people's voice and experience.

The Partnership receives regular reports from the following strategic groups:

Adolescent Safeguarding Strategic Board

The Adolescent Safeguarding Strategic Board (ASSB) is chaired by the Director of Starting Well, although adult agencies also attend. This year the operational and strategic oversight of exploitation of young people was reviewed and an HSCP Exploitation protocol was published in summer 2023. As a result of scrutinising missing children data, the ASSB recommended a multi-agency audit of missing young people, which took place in July 2023.

Early Help Partnership Board

The Early Help Partnership Board (EHPB) has been in operation since January 2018 with the aim of providing strategic buy-in and oversight of the 0-25 Early Help offer across the Partnership. The multi-agency strategy was refreshed in 2022. There were three meetings this year, which considered amongst other issues A&E data, immunisations, the work of the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer, who coordinates investigations into allegations made regarding those who volunteer or work with children), and parent volunteers. Impact this year has led to the training of 19 volunteers to work in local Children's Centres, training for staff at Queen's Hospital around Early Help, and this year seeing the highest number of children so far, engaged in the Dads' Club. The Early Help Strategy will be refreshed in 2024-25.

Education Strategic Partnership

The membership of the Education Strategic Partnership (ESP) is drawn from senior leaders across all of Havering's schools, colleges, Early Year's providers, independent schools, and other education settings. The group usually meets termly and is chaired by the Local Authority's Assistant Director for Education Services, Trevor Cook, who represents Education as the fourth statutory partner on the HSCP Executive. This year the ESP has considered the role of Police Schools' Officers, local learning, escalations the findings of the DVMARAC, CSA, Core Group Meetings, Private Fostering, Young Carers, Operation Encompass. The ESP reports back to reach Board meeting. Representatives of the ESP, Trevor Cook and the Safeguarding Leads attend the HSCP meetings.

Education Services are currently reviewing Safer Recruitment across all educational provisions. 20 local schools have worked with the ESP to explore piloting Student Voice which draws information together regarding Contextual Safeguarding.

The platform supports both information gathering around issues that negatively impact safety in the home, school and local community (including local transport links) and two-way communication around the impact of changes made by school/community leaders to improve safety i.e. 'You said – we did, has that helped/to what extent?'

DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) network meetings are offered half-termly alternating between online and in-person. Topics covered this year have included substance abuse awareness and the Wize-Up service, (substance misuse treatments) the role of Police Schools' Officers and Child Sexual Abuse.

Schools are signposted to complete key audits and training including in relation to Online Safety, Filtering and Monitoring, Cybersecurity and Prevent. During the year, there was a positive meeting between secondary schools and the Met Police BCU Safer Neighbourhood Team.

DfE 'Gender-questioning children' draft guidance, published in December 2023, has been distributed to schools with the link to participate in the consultation. Schools have been encouraged to use their own judgement as to what is best for pupils on a case-by-case basis whilst the Havering Transgender Guidance, updated in 2023, is still recommended as good practice.

The Havering version of the Prevent audit was developed and distributed to schools. Updated Prevent guidance came into force in January 2024 and the LA Prevent & Hate Crime Co-ordinator and LGfL Prevent specialist led a themed DSL network in February. 56 schools/educational institutions have accessed the 2023/24 whole-school safeguarding training video which was updated in line with KCSIE 2023.

The HES Safeguarding resource area acts as a central repository for schools to access safeguarding policies, key guidance and useful links – this is well used with 829 views by school staff between July 2023 and January 2024. Development is underway of an additional Safer Recruitment focussed resource area.

Case Review Working Group

This standing joint HSAB and HSCP working group began in September 2022 and is chaired by the Designated Professionals Paul Archer and Joy Maguire, NEL ICB. The group meets quarterly in person and considers serious incidents and learning. The group is enthusiastically attended, and has considered oversight of Domestic Homicides from autumn 2023, to ensure a good join up of local learning.

The meetings this year have included discussion about Professional Curiosity; feedback from the National Panel and our local actions from learning; learning from the Wennington Fire, 2022; the Ofsted Escalation Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) learning; the CDOP Annual Report; the provision of Insulin by carers, and pressure ulcer guidance.

Havering made 2 notifications for the 1,574 Children in Need population statistic. Like the National picture, our notifications were mainly for younger children, often with Domestic Abuse and parental Mental Health concerns in the family background, and disproportionately affecting children from a Black, Asian and dual heritage background. There were 90 notifications in London for a Child in Need population of 70,960. Following advice from the National Panel, we have sought to give stronger pen pictures of the children involved in our review reports.

The Partnership carried out 2 Rapid Reviews and 4 Serious Incident Reviews during this financial year. All children considered were female and highlighted the following themes: the vulnerability of females, and young children; children moving across borough boundaries; the impact on parenting of parental mental health and substance use issues; the importance of school and early years' attendance; and the impact of neglect, including unsafe sleeping. We continue to see the effects of COVID-19 and the isolation which entailed for families.

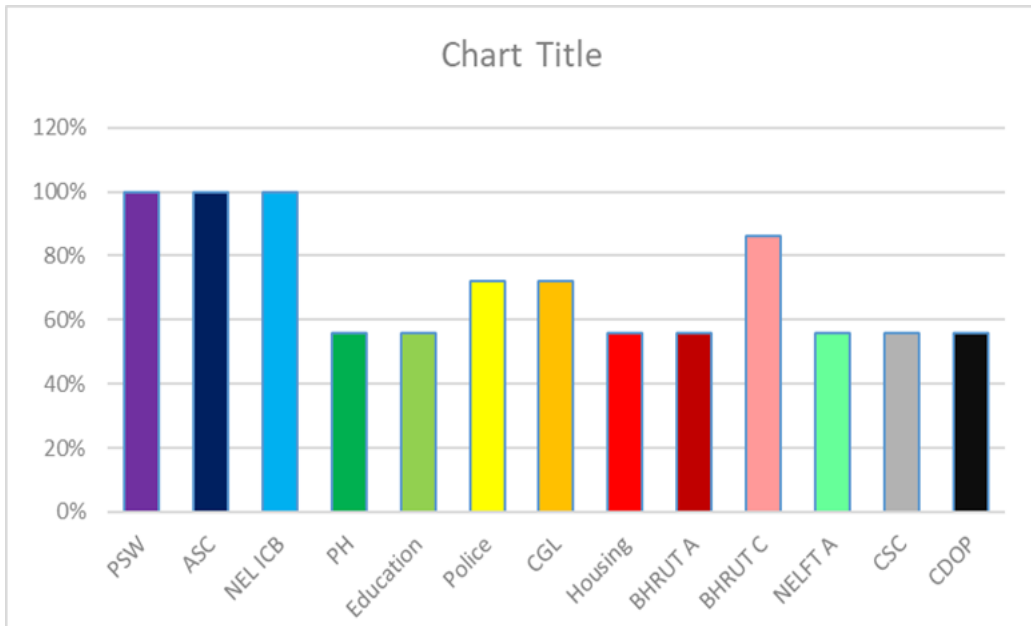
This year we completed two Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs). The first took the form of Independent Scrutiny of a local area, following the death by stabbing of a young man in 2022. The learning can be found below. The second CSPR is yet to be published and was undertaken in relation to the serious injury of a young child, Henry, in 2022. The review involved four boroughs or counties within the UK, as the family moved around the country with Henry, returning to live in Havering, "under the radar", following legal proceedings. The reviewer was Kathy Webster. There is emerging learning around the process for ending Supervision Orders and their oversight by Child in Need plans, families who are transient, and information sharing with Early Years' Settings.

We began a CSPR regarding two children from two unrelated families, Hope and Sky this summer, with Yvonne Anarfi, Independent Reviewer. This review considers the neglect of two young children in families, who moved between boroughs to live in Havering. There were familial concerns of Domestic Abuse and their main carers had vulnerabilities. Housing colleagues have fed back emerging learning to their Team and placed safety information on the Council website for residents.

Havering's figure for Reviews is slightly higher than the London average, and the National Panel found all HSCP Reviews to be appropriately undertaken. This is a good indication of the multi-agency system's judgement regarding local serious incidents.

CRWG attendance has been stable by relevant partners and this year now includes an Early Years' Lead, Celia Freeth, Early Years' Quality Assurance Manager, Havering Council.

CRWG Attendance Table 2022-24



Learning and Improvement

This section explains how the HSCP has learnt from serious incidents and applied the learning in order to improve services.

Rapid Reviews

In order to capitalise on the learning from local Rapid Reviews, a Learning and Improvement Tracker has been developed which follows all the recommendations and is reviewed at the CRWG and at bi-annual action plan accountability meetings, chaired by the HSCP Chair.

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) is a local priority and following the escalation of a case by Ofsted during the Children's Services' Inspection in Autumn 2023, we carried out a learning event in January 2024 with partners. We identified delays to the CSA medicals taking place due to a lack of capacity in North East London, and letters highlighting this matter have been sent to NHS London, and the Executive of the LSCP.

There were actions to ensure that physical health signs and symptoms of potential CSA were given the necessary support. Since this time, the CSA Hub pathway has been updated and relaunched as the Sunrise Hub, and the Manager has provided training in March 2024, which will be repeated in November 2024. This has led to more children being identified at risk of CSA and case consultations taking place to take work forward.

The NSPCC has chosen to sponsor Havering from June 2024-October 2025 for the Talk Pants Campaign, to support children aged 3-11 with messages about their bodies being private for them. The Launch took place in June 2024 and already we can see growing knowledge of Talk Pants, with initiatives run this summer by HAF, (Holiday Activity and Food Programme), Children's Centres, Libraries, and a stall at the MIND Family Fest in July. Local news outlets have run the story. Most schools have already collected their kit bags for Talk Pants Week of 14th October. As a means to support this initiative, Healthwatch is carrying out a survey aiming to find out grandparents' understanding of the Pants Campaign, and to raise awareness of it, for which we are very grateful. The Healthwatch initiative will be carried out in October 2024, to coincide with expected national publicity from the NSPCC. A Healthwatch working group will also be looking at the mental health issues arising from the campaign.

The learning from local serious incidents has particularly highlighted the theme of the vulnerability of infants and the risks around transfer of children's support and communication networks, as families move between boroughs and counties to Havering. This theme was taken back to the Executive and Partnership meetings, by the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children. As a result, we have begun a monthly multi-agency audit of transfer of care during the Spring 2024 in Havering- this audit will consider children from a variety of backgrounds- Youth Offending, under 5s, Children in Need and Early Help. This theme has also led to renewed emphasis on the role of Early Years' Settings, who have amended their guidance to ensure families include as much information as possible when children are enrolled.

Learning from Independent Scrutiny reports is included below.

We noted themes around children missing education and health appointments and so a "Was Not Brought" 7 minute briefing was circulated. These children also often had elements of Neglect in their presentation and history and as a result the HSCP Executive decided to continue Neglect as a local priority during this financial year, following a recommendation from the CRWG. The Neglect Strategy is shortly to be refreshed. Another theme has been the use of Ambulances to gain emergency health support, instead of driving to the Emergency Department. We have published advice in our newsletter.

One family, where we reviewed a serious incident, had some Traveller family members and so we had attendance from the Community Coordinators at our HSCP in May 2023, to talk about outreach to the Traveller and Roma community in Havering, with a case study. As you read below, you will see issues of disproportionality in terms of School Suspensions and Elective Home Education for this group, that is being addressed as part of our priorities this year around Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

Children's Quality and Effectiveness Working Group (Q&EWG)

During 2023-24, this working group was chaired by Lynne Adams, Director of Quality, CSC and Pippa Ward, Assistant Director of Safeguarding, NELFT. The group holds a risk register, which is reviewed every quarter. Risks overseen during the year have been the Initial Health Assessment (IHA) timeliness for children in care; PELC (Partnership of East London Cooperatives Ltd); case recording at BHRUT A&E; and referrals to the CSA Hub.

This rag rating has continued a focus on significant improvement areas in our safeguarding system. At the time of writing, we have seen an improvement in the use of the CSA Hub, and thereby an increase in CSA medicals and consultations; and safeguarding system improvements at PELC. The case recording matter has

been resolved at BHRUT. As you will read below, we continue to focus on the timeliness of IHAs.

We carried out an 8 week Core Group Meeting Survey in the Summer 2023; 10 people responded from a good range of professions - Childminder, BHRUT, Maternity, Probation, Nursery, Havering Council, preschool and an out of school club. Feedback was very varied about how much professionals knew about Core Groups. This has then led to the development of a Task & Finish Group and a multi-agency protocol by Thilini Perera, HSP Coordinator and Deborah Branch, Starting Well.

This year the Q&EWG has discussed the MCA (Mental Capacity Act) Champions, CAMHS data, the LADO Annual Report 2022-23, local sexual health services and data at BHRUT, including issues of disproportionality; MASH data, CGL Substance Use data, local multi-agency safeguarding training, missing and exploitation protocols, the quality assurance of Elective Home Education services, the local Child Sexual Abuse dataset, recruitment and retention of staff, Met Police child safeguarding data, Private Fostering, our local Independent Scrutiny, Young Carers and local audits.

Implementing Neglect as a priority for the Partnership and wider awareness raising has led to a positive impact with a continued rise in referrals to MASH for Neglect and the increasing use of the local Neglect Toolkit on a multi-agency basis.

In March 2023, a multi-agency audit theme we carried out across the BHR footprint, was Early Help from a Neglect perspective. In Havering we looked at two children, male and female teenagers, using an Appreciative Inquiry methodology. There was a Tri-borough moderation meeting in May 2023, which evidenced very good practice for Havering regarding patience and tenacity in working with families, use of the HSCP Neglect Toolkit, and supportive supervision.

The group also considered findings from the DVMARAC audit in October 2023 (see below for improvements to the system following this audit).

This year's Section 11 safeguarding self-evaluations' focus was on Health Providers giving safeguarding assurance to the Partnership. We await returns from local Pharmacies, CGL and NELFT. BHRUT will be presenting their report in the October 2024 meeting.

From the School S175 safeguarding self-evaluation audits, it is evident that the recurrent themes schools are dealing with include: the effect of poverty and homelessness on the mental and physical health of parents/carers and therefore children; the impact of acrimonious parental separation and domestic abuse; the number of children presenting with SEMH needs; and direct or indirect Neglect. Most schools are engaged in this Section 175 annual audit, overseen by the School DSL Safeguarding Leads, Carol Rockey and Michelle Wain, apart from a number of secondary schools. We plan to address their engagement as the year goes on.

In June 2023, the Q&EWG carried out a multi-agency MASH audit. The audit escalated one situation, for review, and agencies identified further actions as we met for the Partnership. Findings included ensuring:

- One agency develops and holds the child's lived experience, so that the child and family do not need to keep retelling their stories;
- Allegations of physical abuse lead to a child protection medical and strategy meeting, whether or not there were physical injuries;
- The rationale for decision making is clear in all agencies and case summaries provide helpful background;
- Closure of agency involvement is communicated with all agencies in writing prior to closure to see if

there are any further concerns, and meetings are routinely held to develop contingency and stepdown plans;

- Potential risks, such as Modern Slavery, Domestic Abuse, and no recourse to public funds are routinely considered with professional curiosity.

In January 2024, the MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) began regular partner online auditing of MASH referrals, led by Service Manager Farida Patel.

In July 2023 the group also oversaw a multi-agency audit on missing young people and children. The hybrid Missing Audit considered 6 local young people, who had multiple missing episodes, including a young person placed in Havering by another Local Authority, young people living at home and in Local Authority Care, and a Young Person, who had been missing for many months.

The audit group considered:

- Risk Management Plan
- IRO footprint
- Health (passport, annual assessments, SEND, sexual health etc)
- Supervision and management oversight
- Information sharing
- Issues of disproportionality
- Transitions' Planning

The meeting identified good practice for three of the young people, including outstanding work to support the young person placed in Havering by another Local Authority, who had significant mental health concerns. As a result of the audit, a review Team Around the Family meeting took place for all the children, and NELFT agreed to review its engagement with the younger siblings.

Child Protection Leads' Meeting

The Child Protection Leads' Meeting is a multi-agency group which meets 12 weekly. This year, it has been chaired by the Principal Social Worker, Kate Dempsey, Janet James, Schools' Admissions, Inclusions and Attendance Manager, and is now chaired by Lee Clegg, Schools' Inclusions' Lead and Alternative Provision Commissioner. The group was formed to provide a regular forum for professionals who work together to protect children in Havering by further developing working practices and greater collaboration.

The group considers key strategic multi-agency issues, and this year has discussed local serious incident notifications, school attendance, core group meetings, schools which commission their own School Nursing support, psychosocial meetings, children missing education in early years' settings, multi-agency complex case discussion group, Police Safer Schools' Officers, and GP involvement in sick notes and medical attendance support. As a result of this work, Lee attended a GP Forum to discuss medical notes; discussions around perplexing presentations and fabricated and induced illness, led to Dr Elizabeth Adamson, Designated Doctor, leading the network in holding a face to face forum across NEL on the topic in November 2023, which 40 people attended; and Jay Brown, Named Nurse BHRUT setting up a regular multi-agency meeting to look at local cases of concern at BHRUT.

Review of local Multi-Agency Safeguarding Activity

Need, Risk and Demand

The following data regarding safeguarding children activity demonstrates comparative local levels of need, risk and demand over time.

- Contacts to Children's Social Care remain at the same level as last year at 12,120 and referrals have fallen slightly by 150.
- In the past financial year 2023-24, Domestic Abuse contacts to the Front Door have more than doubled to 2,300, and Children's Mental Health contacts grown by a third.
- Neglect contacts are more than four times higher, which could indicate the impact of the Neglect Strategy and Toolkit launched in May 2022.
- Child Sexual Abuse contacts have fallen and we continue to focus on this Partnership priority.

Some of these rises could be seen as a result of greater demands on families, but also could be attributed to the targeted work on safeguarding we have undertaken as a Partnership this year, leading to better identification of concerns. We have seen more young children being accommodated into care, which could be due to a greater identification of rising risk for young children, such as around Non Accidental Injury or it could relate to the rising population of young children in the borough. We discuss this multi-agency picture in each quarterly Quality and Effectiveness Working Group. One NEL ICB impact locally has been the engagement of GPs in the Iris Domestic Abuse project this year, which should provide greater awareness for surgeries and greater safety for victims and families.

Disproportionality

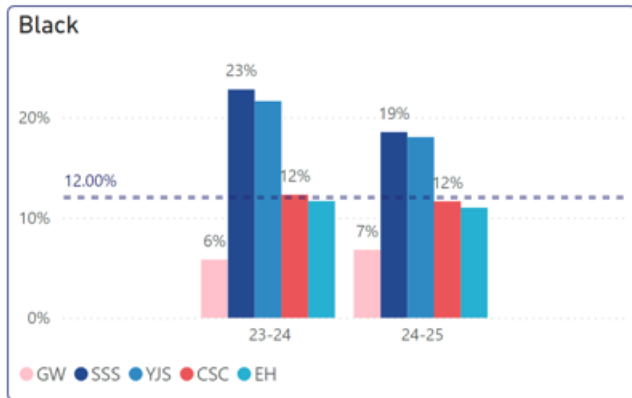
In terms of disproportionality, Havering mirrors national data, with those of a Black Caribbean and Black African background, those living in more deprived areas, and those with low incomes being more likely to receive safeguarding children support or to be suspended from school. This year the Independent Scrutineer undertook some local work to look at how these issues impact young people in a location. Our 3 Reviews this year have featured two children from a Minority Ethnic background. During this year, the Starting Well JSNA (Joint Strategic needs Assessment) was published, which has helped to pinpoint some priorities and areas of discrepancies /disproportionalities.

We know that in terms of poverty and inequality, some members of our community will be affected more than others and the cost of living crisis has placed further pressures on our most vulnerable families. We sent out financial and Housing information as a response to the rising pressures people are facing and see this as one of the factors in the rising safeguarding activity we have experienced.

White British people are over-represented in many aspects of our multi-agency data, including young people presenting at BHRUT for Sexual Health Services. We know that there is more reported Domestic Abuse in areas of greater poverty and need in the borough. There is a focus on reporting and we look forward to more people aged over 16-17 being referred for the DVMARAC.

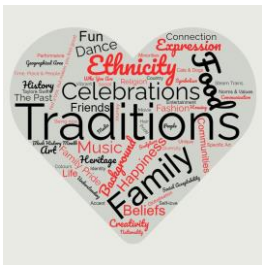
In comparison to our statistical neighbours and London averages, we see fewer children having child protection support or going into local authority care. More children from our more deprived wards access YJS and CSC. Black children disproportionately access many services, and face School exclusions, rather than

suspensions.



As a means of promoting Cultural Competency and parity of responses to need, the HSP Published an Equalities' Statement across the Partnership in October 2023, during Black History month, and has been providing training around Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. This is to support practitioners identifying protected characteristics in their assessments, as they can be strengthened across all agencies.

A Local Cultural Educational Partnership (LCEP) piece of work was undertaken in Havering schools in 2023 to look at engagement with arts and culture and its links with wellbeing, supported by Queen's Theatre. Seven groups took part, the Youth Council, Towers Junior School, Sacred Heart, Scotts Primary School, Squirrels Heath Junior, Havering Sixth Form and St Edwards, providing 130 responses in total.



Family Help

Family and / or Early Help is one of the ways to support parental vulnerabilities and mitigate their effect on children in the home. There are a number of strands of this preventive work, including Youth Offending Services, identifying Private Fostering, supporting Young Carers and those with family substance use concerns. continue to see strong work in Early Help Services. In 2023-24, 35% of contacts were progressed to Early Help and 95% of Early Help assessments were completed in 25 working days. In the forthcoming year, Starting Well will be working on a process for other agencies to lead Early Help work with families and to be Lead Professionals, if they are able.

Lauren Satchell, Supporting Families' Manager writes, "The Supporting Families Programme worked with 401 nominations and evidenced the "turning around" of 290 families in the financial year 2023-2024. At the close of the financial year 2023-24, they were able to successfully evidence positive outcomes for these 290 families, out of an overall target of 361 (80.3%). This is a under submission compared to the previous financial

year, where 100% was met, and could be due to a number of factors:

An increase in targets set by the Supporting Families' governing body has seen a large number of Local Authorities not reach their 100% target;

The implementation of the new financial framework requires the identification and evidencing of a higher number of criteria families have to meet to be eligible under the Programme;

Families may not have met the required regression checks, 6 months post closure, when the claim window opens;

A lack of evidence within the case file to progress to a successful claim – an action to improve recordings is included within the OFSTED improvement plan.

This year 2024/2025, the Programme had an overall target of evidencing significant, sustained outcomes for 385 (funded) families.”

There has been a significant amount of work to raise the profile of Private Fostering with the partnership and in the community. Private Fostering is where a child is cared for by others, without a legal agreement, for over 28 days. This practice is not illegal but requires a statutory assessment to ensure that the child is safe and the placement is appropriate. These situations can be hard to identify as a multi- agency group. In 2022-23, Private Fostering was identified as a factor in 21 CSC assessments and in 17 assessments in 2023-24 . As a result we began to request termly reports from local schools regarding Private Fostering early in 2023.

In this financial year, 46 schools gave feedback about their own work in raising awareness at School regarding Private Fostering and Young Carers in Spring 2024. 6 referrals were made to MASH. We have seen that there is a direct correlation between raising issues in Staff meetings and then identifying children. We plan to continue to focus on Private Fostering to raise awareness.

This year, the HSCP and HSAB publicised the referral process and support given to local Imago Young Carers and included this topic in our newsletters and posters. The Q&EWG then scrutinised their work at the end of 2022 and in April 2024. The impact has been positive. The Project is now working with 236 Young Carers, an increase for each Quarter of this year. Each month sees a steady referral rate of approx. 20 children and young people. No children are on the waiting list, and only one referral was inappropriate this year, out of 91.

As a Partnership, we have asked schools to publicise Young Carers in their staff meetings- one school had identified 12. In total 98 Young Carers were identified. The Partnership sent follow ups to 18 schools which had not raised the issue of Private Fostering and Young Carers in staff meetings to ask them to do so, which they have done.

Young Carers have been in more regular contact with Havering Adult Carers and they have both made referrals into Adults Carers' Services for some 17-18 year old's, and received referrals for siblings and under 18 Young Carers. Young Carers has also developed some good relationships with schools since the DSL Forum meetings in the spring 2023, and they set up young carers' groups and ran staff awareness sessions with 2 High Schools in September 2023. There is a tasks to raise referrals from GPs, Housing, Education Welfare and Health providers.

Youth Offending

The rate of first time entrants to the Criminal Justice System aged 10-17 is 106.5 per 100,000 in 2022, in Havering, similar to the England average (148.9) and better than London figures (166.3). The YJS cohort is small but children aged 14 account for a third of offences. We have seen significant increases in cases coming to children's social care involving: Domestic Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Gangs and group violence. The proportion of assessments involving CSE or Gangs has doubled since 2018-19.

The total YJS cohort has decreased significantly over the past five years; predominantly individuals are open for violence and robbery offences. No individuals have been open for burglary or drug supply offences, despite how frequently these offences come up at Risk Panels.

Havering has a relatively low number of violence-related offences affecting Under 25s compared to the regional averages, ranking 23rd in 2021 and 24th in 2022 among the 32 London boroughs. Similarly, the rate per 100k population is positive, although in 2022 at 645 offences per 100k, it was worse than neighbouring borough Redbridge. Havering has the highest proportion of violence and exploitation offences involving U25s in London (50.4% of V&E offences involve at least one individual U25). More of our violence is youth violence than any other borough. Specific concerns can be seen in the rankings for sexual offences, although the picture improved between 2021 (ranked 13th) and 2022 (ranked 16th).

Weapon possession is a key concern; we have gone from 18th to 16th for weapon possession over the period, and the scale and severity of weapon possession in the borough that comes up repeatedly among professionals. There was a 19% increase of weapon-enabled offences between 2022 and 2021, largely driven by increases within robbery, ABH and threats to kill offences. 97% of these were knife-related incidents



The victims of serious violence are broadly evenly split by gender, although this changes depending on the offence. Most sexual offence victims are female, most robbery victims are male. Male victims are more likely to be under 18, whereas female victims are aged 18-24. Perpetrators of serious violence are more likely to be male, and under 25. Robbery was predominantly committed by those under 18, whereas weapon possession was more evenly split between children and young adults 18-25.

42 children became First Time Entrants (FTEs) to the Youth Justice Service this year, a rise against 32 last year. There was a particular spike in January 2024. However, due to our small numbers, this was particularly noticeable. 75 young people were diverted from the Youth Justice System and offered alternative support. There were 7 Triages compared to 28 last year; and 31 Community Resolutions compared to 47 last year, of which the vast majority (34 compared to 45 last year) were for Substance Misuse and the young people were referred to Wize Up. The current trajectory remains stable over the year with 6 children reoffending in total, against 5 last year; and 4 children in Custody, compared to 3 last year. In this area, we see outcomes out of proportion to the population demographic with more Black and Dual Heritage children being engaged with Criminal Justice Services as First Time Entrants; more Young People from a dual heritage Black and White were recorded to be re-offending; and more Black and White young people had custodial sentences compared to the demographic. This remains a priority area of work for the YJS.

Youth Justice Outcomes by Population

| | White | Black | Dual | Asian | Other | N/K |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-----|
| Population | 65% | 12% | 8% | 9% | 1% | 1% |
| First Time Entrants | 44% | 22% | 23% | 6% | - | - |
| Custody | 83% | 17% | - | - | - | - |
| Re-offending | 62% | 8% | 30% | | - | - |

The Community Safety Team has been providing engagement events this year to create diversions from crime.

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <p>Farnham Road, Harold Hill</p> | <p>100</p>  |
| <p>Havering College</p> | <p>80</p>  |

Contacts and Referrals to Children’s Social Care

A contact is made to the front door MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) if there are concerns for a child, and if it meets the criteria, it then becomes a referral. Contacts this year are much the same as the last two years, at around 12,000. Similar numbers of referrals have ensued of around 3,352. Chief concerns are around Domestic Abuse, behavioural issues, Neglect, Mental Health and Physical Abuse. There has been rises for Neglect and Child Sexual Abuse, our priorities, which illustrates the impact of our training and local learning; Homelessness remains a significantly high figure like last year. The rate of families with dependent children or pregnant women being found to be unintentionally homeless and accepted for assistance was higher in Havering 2.5 per 1,000 than England (1.7 per 1,000) but lower than London (3.2 per 1,000). This links in with our multi-agency audit on the Transfer of Care. There has been a significant drop by almost half of concerns for socially unacceptable behaviour.

Top Ten Contacts 2024

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|--|------------|
| Domestic Abuse | 2280 | Parent / Carer Mental Health | 515 |
| Behaviour Support | 1767 | Emotional Abuse | 277 |
| Neglect | 1833 | Homelessness | 391 |
| Physical Abuse | 1061 | Sexual Abuse | 432 |
| Child Mental Health | 563 | Socially unacceptable behaviour | 164 |

Prior to the pandemic in 2018-19, the same percentage of contacts became referrals (450 per 10,000) as in 2023-24-evidencing that a steady conversion rate of referrals to contacts has continued, despite increased demand, which also suggests a good multi-agency understanding of the threshold to refer to the MASH. In 20-23-241,954 families' contacts were progressed to Early Help, 37%. 178 Early Help interventions stepped up to statutory services this year. In Havering we promote the pan London threshold or matrix of need.

This year re-referrals have fluctuated been between 29 and 15%. Havering's current repeat referral rate is 19%, slightly lower than the London average, national or statistical neighbour figures. We carried out a multi-agency audit of 6 MASH referrals in June 2023 and June 2024, please see below.

Section 47 Enquiries

| 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 818 | 534 | 703 | 710 | 1,174 | 1,063 | 1,255 |

Contacts can then progress to Section 47, Child Protection enquiries. Figures for Section 47 child protection enquiries have fluctuated over the years as evident above, but we see a significant rise for 2021-24. The rate of Section 47 enquiries (per 10,000 of the child population) is currently higher than it has been in Havering at any point since 2015-16. We are currently working with starting well to develop oversight of Strategy meetings. A multi-agency strategy meeting investigates the child protection risks and will then recommend an Initial Child Protection Conference should take place. This is where a Child Protection Plan would be made.

67% of Child Protection Conferences took place within the statutory requirement of 15 working days, a fall from 78% last year. This has been a fairly consistent figure over several years and is a stubborn issue for us to resolve. However, at the time of writing they are at 92% timeliness, following interventions by Child Protection Chairs. Core Group Meetings then work on the plan as a multi-agency group with the family. 74% of Core Group Meetings are held within timescales, much the same figure as last year; we will be working together to strengthen this indicator this year.

Children subject to a Child Protection Plans (individual children) 2017-2024

| 2017 -18 | 2018 -19 | 2019 -20 | 2020 -21 | 2021 -22 | 2022 -23 | 2023-24 |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|
| 215 | 207 | 155 | 200 | 247 | 270 | 299 |

Child Protection Plan categories

In March 2024, there were 299 children subject to child protection plans - a rise from 270 at the same time last year, and 247 the year before. There were 155 plans for the category of Neglect, which accounted for 52% of our child protection plans. This is above the London average where 40%. Emotional Abuse is a key signifier in situations of Domestic Abuse and we will be encouraging practitioners to consider using the category for under 5s of the risk of Physical Abuse in those situations as the year progresses. A small number of children of children have been subject to a plan for the risk of Sexual Abuse during the year. We continue to prioritise our work on Child Sexual Abuse. We are working to ensure invitations, Child Protection plans and minutes are distributed to partners in a timely manner and that there is good quoracy for Conferences. A new Conference Dissent guidance was produced with the support of partners in summer 2024. 48% of plans are for males and females and 2% for unborn babies. Approx. 3% of plans are repeated within 2 years, which is a positive and low figure. There are a very small number of plans for Children with Disabilities and this is an area of focus for improvement as these children are 3-4 times more likely to face abuse and neglect.

This table shows a snapshot of Child Protection Plans as at 31st March 2024.

| Category | Number |
|--------------------|--------|
| Physical Abuse | 3 |
| Neglect | 155 |
| Emotional Abuse | 138 |
| Child Sexual Abuse | 3 |

The majority of plans last for 3 -6 months, and dip sampling has taken place by Starting Well to ensure thresholds are appropriate.

There were 532 children subject to Child in Need plans for 2023-24, against 645 last year. 93% of reviews have been carried out in timescale.

| Duration | Children |
|--------------|----------|
| 0 – 3 months | 86 |
| 3 – 6 months | 72 |
| 6 – 9 months | 61 |

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| 9 – 12 months | 27 |
| 12 – 18 months | 26 |
| 18 – 24 months | 9 |
| 24 months plus | 18 |
| Total | 299 |

Child Sexual Abuse

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) is one of our Partnership priorities. During the year, we have considered local CSA data regularly, which has helped to clarify our local understanding. Leaders in Police and CSC scrutinised Police investigations to ensure referrals to the MASH have taken place as required. We carried out a learning review in January 2024, following an Ofsted escalation; some of our local learning highlighted a lack of capacity at a NEL NHS London level for CSA medicals to be carried out in a timely manner, and escalations have been sent to NHS London and the London Safeguarding Children Partnership. We identified that partners should share understanding of possible health and physical indicators of CSA; and ensure all involved parties are included in Strategy Meetings.

Responses to CSA was added to our Risk Register in April 2022 as red, as there have been very few referrals into the CSA Hub or Pediatrician involvement in Strategy Meetings to discuss individual children. This picture has now improved. We can see increased contacts about CSA concerns this year and a small rise in children, who are subject to Child Protection plans for CSA but a decline in identification of peer on peer abuse and CSE, and subsequent assessments. Tiger Services offer support around Harmful Sexual Behaviour and CSA.



Referral activity into the Sunrise Hub:

Health assessment referrals:

| LA | Number | Referrals from previous year for comparison |
|--------------|------------|---|
| Havering | 25 | 19 |
| Total | 174 | 158 |

TIGER referrals:

| LA | Number | Referrals from previous year for comparison |
|--------------|------------|---|
| Havering | 34 | 41 |
| Total | 197 | 207 |

| LA | Number of consultations |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| Havering | 38 |
| Total | 222 |

| LA | Number of strats invited to |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Havering | 24 |
| Total | 152 |

The Sunrise Hub Multi-Disciplinary Team has a current offer of free training being delivered jointly with the Havens to the Safeguarding Children Partnerships across NEL.

Training and awareness sessions delivered:

| LA | Number of sessions | Number of participants |
|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Havering | 1 | 15 |
| Total | 14 | 263 |

In Spring 2023, BHRUT reviewed its data around Sexual Health Services – Black and Ethnic Minority children had far fewer attendances at the Hospital Sexual Health Clinic than White children. This could mean that there is less sexual contact in this demographic, or it could be that some groups of children do not know how to access sexual health services or feel barriers in approaching. We reviewed this data again in the Q&E Working Group in January 2024; there had been little change. Actions were made for NELFT School Nurses to promote Sexual Health Services; and the Independent Scrutineer considered this area this year too, please see below.

Ethnicity and gender for contraception services and Sexual Health Services remains the same as the previous year. More females access Sexual Health Services and more males the C Card (Condoms). There has been a large rise in 17 year olds attending both Family Planning and Sexual Health clinics. Disproportionate numbers of children from a dual heritage background are missing. For 13% ethnicity of young people who attended, was not obtained. We will be working together to highlight the importance of recording and identity.

During the year, 382, offences were recorded, with 51 sexual offences, against 504 offences last year, of which 77 were sexual offences. This drop in the recording of offences may relate to slightly different time periods and the introduction of the Met Police Connect system to replace Police Merlins. We are continuing to look into this figure and identify good practice.

| Child Sexual Abuse | Contacts | Assessments | CP Plans |
|--------------------|--|----------------------------------|----------|
| 2023-2024 | 748 (CSA 432, HSB 146, Peer on Peer abuse 133, CSE 37) | 203 (CSA 70, CSE 64) | 3 |
| 2022 - 2023 | 824 (CSA 368, HSB 146, Peer on Peer abuse 231, CSE 79) | 256 (CSA 129, CSE 127) | - |
| 2021 - 2022 | 399 | 150 | 2 |
| 2020 - 2021 | 235 | 101 | 7 |

CSA Awareness training was delivered to multi-agency partners including developing "Let's Talk about Sex" training to help professionals overcome fears of talking about sex and sexual abuse. A flow chart has been

provided regarding organizing CSA medicals.

The Independent Scrutineer, Prof Jenny Pearce, OBE, under commission from the HSCP Executive scrutinised Mental and Sexual Health Services in Havering, publishing a report in January 2024 [here](#)

Jenny found that for young people aged under 18 years, there were more attended mental health services' appointments in Havering, than for those living in London or England. Children not being brought to appointments ranged from 16-22% of cases. CAMHS had a robust Was Not Brought procedure. Havering was investing more money into each contact and the borough had shorter waiting times than the national average, and were seeing more children face to face. There was also a fast track pathway for Children in Care. There were however significant challenges, for example around accessing Tier 4 beds, the workforce was lower than the average; children from an Asian and Black background were under-represented compared to the demographic and children from a White background were over-represented.

Havering had not yet fully adopted the London iThrive model and there was a need to improve feedback to GPs, who were the main referrers. GPs were aiming to expand services for children who did not meet CAMHS criteria and offer more support to those waiting for appointments.

Sexual Health services were not fully accessible to young people in Havering. Jenny commented on the survey undertaken with 10 schools in 2023 regarding wellbeing (see above). Themes outlined included that sexual harassment, bullying and violence was a problem, a substantial minority noted that they experienced discrimination and many were looking for support with drug use, sexual health and relationships. The action plans largely sit with NEL ICB and NELFT. Public Health is working on a Sexual Health JSNA during autumn 2024, which will include learning from this Scrutiny.

The Havering Safeguarding Young Advisors helped to gain the voice of local young people for this Independent Scrutiny. This is a summary of views gained:

- Personal hygiene: Sanitary products (free sanitary products) *'having like a food bank for personal hygiene stuff – when I have a limited budget food takes priority'. Having Well-being care packages.*
- Sexual Health: need more young person friendly outlets to provide sexual health advice, condoms etc.
- Young person friendly information on what happens when you have a sexual health test – some young people expressed anxiety of not knowing what would happen, with some telling of 'horror stories' they had heard
- Taking us to the doctors *'Living with a foster carer means that they help us with this, but it is hard to get an appointment and sometimes we don't bother saying anything because we know that by the time we get an appointment the problem would have probably gone or got worse'.*
- Our older young people shared that *'it can often take a lot of mental energy to make any appointment, and when you're not in a good place, I don't have the energy.*
- Another young person shared how prioritising video calls to care leavers would be useful.
- Relationship with others: *'you know when I called you after my blood test because I just needed to talk to someone about it That's what everyone needs, someone to talk to. For Care Leavers we often have no-one to be our cheer leader, our workers are often not available in that moment, and may not find a call about a blood test important'.*
- Stopping Bullying, including online bullying. *'we all know the things to do if we're being bullied online, stay off Social Media and that, but it's hard and it doesn't make it go away'.*
- We want Self Defence courses

Mental Health

Mental Health is a Partnership priority for both the HSCP and SAB, and this year we have provided training on parental mental health and suicide prevention. Independent scrutiny of mental health was carried out alongside the work on sexual health noted above. CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) have continued to see significant demand. National data shows that 11-15 year olds represented the highest age banding (in 5 year stages) for contacts with mental health services. A CAMHS Strategy is being developed in the borough.

In Havering we saw 200.3 per 100,000 hospital admissions for self-harm in 2022-23, amongst 10-24 year olds, similar to the London average figure. The number of 15 year olds with 3 or more risky behaviours was 15.8% similar to the England average, but higher than the London average of 10%.

We do not have any NELFT Mental Health data and the ICB is helping us to develop this dataset with NELFT at an Executive level.

The Peace of Mind Service (POMS) is run by the Education Inclusion Team to provide emotional support to children in school, sometimes as they wait for CAMHS appointments. Referrals have fluctuated over the three years of operation from 200 in 2021-22 to 231 in 2022-23 and 175 this year. There is no waiting list for POMS and the majority of children are in Years 8-11 and from a White background. The below table outlines ethnicity compared to the local demographic. There might be some opportunities to use POMS as means to avoid school suspensions in primary schools where the trajectory for secondary school might predict the risk of suspensions, as the demographic shows more children from a Traveller, Roma, Black and Dual Heritage background receive suspensions or permanent exclusions (see below).

| | White | Black | Dual | Asian | Other | N/K |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------------------|-----|
| Population | 65% | 12% | 8% | 9% | 1% | 1% |
| POMS | 78% | 2.8% | 10.8% | 6% | 5% (No Traveller / Roma) | 2% |

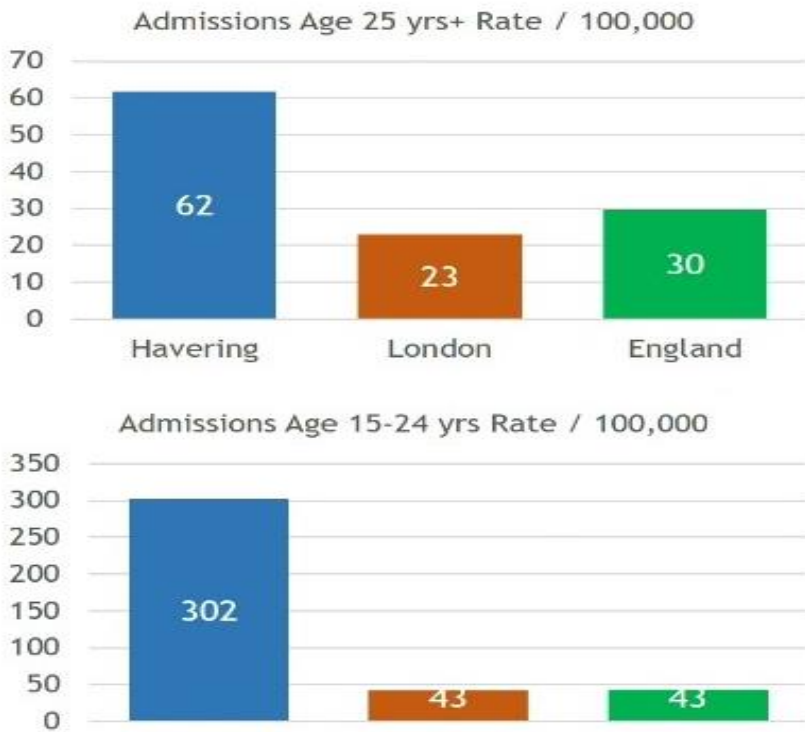
During the year, a new system for the front door for CAMHS referrals was developed in NELFT. We have seen a significant rise of referrals to CAMHS, particularly by GPs, Education and by self- referrals. NELFT has employed a Triage Nurse to support those waiting for appointments this year and has a 5-day follow up for those who attend A&E with mental health concerns. There is a Home Treatment Team for young people. 6 week groups have been developed for those who have concerns of anxiety, depression and low mood. There are two mental health school teams in the borough with 16 staff.

In 2021-22, Havering has had lower than average hospital admissions for self-harm for those aged 10-15 years, according to ONS data. Self-harm hospital admissions were 200.3 per 100,000, comparable to London (229 per 100,000) and lower than that for England (427 per 100,000). In comparison, admission for substance use is higher.

Substance Use

The rates of Hospital admission for substance use for those aged 18-24 years in Havering was higher than London (56.4) and England (81.2) and averages at 117.4 per 100,000- the highest of the London boroughs. Havering also has high figures for adult admissions for substance use. Similarly the admissions are high for substance use for those aged 15-25 years, at 302 per 100,000 for Havering, 43 per 100,000 for London and England.

This year we plan to look more at prevention, linking youth services, and ensuring practitioners are resourced. Wize Up, CGL local substance support provider had stalls at the HSP Conference in November 2023 and the MASH Breakfast in March 2024 to raise awareness with Partners.



Ellen is a 13 year female referred by her school. Her father drinks alcohol in excess, which causes Ellen a lot of anxiety.

Ellen spends a lot of time worrying about dad and takes on the responsibilities of an adult in this regard. Together, we have looked at ways to manage this anxiety. Ellen now decides on a time of day to do her worrying, i.e., 5 pm after school. This is to contain the anxiety so that it does not impact her day-to-day life.

Other intervention looked at where the anxiety resides: usually in the past or future. We encouraged Ellen to list, in her head or aloud, things that she can see, hear, feel, and taste when she feels herself spiralling into worry.

We have also drawn a photo of Ellen, surrounding her with external factors such as dad's drinking. Ellen drew a circle around the picture of herself, a visual representation of a 'protective bubble'. That which is outside of Ellen is outside of her control. Ellen has found these interventions very helpful. Ellen also wears a necklace now to remind her that everything is ok and that she is doing well. CGL Case Study.

Wize Up as part of CGL (Change, Grow Live) provides substance use interventions to young people in Havering. During 2022-23, 113 young people accessed Wize Up, and 248 young people in 2023-24. There has been a growth in children being referred for substance use support through CGL this year quarter by quarter to 73 in Quarter 4 from 53 in Quarter 1, which indicates better multi-agency awareness. Numbers of those with alcohol concerns have ranged from 27% to 73% this year. Those attending assessments have also fluctuated from 18% in September 2023 to 72% in April 2023 and January 2024. Mostly, young people leave their

treatment in an agreed manner, and the 70 that left treatment, they reported reduced use, safer use or abstinence, and improved physical health. Of the 75 young people receiving treatment in 2023-24, 5 did not leave treatment in an agreed way, and 5 re-presented in 6 months to specialist substance use services (it is not clear if this was the same 5). 27 drug awareness sessions were provided to professionals or parents. 13 young people in care have been identified as needing support for substance misuse this year- 3 accepted this intervention. Work has gone on to ensure better reporting during the year.

Key trends this year included the rise of the use of Spice (Synthetic Cannabinoids). CGL responded by providing a lot of work around the dangers of Spice for young people, parents, and professionals. This included workshops, including SEN young people in an Academy, Scouts and the YMCA, information newsletters, updates in all professional meetings and virtual training. There has subsequently been a decline in Spice use during the year.

Voices of service users:

Z for C – “ Thank you for being there for me to talk to and helping me through all of the situations I’ve been in. I really appreciate it and can’t thank you enough”.

‘Just wanted to say thank you for everything you’ve done for me over the last couple of months. You’ve been really helpful and nice to talk to. You helped me on my journey to be sober and I’m very grateful for that and I can’t thank you enough. I’ll see you around the office and we can catch up. Thank you again. P.S enjoy the chocolates’ - N

A’s grandmother stated in a meeting today that she is really pleased with Wize Up. She is grateful for K for working with A and giving him space to open up. A has said to her that he really enjoys going. Nan stated A never opens up to any professionals, but he has to K and for that she is really happy. Nan is grateful he has a professional who he feels comfortable to talk with and open up and thinks it’s really helping.

B also said in our last appointment she has really enjoyed and appreciated K’s time and work with her. B said that K is really good to talk with and has enjoyed her time and company. B stated there is nothing she would change about her time with Wize Up, she thinks the way K works is great as she is just easy to get on with and lets you say what you need to say without judging. B stated that working with Wize Up was really good and she wouldn’t change a thing.

“We are writing to express our gratitude to the work P and Q have carried out with our son Z to date. We have a son who has struggled with many things and started to take the wrong path, the service they have provided is outstanding and without the intervention of this service and the wonderful work carried out by P and Q we could not have kept afloat. The work that they do is priceless and we cannot thank them enough for the help given to our family”. Z’s parents

Hidden Harm

A local challenge is to identify those families where the parents are using substances. CGL works with parents in treatment to ensure all children aged under 5 are registered with Children's Centres, and they will complete the introduction to the Children's Centre, where appropriate. In the last 12 months CGL Hidden Harm Services have supported 844 young people around their parents' substance misuse. Between January 2021 to December 2023 Havering had 432 Adults accessing treatment, who have children.

The Hidden Harm practitioner began work in February 2023 in response to local need. Since then the practitioner has had contact with 60 adults who have children. 18 young people have had one to one sessions. The practitioner is due to begin a parenting workshop with CGL Adults' Services. The practitioner is able to attend multi-agency meetings, and they have instigated a monthly drop in for parents and carers, whose children use substances. From April 2024 onwards all service users who are assessed at the adult service with children, have been automatically booked with the Hidden Harm Practitioner.

Domestic Abuse

DVMARAC

Demand for the Havering DV MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) has increased as result of lockdowns and financial stress. At the start of COVID-19, MARAC meetings were increased from fortnightly to

weekly. 12-14 cases are discussed per week with the cases being much more high risk with higher levels of violence. There are two current Domestic Homicide Reviews taking place involving adult female victims, and a third is being processed.

A multi-agency DV/MARAC audit was carried out in October 2023. 12 victims were considered, 7 of which had children. 26 practitioners and DV/MARAC SPOCs attended. As a result of the audit, the DV/MARAC is working to reinstate links to GPs and Schools, which ensures that Partners have full knowledge of the risks and families are safer as a result. Thresholds were generally well understood, and there was good engagement with IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate) Services, but further resources were needed for the Panel. Areas for improvement included further work was needed to help referrers with logging and responding to protected characteristics, sending timely, more comprehensive referrals, ensuring a safety plan was in place before the DV/MARAC meeting and attending local training. There was consideration of providing one MARAC template across the three borough footprint but unfortunately this is currently not possible.

The MOPAC dataset shows that to May 2024, there were 3,053 Domestic Abuse offences in the rolling year. A rise of 4.2% to January 2024. Sanction Detection rates are down 25.8% in Havering for the year. The DV/MARAC Strategic Group began to meet again from July 2024. There are 30 strategic leads who attend.

Child Abuse Investigations by Police

Child Abuse Investigations are carried out by CAIT (Child Abuse Investigation Team) Officers. During the year, the Met Police BCU (Borough Command Unit) clarified and increased the involvement of Police Officers in strategy meetings and timescales to request support, as demand has been high. Police data was scrutinized in the Quality and Effectiveness meetings in April 2023 and April 2024.

| Police data | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
|--|--|--|
| Modern Slavery | | 46 MS cases for Havering (18 aged under 17) 2 NRM referrals for CSE (23 NRM referrals in total – 17 adults, 6 children) |
| CAIT (Child Abuse Investigation Team) | March 22-Jan 23: 68 CSA offences out of 428 offences | March 23-Feb 24 382 offences, 51 sexual offences (30 non recent sexual offences=1 year before) |

The Quality and Effectiveness Working Group scrutinized Police Powers of Protection given the data of 2023-24 data. This then formed the basis of our children’s MASH audit in July 2024. We found that between March 2022 and January 2024, 94 Police Powers of Protection were undertaken for Havering children. With the following break-down for Havering showing the following, which largely follow London figures, with the largest for the age range 12-17 years: 0-5 years -23; 5-11 years-26; 12-17 years-45.

The most common CAIT investigations in Havering were for common assault, bodily harm and neglect. EA BCU had positive outcomes for 91 offences 2023-24, 16.7%. , which is the highest in the Met Police.

Hate Crime, Radicalisation and Extremism

Hate Crime

MOPAC Figures show an increase year on year of Hate Crime in Havering. There were 613 offences in the last rolling 12 months to January 2024. The most prevalent were racist and then homophobic hate crimes. The Havering figure of 2.3 per 100,000 was lower than the average for the London population of 3.1 per 100,000. This figure was lower last year against the population too.

As a Partnership we are committed to ensuring learning around cultural competence for volunteers and our staff and ensuring we better understand issues of disproportionality and encourage key strategic bodies to address these. We plan to promote Discriminatory Abuse as part of our partnership work in Black History month, October 2024, and all SAB members are undertaking the LGA Discriminatory Abuse toolkit self-assessment, following a discussion at the SAB in May 2024.

The Community Safety Partnership oversees the Channel Panel, which considers risks of extremism and radicalisation. Groups including Patriotic Alternative, Identity England and a resurgent National Front have been active. Schools have a proactive approach, workshops have been offered to local parents through some schools, and Havering Community Hub provides training for all local professionals.

The London Gypsies and Traveller Group worked with 8 people from the borough in 2023. They supported community members to work with legal representatives in a land dispute and to engage with employers and the Metropolitan Police. We are planning awareness raising training in the forthcoming year regarding Travellers and Roma, as they face disproportionality in many aspects of life, such as in Education, as you will read below.

Female Genital Mutilation

There are very few children identified at risk of FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) in Havering. The MASH continued to receive very low numbers of referrals for FGM last year, and there have been no local prosecutions. The Partnership has continued to raise awareness and sent a letter to all schools regarding the risk of FGM in the summer terms 2023 and 2024.

Children in Care

As at March 2024, there were 282 children in care in Havering, a rise from 239 children in March 2023 - 143 children became looked after this year, including 25 children via Police Powers of Protection, against 119 and 14 Police Powers last year. 15 young people were Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers, 8.4% of the Children in Care.

The children in care figure is 48 children per 10,000, which has risen from 44 last year, however this remains lower than London averages (51), and statistical neighbours (66). This leads us to believe that there are children still to be identified who may be living in situations of significant harm. As of March 2024, 40 children were placed more than 20 miles from home, the majority were in neighbouring boroughs and in Essex, and we continue to see a rise in the use of connected carers. 45% of Children in Care were accommodated for reasons of abuse and neglect. 333 children were placed in the borough from other Local Authorities in the UK, which is much the same figure as last year. We continue to see very low numbers of those Local Authorities consulting or notifying us when they move children to Havering.

One of our stubborn issues for improvement are the delay in Initial Health Assessments (IHAs) being undertaken for children coming into care. This is not a unique problem to Havering. Locally, this is largely due to a delay in paperwork being submitted. This was added to the HSCP risk register as red in April 2022 and is closely monitored. There has been considerable work to clarify the administrative process, led by the Designated Nurse for Children Looked After, Siobhan Avery, together with Starting Well and NELFT. At March 2023 timeliness was at 42%. There has been a significant impact, achieved partially through the CIC Health Group Siobhan has led, more latterly with Barry Kirwan, Head of Service Corporate Parenting, since December 2023. From March 2023-April 2024, for 129 IHAs required, 16 had paperwork submitted on time. Siobhan has done some targeted multi-agency training sessions through the partnership around health assessments for partners, twice in 2024 already.

Children in Care Reviews were at 76% timeliness this year, due to some challenges due to some challenges and changes in the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) team. Approx. 70% of children in care have been cared for in the same placement for more than 2 years. The IRO team are part of the children's social care improvement plan and we are due to receive the annual report to the Partnership Board to track the improvements.

Review Health Assessments for Children in Care take place every six months for those aged under 5 years and every year for those who are older. Their timeliness have also fluctuated during the year, at some points being at 100% and then dropping as low as 40% for those aged under 5 and 69% for those children who are older. Improvement work led by representatives of the ICB and Starting Well is monitoring this. Dental attendance has been around 63%, recognising that some children may decline appointments, there is still work to do on this. 90% of children in care had up to date immunisations.

100% of children had an up to date Personal Educational Plan (PEP). Attendance for children in care at the end of the school year was: Primary 95.9 % and Secondary 88.9%. This forthcoming year, we will be working with Commissioners to ensure as part of the contracts for residential and semi-independent placements, Section 11 safeguarding evaluations are submitted annually.

330 young people are currently in receipt of Leaving Care Services. Approximately 50% of Care Leavers are in Employment, Education or Training, and 4.6% of those are in higher education. At the end of March 2024, 46% of care experienced young people had an up-to-date Pathway Plan, however significant improvements have been seen and at the time of writing this has risen to 97.3%.

Transitional Safeguarding

The Transitions' Panel has been running in Havering since 2018. This Panel considers children who are approaching transitions to adulthood from a number of arenas (SEND, Exploitation, Youth Offending, Mental Health, and Leaving Care). During 2023-24, the Multi-agency Transitions Panel met 12 times and considered 56 young people. The Summit noted the increasing complexity of need. Annette Kinsella, Director of Ageing Well and Tara Geere, Director of Starting Well, are working to strengthen the Panel this year. We have relevant recommendations to review from the SAR (Safeguarding Adults Review) regarding Q and Y. These were local young men, with care and support needs who sadly died. Multi-agency attendance from some agencies has fallen during the year and we will be working together to strengthen this as we go forward.

Independent Scrutiny was published in summer 2024 regarding Transitional Safeguarding in Havering, please read below. The review of Starting Well and Living Well has led to some of the review actions for the Transitions Panel being taken forward. The Independent Scrutineer, Jenny Pearce reviewed the situations for 21 young people who had been considered at the Panel in 2023, 13 of whom were female. The Adults' Services Peer Review in March 2024, recommended that joint work was needed with Starting Well to improve

Transition pathways. Jenny also found the Cocoon to be a great strength. Staff worked with great commitment but the Transitions' Panel itself was not always consistently attended by some Partners and it could be reactive. Young people's transitions were often considered too late. Living Well is developing a pilot Transitions and Complex Care Team in October 2024. Young people took part and said that they needed more support around independent living skills, mental and sexual health services. The report can be found [here](#)

This is a SAB priority and the focus of our joint Safeguarding Conference in November 2024.

Local Inspections

PELC (Partnership of East London Cooperatives LTD) was added to the risk register in July 2023, following discussion at the Q&E, Adults Q&E and HSCP Executive earlier that month. PELC provides urgent care in two sites in Havering. A CQC Inspection in autumn 2022 found it inadequate in all aspects but care, and NEL ICB is providing oversight and safeguarding support. CQC are carrying out ongoing reviews. There have been improvements. PELC is no longer under enhanced surveillance from the quality team in the ICB, and they are meeting with the ICB on a bi monthly basis to provide assurance. PELC are green on most aspects of the safeguarding standards checklist, and one final bi-monthly meeting took place in June then PELC reverted back to their quarterly assurance meeting and was removed from the HSCP Risk Register.

BHRUT was last inspected in November 2022 and found to need improvement in general and for the category of safe. There was particular scrutiny on Emergency care and its relationship to urgent care.

Starting Well, Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS), Havering Council, in December 2023 found services to be inadequate in most areas, apart from the experiences of care leavers, which needed improvement to be good. A full Council agreed improvement plan is now in place with increased funding provided for staffing and quality assurance. The inspection found the MASH and the partnership to be responsive and effective. The Improvement Boards have Partnership representatives and reports will be submitted before the partnership as monitoring commences later in the Autumn.

The Metropolitan Police was placed under heightened scrutiny in June 2022 by the HMICFRS (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services). This step was taken in relation to a Met wide failing on recording crime and making errors on stop and searches, liaison with victims, a backlog in online investigations and performance in handling emergency calls.

NELFT (North East London Foundation Trust) was last fully inspected in June 2022, and received good for all aspects except for safe, which required improvement. The CQC (Care Quality Commission) carried out a short notice announced inspections of acute wards for adults of working age and psychiatric intensive care units and mental health crisis services and health-based places of safety. The CAMHS wards were found to be outstanding in 2017. Specialist Community Mental Health Services for Children and Young people were found to require improvement in September 2019. Community Health Services for children and families were good in January 2018. NELFT carried out a Child Services review in May 2023. The below table outlines the risks for NELFT, Havering being particularly high in safeguarding impacts. NEL ICB is working closely to monitor safeguarding and data.

| Directorate | Number of Open Risks | Risk Impact Safeguarding | High Risk | Significant Risk | Moderate Risk | Low Risk |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------|------------------|---------------|----------|
| Barking & Dagenham Directorate | 49 | 28 | 10 (15) | 11 (21) | 6 (11) | 1 (2) |
| Essex and Kent Directorate | 53 | 9 | 1 (11) | 7 (31) | 1 (11) | 0 (2) |
| Redbridge Directorate | 28 | 20 | 2 (5) | 8 (10) | 9 (11) | 1(1) |
| Waltham Forest Directorate | 34 | 9 | 2 (11) | 7 (20) | 0 (2) | 0 (0) |
| Havering Directorate | 52 | 30 | 15 (18) | 15 (25) | 0 (5) | 0 (0) |
| Acute and Rehabilitation Directorate | 92 | 10 | 0 (9) | 10 (61) | 0 (19) | 0 (4) |
| NELFT Corporate | 207 | 2 | 16 (1) | 81 (0) | 47 (1) | 60 (0) |

26 local schools have been commended this year for receiving good or outstanding Ofsted inspection results.

Workforce

The LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) oversees investigations into concerns raised about those who work or volunteer with children. Increased training and awareness raising has seen an increase in the number of LADO contacts received, with 775 concerns raised in the year, and 251 referrals (against 231 last year). The conversion rate from consultation to referral was 32 % and consistent with last year's figures.

This is the largest number of LADO referrals recorded in Havering, and a large jump from 151 in 2021-22. There was a 13% rise in LADO consultations to 524, the highest ever recorded. This could well stem from the impact of our regular stand-alone LADO training, as well as the LADO now taking part in the regular Level 3 Safeguarding Children training, which was run 4 times in 2024 January to July.

The return to expected levels of LADO referrals comes after a drop experienced during the pandemic years. Most LADO concerns related to allegations of physical abuse, and to schools. Referrals in regards to allegations in personal lives have decreased from 69 in 2022-23, to 44 in 2023 – 24, a decrease of 36%. The reason for this is unclear and LADO continues to emphasise the importance of these referrals during all training.

The LADO Service now provides training to leisure centres and investigations are now more effective in this area; the service also now acts as the Responsible Authority for licensing applications. As a result of our safeguarding survey in 2022, there was a need to refresh workers' knowledge of the LADO and this is now a part of our Level 3 safeguarding children training, with the LADO attending and we have seen a rise in attendance at our regular LADO training, which may also account for the rise in contacts and referrals this year.

The Assistant LADO has undertaken over 70 meetings this year with individual Out of Schools Settings (OOSS). These meetings have, amongst others, included Faith groups, before and after school clubs, dance & drama and tuition centres.

In order to promote the LADO work and support faith groups, which have always been an area with low referrals and consultations with the LADO, the Assistant LADO attends the Havering Interfaith Forum monthly and has provided safeguarding training to the various faith groups and their faith leaders. This year referrals to LADO, in regards to allegations of abuse of children in OOSSs by members of staff, has continued to increase, resulting in 23 cases this year, making up 9% of referrals.

Serious Crime and Criminal Exploitation

There are a number of indicators of Criminal Exploitation, such as children going missing, substance use, school exclusions, sexual exploitation, trafficking, and Serious Youth Violence (SYV), which are monitored within the Partnership.

The Serious Violence Strategy and action plan were developed and launched in 2023 by the Community Safety Partnership. Superintendent Simon Hutchison chairs a regular Serious Violence Partnership meeting.

A Junior Citizens' fortnight took place in June 2023, organized by the Community Safety and Enforcement Team with over 2,000 students from Year 6 with Police Officers, London Fire Brigade, Wize Up, in attendance and went very well. They learnt how to travel safely on public transport, about illegal substances to avoid and how to respond to emergency situations. This was repeated in Summer 2024.

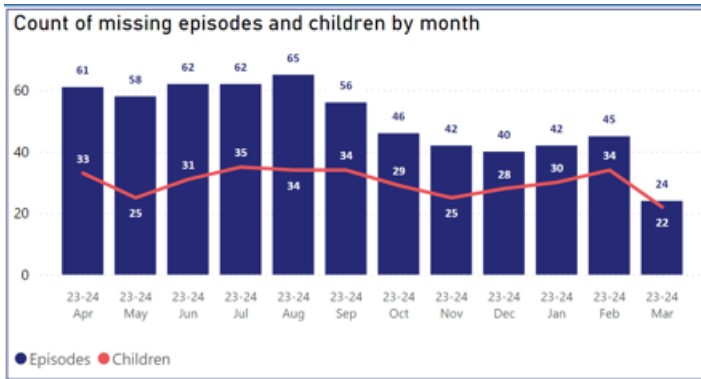
Knife crime in Havering has risen since 2021, rising to 304 offences for the year to January 2024, up 30.5%. The Council and partners work very closely with Schools around the topic of knife crime. The Schools Inclusions Team "Approved Providers" deliver five and ten day Programmes. Both the Programmes aim to give the students the ability to identify influences and factors which give them the tools and support to influence change. Stay Safe workshops are delivered in primary schools to year 6 pupils, to inform them of the danger around knife crime and how to keep themselves safe. Street Doctors is a programme delivered in secondary schools by medical students. This programme equips young people with practical skills to administer simple first aid in order to save lives when and where most needed. It also aims to change attitudes, increase young people's confidence and aspirations, reducing the likelihood of violence. Inspired Future Knife Crime Workshop is a 4 hour intense workshop delivered to all year 9 students in all Havering schools.

Safe Havens are designated borough locations within communities or business districts where people can go to for help and assistance if needed. The Innovation Hub (or Safe Haven as it is referred to by many partners) is open. This is a converted archway by Romford train station, which is open for groups such as Street Pastors, Rail Pastors, Night Marshalls, British Transport Police, Neighbourhood Policing Team and others to use. In the evenings it provides a central gathering location for night briefings to take place with all of the licensees in Romford.

The Community Safety Partnership has developed some local projects to provide diversion, which supports the learning from our Independent Scrutiny around an area in Havering, where there had been some serious incidents, and from which young people had perpetrated serious incidents. The Community Safety Partnership holds the action plan, resulting from the Independent Scrutiny, and we have seen a positive impact for that geographical area. Sports activities have been offered which has helped the Clear Hold Build Police strategy, which has had strong multi-agency partner buy-in. The area also has extra health support and community outreach delivered by Partners. Impact can be seen in the closure of some drug networks.

During the forthcoming year, we are compiling and refreshing HSCP Missing and Exploitation Protocols. The SGV (Serious Group Violence) Panel ended in Havering in summer 2023 and there remains a gap for intelligence sharing for individuals aged over 18, particularly from Met Police; we will be working on this issue as part of the Exploitation refresh.

There were 72 incidents involving British Transport Police and 13 missing children incidents this year. This is particularly a feature along the Elizabeth Line rail network and after school ends. This year has seen a rise to 100% of Return Home Interviews being provided to missing children.



The table below shows the British Transport Police involvement with Serious Youth Violence this year for Havering.



Modern Slavery

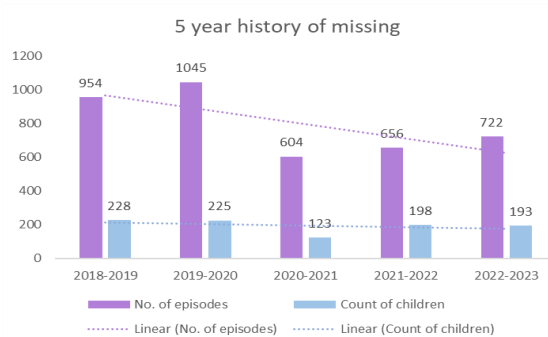
For adults and children, Havering saw Police deal with 46 Modern Slavery offences between February 2023 and January 2024. This is a low figure compared to London averages and our neighbouring boroughs. 18 victims were aged under 18 this year. Usually we have seen 2 cases coming to Police attention per month. The Police Borough Command Unit (BCU) had 82 live open cases at January 2024, the fourth highest in London. Two thirds of suspects were male. Evidence was hard to achieve for Police to summons and charge. 23 NRM (National Referral Mechanism) referrals were made, 6 of whom were children.

Romford Town Centre has the eighth highest in London by ward for Modern Slavery Police Offences. The highest numbers of victims were from Albania and then from the United Kingdom; more than half whether adults or children were male. The chief concerns were labour exploitation, criminal exploitation and child criminal exploitation.

This coming year, the Tri-borough Joint Strategic Needs' Assessment (JSNA) for Sexual Health will include reference to vulnerable people, Modern Slavery, Child Sexual Exploitation and the role of Education in prevention. Havering Public Health will then develop with Partners a borough specific action plan.

Missing Children

There were 207 contacts for missing children to MASH this year and 136 assessments. A Missing Protocol was launched in the autumn 2023, and an Exploitation Task and Finish Group has begun this summer 2024, to refresh our local work, led by Gary Jones, AD Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting, Starting Well.



| | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Missing from Home | 75 | 113 | 232 | 224 |
| Missing from Care | 120 | 148 | 148 | 131 |

In quarter 4 2023-24, we have seen a 27% decrease (8 children) of children in care missing in comparison to 2022-23 and 55% decrease in missing episodes. CSC is working with placements to ensure they are following up on the child's location, and Police have confirmed no concerns with placements following the Philomena Protocol briefing in September 2023. The HARM Panel considers themes from the Return Home Interviews (RHIs). Their timely completion has not yet improved this year.

| | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
|--|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Percentage of Return Home Interviews offered within 72 hours | 71% | 46% | 51.5% | 30.8% |
| Percentage accepted by young people | - | 70.8% | 72.7% | 72.7% |

Healthy Weight Strategy

Obesity can be a feature of child neglect. Havering Public Health held two healthy weight summits in autumn 2022 and spring 2023, and the Healthy Weight Strategy was launched in July 2024. Some of the drive from this local work came from our local learning around obesity in 2020.

Please find a 7 minute briefing here regarding Child G:

<https://safeguardinghaverling.org.uk/childrenpartnership/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/01/Havering->



In Havering, more than 1 in 5 children aged 4-5 years are overweight or obese, in line with London and England averages



This doubles to 2 in 5 by the time children 10-11 years of age, above London and England averages for this age group.



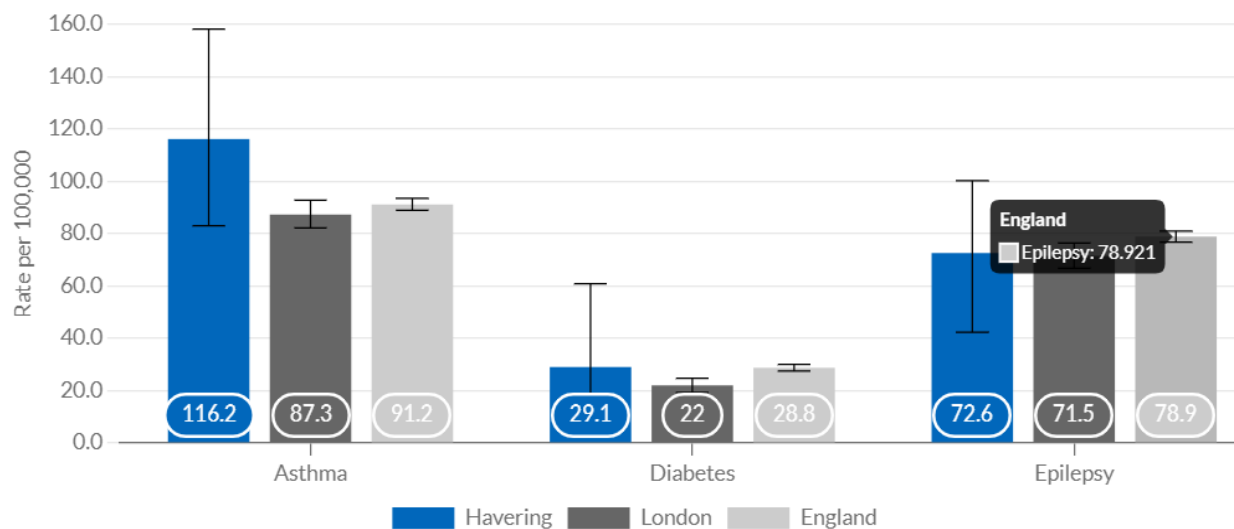
By adulthood, approximately 68% of Havering residents are overweight or obese, significantly above London and England averages.

Hospital Admissions

Hospital admissions for Havering children is slightly higher than the London average, notably for asthma, diabetes and epilepsy. This is not a new trend. There is ongoing work at BHRUT to ensure that electronic and paper files correspond, and a new electronic system will be in operation in 2025. We noted good practice in a recent Serious Incident Review in March 2023, which tested this process when the child was admitted to Hospital with injuries.

Sexual Health

Hospital admissions for children aged 0 to 9 for Havering (2020/21)



Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) is a Partnership priority and allied to this are indicators of Sexual Health. Indicators of concern around sexual health for our population, could point to Child Sexual Exploitation and / or abuse.

Havering historically had a high teenage pregnancy rate, which in 2020-21 dropped to 2.2% per 1,000 for under 16 conceptions. It is not clear if this was related to lockdowns. Havering was in the top three boroughs for teenage pregnancy rates for London; this has now dropped to eighth position. As a Partnership we are working to understand sexual health and safety better and we have been promoting access to contraception and sexual health services for the growing young population through schools, and community groups. Children's Centres can already offer contraceptive support. The Independent Scrutiny of Children and Young People affected by sexual and mental health concerns noted the need for a more localized sexual health service for Havering children, which we will deliver in 2024-25.

We are working to support agencies in providing more joined up support. Interestingly, however despite the relatively high teenage conception rate, Havering has low figures for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) both in a comparative London and England sense. This would suggest either that local young people are practising safe sex or are not being tested.

| 1998-2020 | Havering | London | England |
|--|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Under 16 conception rate per 1,000 | 2.6% | 1.4% | 2% |
| Under 18 conception rate per 1,000 | 15.5% | 9.8% | 13% |
| Under 18 conception rate leading to termination | 64.8% | 63.2% | 53% |
| Under 25 repeat terminations | 30.8% | 32.3% | 29.2% |

Public Health is currently carrying out a refreshed Sexual Health needs assessment and considering access to Sexual Health Services for Havering, as currently there are reduced specialist services in-borough.

There has been an overall reduction in new diagnoses of STIs (Sexually Transmitted Infections) (excluding chlamydia) for residents of Havering over the past 10 years. Rates in Havering have remained consistently lower than both London and England averages, lower than Barking and Dagenham, and similar to rates in Redbridge. Between 2019 and 2020, there was a 27% drop in STIs diagnosed for Havering residents. This could also have been affected by lockdowns.

Compared to all London boroughs, in 2021, Havering had one of the lowest rates of all new STI diagnosis at 455 per 100,000, higher only than Bexley (421 per 100,000) and Sutton (393 per 100,000). However, it remained below the rate in England at 551 per 100,000. Benchmarked against England, Havering has a higher (better) rate of testing for STIs, although the borough appears to be lower down the scale when compared with other London boroughs. Rates of testing for STIs (excluding chlamydia under 25 years) in Havering have increased from 2,500 per 100,000 in 2012 to 3,667 per 100,000 in 2021. These rates are similar to testing rates across England, but remain significantly lower than testing rates in London. During Covid-19, some sexual health services were moved from a clinic in Havering, an absence noted in the recent independent scrutiny of young people's experiences of sexual and mental health services, so there was reduced local provision. This is currently being reviewed by the Public Health Team.

During Covid-19, there was an 18% reduction between 2019 and 2020 in the rate of STI testing (excluding chlamydia in under 25 year individuals) partly as a consequence of reduced access to services, which could have been worse had the sexual health e-service not been up and running.

In terms of inequalities, in 2020, 43.5% of diagnoses of new STIs in Havering residents were in young people aged 15 to 24 years old. This compares to 45.7% in England. Although men were more likely overall in Havering to be diagnosed with a new STI in 2020 (51.6% of men compared to 48.4% women) the age of diagnosis differed between genders. Women were more likely to have an STI between 15-19 years and 20-24 years, whilst men were more likely to have a new STI diagnosis at 25 years+. This is significant in terms of our Transitional Safeguarding interventions. Although there were lower testing rates in 2020, the trend is the same in 2021-22. Young women, aged 16-19 and 20-24 years were more likely to get diagnoses for chlamydia and herpes, than men of the same age.

There appears to be a considerable over-representation of people identifying as gay and bisexual being diagnosed with an STI. When we look at service user data, 8.9% of service user's identified themselves as bisexual or homosexual, plus a further 1.43% undisclosed or blank, compared to 1.95% in the 2021 Census. So, although they are a known higher risk group, it appears they are accessing local services. However, as a group at higher known risk of STIs, there is nevertheless good uptake of HIV testing amongst this group.

Since its initiation in early 2018, the numbers of test kits ordered by Havering residents has tripled. The largest jump in test kits being ordered via the internet was between 2019-20 and 2020-21, coinciding with the national Covid-19 lockdowns. The increase in test kits being ordered via the e-service appeared to be concurrent with the reduction in testing activity conducted at clinics. This is positive in many ways, but could indicate that vulnerable individuals who are sexually exploited are not being seen in person and identified for further support, as they have no means of electronic access.

Within Havering, in 2021 there was a similar number of abortions amongst women aged 25-29 and 30-34 years: 24% of total abortions. However the rate of abortions per 1,000 women was lowest in those under 18 years (9.5 per 1,000) and highest amongst 20 to 24 year olds (38.7 per 1,000). This may be reflective of unplanned or unintended pregnancies amongst these younger age groups, particularly in those aged 20 to 24 years, who are not ready to start a family.

Over the past 20 years, the teenage pregnancy rates for females under 18 year and under 16 years have decreased in Havering, following the trend shown across London and England. However, Havering continues to have a higher rate of under 18s conception than England, and statistical local authorities in London. Havering ranks second out of the 33 London local authorities for under 16 years conception/1,000. Many of these issues were identified in the Independent Scrutiny report on the topic with recommendations for addressing the key concerns.

Education

As a Partnership, we understand that Education is protective factor for our children and young people. Schools are represented in all our working groups through the Council "Inclusions" team, and individual schools who are also welcome to attend. A strong strategic group has developed during this year, chaired by Janet James, School Admissions, Attendance and Inclusions Manager, to look at children missing education. This was developed to respond to DfE guidance "Working Together to improve school attendance", to meet some significant changes around school attendance and pupil coding regulations, which became statutory on August 2024, and must be in effect from September 2024, and to respond to local need. Considerable data was analysed into geographical clusters, showing that the higher concerns for absence correlated with areas of higher deprivation, where children had multiple vulnerabilities such as CAMHS engagement, SEND, Child in Need or safeguarding concerns.

This has led to a number of areas of work, including work between NELFT and Inclusions to ensure all data is shared for children who change schools or who are educated at home. Plans have been made to reduce unauthorised holidays, reduce part time timetables and to increase attendance of children below 75%.

Attendance 2023-24

| | Students with reduced timetables | Absence 75%+ | Sessions which were authorized holidays | SEND | CP | CIN | CAMHS | Early Help |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|---|-------|----|-----|-------|------------|
| Infant | - | 43 | 98 | 333 | 15 | 13 | 39 | 24 |
| Primary | 37 | 19 | 1800 | 2,340 | - | 149 | 151 | 116 |
| Junior | - | 345 | 119 | 414 | - | 14 | 22 | 26 |
| Secondary | 46 | 800 | 841 | 1,992 | - | 146 | 416 | 156 |
| Alternative Provision | 35 | 157 | 6 | 67 | 13 | 28 | 57 | 14 |
| Special | 5 | 50 | 593 | 367 | - | 26 | 5 | 6 |

There is a well-established forum for Early Years Settings run by Celia Freeth, Education Services, within Havering Council. The July 2023 Quality and Effectiveness working group oversaw the quality assurance of Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) Safeguarding Audits. Each year, Early Years' settings complete the safeguarding audit tool to demonstrate that they are meeting key statutory duties and following safeguarding best practice guidance. The Early Years' Representatives for the ESP and HSCP are also strong sector advocates, as they rightfully note the vulnerability of children aged under 5 in particular.

PVI settings are advised to undertake an annual audit of their safeguarding policies and process, returning this to the Early Years Quality Assurance team for review. PVI settings will then receive a safeguarding report which details recommendations. In Havering there are currently a total of 122 PVI settings consisting of 62 Full Day Care settings and 61 Sessional Day Care settings.

The table below shows a break down by PVI type, including the number of settings that have completed the safeguarding and management audit, which shows a rise into 2024, which is encouraging. We will be working to ensure that every setting completes the audit each year going forward, triangulating with Ofsted inspections and any serious incidents.

| PVI setting type | Total (September 2024) | Completed Audit September 2021- August 2022 | Completed Audit 01 September 2022-31 August 2023 | Completed Audit 01 September 2023 – 31 August 2024 |
|------------------|------------------------|---|--|--|
| Full Day Care | 62 | 23 | 28 | 29 |
| Sessional | 61 | 41 | 27 | 37 |
| Total | 123 | 64 | 55 | 66 |

Overview of strengths from the Early Years’ audits

- Practitioners understand their roles and responsibilities to keep children safe;
- Practitioners demonstrate a secure knowledge of the local process when identifying and reporting concerns to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO);
- Practitioners frequently refresh their safeguarding knowledge through training.

Overview of areas for development from the Early Years’ audits

- Consistently implement effective systems for supervision, including undertaking on a more regular basis;
- Keeping a comprehensive record of identity checks and vetting processes relating to staff recruitment;
- Develop systems to check knowledge and understanding individuals have gained from online training.

In 2022-23, 23.8% of students across the UK were eligible for free school meals, a small increase from 22.5% in 2022. 8,283 children are eligible for Free School Meals in Havering; and the Council provided a school holiday meal service during the year. 41% of children who were receiving free School Meals, were achieving a good level of development at the end of reception, compared to the 49% England wide average. Nearly 10% of children who attend schools in Havering live outside the borough. More Black and Dual Heritage children attend our local schools than our demographic. On the whole, children who live in the northern parts of the borough are more likely to be attending a Havering school. Havering had 114 young people recorded aged 15-17 years as NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training), which in 2021 was 2.7% NEET- a very positive figure.

Education settings are crucial to the Partnership as children are usually seen there every day. This year were 1,471 suspensions from schools in 2023-24, (a small rise from last year) and 36 permanent exclusions, which is a significant rise from previous years. (23 avoided) Schools speak of challenges in behaviour following the COVID-19 lockdowns, and most of the exclusions this year were around disruptive behaviour and substance use in secondary schools. We are currently auditing two School escalations.

Several primary schools and secondary academies held the bulk of the suspensions. Most issues were around persistent disruptive behaviour and assault. But there were several primary and secondary schools where suspensions were made for sexual “misconduct”. As a Partnership we will wish to ensure that appropriate support and action is undertaken for Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB).

For primary schools, most suspensions were in years 4, 5 and 6, however there were some in reception; numbers were steady in all secondary school years.

| | Primary | Secondary | Total |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|-------|
| Autumn 2023 | 99 | 508 | 607 |
| Spring 2024 | 94 | 390 | 484 |
| Summer 2024 | 69 | 482 | 551 |
| | | | |

There were 5 exclusions in the 2020-21 school year; 3 in the 2021-22 school year and 9 for 2022-23. Fixed-term suspensions have also increased significantly from pre-pandemic numbers with 1,413 suspensions in 2021-22 compared to 220 in 2018-19.

59 children were considered for permanent exclusion across 24 local schools. However, 23 exclusions were avoided, due to the Inclusions Team working with the school and family to find a solution that all were in agreement with.

Generally, exclusions this year were across years 9-10, but there have been some instances in Primary Schools, which is particularly concerning, for assaults on fellow pupils. 16 children who were considered for exclusion had SEN Support and 7 had Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). Relatively high numbers of children from a Traveller / Roma background were considered for exclusion although this was avoided, which is positive. Several schools were outliers, who will be having additional support from the Local Authority education Services. Two primary schools excluded pupils, who had EHCPs, which might indicate that there was not sufficient learning support in the classroom.

In terms of disproportionality, actual exclusions were disproportionate to the population for children from a Black background, (whether Black African or Black Caribbean), as the table below shows. 19 females were considered for exclusion and 9 were excluded. 1 young person was from a White Eastern European background. Disproportionality also relates to Home Education in relation to the demographic, particularly for children from a White Background, Traveller or Roma background (22), and for females –although it should be noted that ethnicity data was not available for approx. a quarter of the children.

In primary schools, more than double the number of males were suspended compared to females; for secondary schools this figure was closer between males and females. In terms of ethnicity, suspensions were higher than the demographic for children from a White background and for those from a Traveller background. They track along the demographic for children from a dual Black and White heritage, and were lower for children from a Black background.

This table shows all children who were considered for exclusion, permanently excluded, suspended, and all who are Home Educated.

| | White | Black | Black Dual Heritage | Asian / Asian Dual | Other | N/K |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-----|
| Population | 65% | 12% | 8% | 9% | 1% | 1% |
| Suspensions | 70% | 9.5% | 8% | 7% | 83 (3 Roma, 11 Travellers) | 4% |
| Considered for Perm Exclusions | 49% | 24% | 10% | 5% | 5 (incl 2 Travellers) | 1 |
| Permanent Exclusions | 42% | 27% | 5.5% | 11% | 2 | 2 |
| Elective Home Education | 50% | 2.7% | 3.8% | 5.6% | 16 Travellers, 6 Roma | 26% |

There are signs of increases in absence rates among children known to social care; in 2021-22, 50.8% of Child in Need children were identified as persistent absentees, above the London average of 44.4%. 15.9% of those in care had at least one Fixed-Term Exclusion and one child was permanently excluded this year. This is an area the Local Authority Virtual School will be focused on in 2024-25.

Elective Home Education

We have seen a rise in 369 children in Havering being Home Educated this year, compared to 305 last year. 136 new cases were opened and 182 were closed. 166 were males and 203 females. 209 were of secondary school age. This steady rise has been mirrored throughout the UK. Noteworthy, is that 50 came from 3 local secondary schools and 37 from out of borough schools. Through our newsletter we have reminded Partners not to assume that children are attending school. Elective Home Education creates a significant vulnerability. Havering has a very strong follow-up package and 10 cases were audited by the Inclusions Teams for the Quality and Effectiveness Working Group in April 2023. The team has a strong ragging system and carry out regular visits, if there are concerns for children, including in the summer holidays. Children are seen more than once a year if there are concerns for them. There is good liaison if there are Special Educational Needs.

Child Deaths

In the 2023-24 fiscal year, the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) was notified of the deaths of 20 children resident in Havering, equally split between male and female. We wish to send condolences to all the families. This is a steady increase over the last years, as seen below, and emphasizes the growth of the child population. The Director of Starting Well met the Director of Public Health to consider if there were any themes or trends during the year. There were no concerns regarding this rise. Our links with the local Tri-borough CDOP remain strong, and the CDOP Annual Report 2022-23 was presented to the HSCP this year, as last year. The CDOP Manager is a member of our Case Review Working Group. The CDOP met 7 times this year and reviewed 11 Havering cases.

| Havering | Deaths |
|----------|--------|
| 2020-21 | 12 |
| 2021-22 | 15 |
| 2022-23 | 15 |
| 2023-24 | 20 |

The highest number of new notifications was received for the age range 0-27 days- a growth to 12 from 5 deaths in 2022-23. The second largest category was the 28-364 days age group; 5 deaths against 4 last year. Whilst this is a similar pattern to previous years, the number of neonatal deaths has increased across NEL. An ongoing,

detailed review of these deaths is taking place to identify themes. 6 of the deaths were for children from a White British background, 5 for children from a dual heritage White background, 5 from a Black background and 5 from an Asian background.

In 2022-2024 there have been no deaths as the result of knife crime in Havering, following some deaths in earlier years and enhanced support to disrupt networks following this and promote safety in schools.

During 2023-24 the largest number of deaths were categorised as perinatal/neonatal events, followed by chromosomal, genetic and congenital anomalies. These findings are reflective of the national picture. The NCMD Child Death Review Data: Year ending 31 March 2022 reports (31%) recorded a primary category of “perinatal/neonatal event”, and (25%) recorded a primary category of “chromosomal, genetic and congenital anomalies.

During 2023-23, CDOP reviewed two deaths categorised at SUDI, (Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Infancy). CDOP partners across (NEL) this year sought to raise awareness of SUDI, following a spike in SUDI deaths. This highlighted the need for a multiagency response to ensure that SUDI Prevention messages reach the most vulnerable families and thereby to reinforce the safe sleeping message at all contacts with parents of infants aged less than 1 year. A multi-agency Task and Finish Group was held in each borough, in Havering it was chaired by the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children, Paul Archer, to highlight the message of every contact counting. Two training workshops were then held with Barking and Dagenham in June 2024.

The North East London CDOP teams identified the need to reinforce the safe sleeping message at all contacts with parents of infants less than 1 year. To carry this work forward, the group reviewed the Prevent and Protect model as set out in the Out of Routine Report, by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. In summary, this model explains the need to look locally and recognise there is a continuum of risk of SUDI (sudden unexpected death in infancy) and to apply interventions that are graded/adapted to reflect the needs of all families, rather than just providing a universal message that is currently given by health professionals.

A SUDI Steering Group was established to oversee this work, with Task and Finish groups set up in 5 of the NEL boroughs. Facilitated by the Designated Nurses and supported by the ICS Quality Improvement Team, the groups set out to scope and understand the practice and provision available in each of the localities, to identify gaps in service and plan for training. A wide range of agencies have been involved in the Task and Finish groups, including professionals who wouldn't ordinarily be involved in SUDI prevention work such as police and Housing.

As a result of this work, several initiatives are underway:

- A Safer Sleep Conference attended by 140 professionals from a wide range of agencies was held in March 2024, with keynote speakers and workshops.
- Safer Sleep training has been offered by the Havering LSCP in collaboration with Barking and Dagenham LSCP.
- A scoping exercise was undertaken, highlighting the need for training, and a NEL Wide Standard.
- The group is currently exploring the possibility of providing safe sleeping equipment to families without the necessary equipment (pending business case).
- Exploring measurable outcomes with a Senior Improvement Advisor at North East London Integrated Care System
- The Task and Finish group met on four occasions in 2023-24 and will reconvene on a 6 monthly basis to ensure traction.

Learning Disabilities

The Learning Disabilities Mortality Review Programme (LeDeR) reviews deaths of those with a learning disability and / or autism aged over 4 years of age. In 2023-24, 24 notifications for adults and children from Havering were made to LeDeR, against 14 last year - the rise might be possibly because the panel is becoming better known. NEL has completed all reviews this year within six months of notification. This report and ICB action plan have been presented to the Case Review Working Group, by Joy Maguire, Designated Professional for Safeguarding Adults. Oliver McGowan training has been highlighted throughout the HSCP and SAB to raise awareness of working with those with autism and learning disabilities.

Annual GP Health checks have improved by 10% for the last financial year, with 86% of eligible checks being completed (1,073 out of 1,201 people). There were instances of good practice, including GPs going above and beyond in their care and understanding. A significant proportion of people who died had long term health conditions and had a mild learning disability.

There have been 24 deaths this year which will lead to LeDeR reviews (Learning from Lives and Deaths -People with Learning Disability and Autism), some reviews have been identifying good practice, such as personalised care planning to achieve patients' goals, good Health Passports, evidence of information sharing among all professionals; Implementation of reasonable adjustments where applicable. There has been a rise in people with learning disabilities having an annual GP health checks for those with severe and moderate learning needs.

Independent Scrutiny

During this reporting year, we have had one Independent Scrutineer, Prof Jenny Pearce OBE, who is leaving us at the end of September 2024. We wish to thank her for her support in Havering, her wise counsel, critical friendship and role in the local development of the Safeguarding Young Advisors' initiative. Jenny writes:

Introduction:

My work as the Independent Scrutineer for Havering Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) has continued to focus on the drive for safety, welfare and wellbeing of Havering children and young people. I am grateful to the HSCP Chair and the Partnership and Learning Manager for their invaluable support to the scrutiny process.

Working Together 2023 notes that scrutiny needs to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area,

- be objective,
- act as a constructive critical friend and promote reflection,
- consider how effectively the arrangements are working for children and families as well as for practitioners.

The partnership is working towards ensuring that it is compliant with Working Together 2023 (WT23) and, subject to finalized arrangements for lead partner agencies, Havering is on track to submit its plans to the DfE by December 24. I look forward to hearing how this work progresses and

will be undertaking a handover with the new Independent Scrutineer supporting their overview of this work. The Partnership has been greatly supported by the work of the Learning and Partnerships Manager and her team, along with the excellent work of Brian Boxall as Chair of the SAB and LSCP. The revised arrangements for HSCP in line with WT23 would be supported by a continuation of this essential level of support.

Scrutiny Methods

My approach to scrutiny is provide rigorous reviews as a 'critical friend', identifying what is working well to safeguard children and young people living in Havering as well as identifying areas that present challenges and need future development. I regularly review Partnership activities against requirements from WT23 and the Checklist for Independent Scrutiny.

<https://www.beds.ac.uk/media/bzul2oep/independent-scrutiny-checklist-final.pdf>

I include a range of methods for undertaking independent scrutiny, ranging from attending HSCP meetings; scrutinising minutes of meetings; checking staff attendance and engagement with ongoing safeguarding children work; reviewing integrated multi-agency learning from local and national policy and practice documents and from the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel; and ensuring that developing LSCP priorities and strategies draw on local qualitative and quantitative data. I review the process for HSCP undertaking Rapid Reviews and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPR) and check that the management of serious incidents and lessons learnt from them comply with WT 23 requirements. I also undertake 'deep dives' into areas of work identified by myself and the HSCP as needing further, more in-depth scrutiny. I have read through and approved this annual report as an accurate and considered reflection of the work of the HSCP 2023 to 2024.

Areas of Scrutiny 2023 to 2024

I have felt it very important to keep an active interest in all activities of the HSCP Executive and working groups, maintaining contact through attendance at meetings and oversight of minutes and action plans. I have aimed to attend all HSCP Executive groups. This has given me insight into the collaborative approach to partnership working that Havering demonstrates, as well as the stress and demand emerging from national and local restructuring and managing findings from inspection reports. The restructuring, budget constraints and inspection results facing all partners (ICB, Police and LA) have been addressed through the Executive meetings, identifying some tensions to be managed.

In addition, findings from reviews and serious incidents have been explored through the Executive group with consideration of how strategic management of necessary changes can be developed in the face of restricted budgets and staff changes caused through retention problems or new roles formations from restructuring. This, along with how key lessons from reviews such as the need for 'cultural competence and humility', 'Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EEDI)' 'professional curiosity' and 'information sharing' need to become of central importance to the executive work of the future. I have observed a transparent approach to managing joint decision making about the implications for partnership activity, an approach to be commended and encouraged in the revised LSP and DSP structure advocated through WT23. The support offered to the partnership and Havering Executive through the work of the Learning and Partnerships Manager and her team is exemplary. It will be important for time and resource to continue to be directed to the team's work managing and supporting changes brought about through WT23.

I have attended working group meetings and/or had oversight of minutes and action plans, looking at how findings from scrutiny are used through the Quality and Effectiveness Working Group; how

learning from reviews is embedded with targeted actions from the Case Review Working Group; and how the Education Strategic Partners and the Adolescent Safeguarding Strategic Board are continuing to implement findings for the targeted scrutiny into adolescent safeguarding. I am reassured that the work of the partnership board is facilitating collaborative partnership activity across Havering, and addressing issues, such as ensuring some key health practitioners have time for attending required safeguarding children meetings; ensuring that the police continue to be actively involved in early help support and intervention; and that Housing and other partners are actively engaged in safeguarding children interventions.

I have ensured that I maintain oversight of any Serious Incident Notifications (SINs), any subsequent Rapid Reviews and LCSPRs. As noted above, the Partnership has managed 4 SIN reviews, 2 RRs and completed 2 LCSPRs over the year. In line with Working Together (18 and 23) I have followed the progress of this work and related communication with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. I feel confident that the HSCP is following procedure and managing the oversight of reviews appropriately. As with all Partnerships across the country, there remain some questions about how the learning can be fully embedded and sustained in changed practice. The work of the Case Review Working Group and the Quality and Effectiveness Working Group is engaging with these challenges and aiming to ensure that improvements in practice across the Partnership are made.

Specific Areas of Scrutiny ‘Deep Dives’

Alongside this ongoing scrutiny, I have undertaken some ‘deep dives’ into specific areas of work as agreed with the HSCP Executive. Findings from my previous deep dive into adolescent safeguarding are being monitored through an action plan that is regularly reviewed and progress assessed. My other previous scrutiny into serious youth violence in a specific location is being taken up through the Community Safety Partnership with an action plan that I reviewed during this year. I am reassured that the recommendations from my report are being taken up and addressed. The specific work undertaken during 2023 to 24 have included (a) a deep dive into young people’s experiences of sexual and mental health services and (b) a report on young people’s transitions to adulthood.

The work on Children’s experiences of sexual and mental health services is referred to in sections of this report above. The key findings were of celebrating the work of the Cocoon, a valued resource used by care experienced children and young people in particular. My work suggested that the Cocoon be continued and potentially extended to include a sexual health service for local Havering young people, who were concerned that they had to venture out of borough or for long distances to reach a specific young people’s sexual health service. Although no causal link can be directly evidenced, it is significant that Havering has a higher than average teenage pregnancy rate and it is reassuring that Public Health are now reviewing the sexual health services available across the borough.

This scrutiny also noted the value and positive feedback of early mental health interventions available across some of the Havering schools and encouraged a continuation of the extended commissioning of such work. Some concerns were expressed about young people’s perceived lack of use of GP facilities and the report noted the value of protected ‘drop in times’ for young people and adolescents to see a GP.

The second area of ‘deep dive’ scrutiny started in 2023 to 2024 (completed in July 24) was on young people’s transitions to adulthood. This noted the strong commitment of Partnership staff to ensure a smooth transition to adulthood, while recognising how national issues such as the cost of living and housing problems impact on so many young people progressing to healthy and safe independent

living. The report noted the need for clarity amongst practitioners of the role and function of the Transitions Panel supporting specific young people moving from Children's to Adult Services and the need for the impact of Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion to be fully considered and incorporated into the work of the Panel. It also recommended that a review of progress from a Summit on Transitions (2022) be undertaken to ensure recommendations are fully incorporated into ongoing partnership activity. The report has been placed on the HSCP website and actions are progressing.

Scrutiny 2024 to 2025

Over and above the specific requirements for Scrutiny as outlined in WT23, areas for deep dives or further more in-depth work might be on how learning from grass roots concerns are communicated effectively to the HSCP Executive; how learning from reviews and research is fully embedded into ongoing changing practice, particularly learning about incorporating EEDI issues, including cultural humility and competence; professional curiosity; and information sharing. Future scrutiny could also revisit the work of Early Help and ensure that 'Think Family' approaches are fully integrated across the Partnership.

I am very sad to be leaving my work as Independent Scrutineer with the HSCP, although I have initiated the move after a sustained period of time in the role and a need to revise workload commitments. I have learnt a lot from colleagues across the Partnership and have always been so impressed by the total dedication of all lead and relevant agencies to promote and support the safeguarding of children and young people across the borough. Findings from my scrutiny have been listened to and drawn upon without defensive guards, demonstrating a desire to continually improve and advance the needs and interests of children. I look forward to undertaking the handover to the new Independent Scrutineer and offering any support as might be appropriate over time.



CONTACT DETAILS

<https://safeguardinghavering.org.uk/>

This report was signed off at the HSAB and HSCP Joint Meeting on 11th September 2024 and published on the HSP website. A copy has been sent to the National Child Safeguarding Review Panel, DfE, Police Commissioner and What Works Centre.

Appendix 1

Attendance at HSCP Meetings 2023-24.

| Agency | Membership | 2023 – 24 SCP attendance |
|---------------|--|--|
| Starting Well | <p>Tara Geere Director of Children Services</p> <p>Kate Dempsey Principal Social Worker</p> <p>Candice Stephens Service Manager for MASH & Targeted Families Starting Well – member 06.02.24</p> <p>Farida Patel Service Manager for MASH & Targeted Services, Starting Well – member 06.02.24</p> | <p>10.05.23 Tara Geere SD, Kate Dempsey , Helen Harding</p> <p>13.09.23 Tara Geere , Kate Dempsey, Helen Harding</p> <p>29.11.23 Tara Geere SD , Kate Dempsey, Helen Harding</p> <p>06.02.24 Tara Geere SD, Kate Dempsey, Candice Stephens DNA, Farida Patel , Samantha Denoon , Helen Harding</p> |

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| | <p>Samantha Denoon Service Manager for Virtual School Specialist, Safeguarding & Youth Justice Starting Well – member 06.02.24</p> <p>Helen Harding Head of Service for Early Help , Targeted Support MASH & Youth Justice Starting Well</p> | |
| Legal Services | Stephen Doye | <p>10.05.23 DNA</p> <p>13.09.23 DNA</p> <p>29.11.23 DNA</p> <p>06.02.24 DNA</p> |
| NEL ICB | <p>Dr Richard Burack Named GP Lead for Children Services</p> <p>Paul Archer Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children NEL ICB</p> <p>Siobhan Avery Designated Nurse CIC NEL ICB</p> <p>Dr Elizabeth Adamson Designated Dr NEL ICB</p> | <p>10.05.23 Richard Burack DNA, Paul Archer , Elizabeth Adamson DNA</p> <p>13.09.23 Richard Burack DNA, Paul Archer, Elizabeth Adamson DNA,</p> <p>29.11.23 Richard Burack DNA , Paul Archer , Siobhan Avery, Elizabeth Adamson DNA</p> <p>06.02.24 Richard Burack DNA, Paul Archer SD, Siobhan Avery, Elizabeth Adamson retired.</p> |
| NELFT | <p>Pippa Ward Ass Director Children Services NELFT</p> <p>Irvine Muronzi Integrated Care Director NELFT</p> | <p>10.05.23 Pippa Ward DNA , Irvine Muronzi DNA</p> <p>13.09.23 Pippa Ward , Irvine Muronzi DNA</p> <p>29.11.23 Pippa Ward, Irvine Muronzi DNA.</p> <p>06.02.24 Pippa Ward DNA, Irvine Muronzi.</p> |
| BHRUT | <p>Gary Etheridge Director of Nursing & Safeguarding BHRUT</p> <p>Jay Brown Named Nurse Safeguarding Children BHRUT</p> <p>Daniela Capasso Assistant Director Safeguarding BHRUT</p> | <p>10.05.23 Gary Etheridge SD, Jay Brown, Daniela Capasso SD.</p> <p>13.09.23 Gary Etheridge DNA, Jay Brown, Daniela Capasso DNA.</p> <p>29.11.23 Gary Etheridge DNA, Jay Brown DNA, Daniela Capasso DNA.</p> <p>06.02.24 Gary Etheridge DNA, Jay Brown DNA, Daniela Capasso DNA.</p> |
| Police | Det Superintendent Lewis Basford EA BCU Met | <p>10.05.23 Lewis Basford</p> <p>13.09.23 Lewis Basford</p> <p>29.11.23 Lewis Basford SD</p> |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | | 06.02.24 Lewis Basford |
| Probation | Steve Calder Head of Service Probation | 10.05.23 Steve Calder 13.09.23 Steve Calder 29.11.23 Steve Calder DNA 06.02.24 Steve Calder |
| Housing | Darren Alexander Assistant Director Housing Demands Patrick Odling-Smee Director of Living Well | 10.05.23 Darren Alexander , Patrick Odling-Smee SD 13.09.23 Darren Alexander DNA, Patrick Odling-Smee DNA 29.11.23 Darren Alexander DNA, Patrick Odling-Smee DNA 06.02.24 Darren Alexander SD Patrick Odling-Smee SD |
| Public Health | Dr Mark Ansell Director of Public Health Emily Grundy Assistant Director for Public Health Dr Louise Dibsdall Consultant for Public Health – member 06.02.24 | 10.05.23 Mark Ansell SD, Louise Dibsdall 13.09.23 Mark Ansell DNA , Louise Dibsdall 29.11.23 Mark Ansell DNA, Louise Dibsdall 06.02.24 Mark Ansell SD , Louise Dibsdall DNA, Emily Grundy |
| Children’s Policy & Performance Havering Council | Lucy Goodfellow Policy & Performance Business Manager | 10.05.23 Lucy Goodfellow 13.09.23 Lucy Goodfellow 29.11.23 Lucy Goodfellow 06.02.24 Lucy Goodfellow |
| Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) | Jakir Hussain DWP | 10.05.23 Jakir Hussain 13.09.23 Jakir Hussain 29.11.23 Jakir Hussain DNA 06.02.24 Jakir Hussain DNA |
| Community Safety Partnership (CSP) | Diane Egan Community Safety & Development Manager | 10.05.23 Diane Egan DNA 13.09.23 Diane Egan 29.11.23 Diane Egan DNA 06.02.24 Diane Egan DNA |
| Education Services to include Early Years / Secondary and Primary schools | Trevor Cook Assistant Director of Education Services Emma Reynolds Scallywags Nurseries Claire Lakin Playdays Preschools Emilie Darabasz Frances Bardsley Secondary school Nicole Jethwa Abbscross Secondary school Carol Rockey Safeguarding | 10.05.23 Trevor Cook , Claire Lakin, Emilie Darabasz, Nicole Jethwa , Carol Rockey, Hayley McClenaghan, Chris Knight. 13.09.23 Trevor Cook , Claire Lakin DNA, Emilie Darabasz DNA , Nicole Jethwa , Carol Rockey, Hayley McClenaghan, Emma Reynolds, Chris Knight DNA. 29.11.23 Trevor Cook , Claire Lakin , Emilie Darabasz, Nicole Jethwa, Carol Rockey, Hayley McClenaghan DNA , Chris Knight. 06.02.24 Trevor Cook , Claire |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| | Advisor Schools Hayley McClenaghan Primary School representative Chris Knight Primary School representative | Lakin, Emilie Darabasz , Nicole Jethwa DNA , Carol Rockey DNA, Hayley McClenaghan, Chris Knight. |
| CAFCASS | Mihaela Lonescru CAFCASS Louise Jones CAFCASS | 10.05.23 Mihaela Lonescru DNA, Louise Jones. 13.09.23 Mihaela Lonescru DNA, Louise Jones DNA. 29.11.23 Mihaela Lonescru DNA, Louise Jones DNA. 06.02.24 Mihaela Lonescru DNA, Louise Jones DNA. |
| Children’s Lead Member | Clr Oscar Ford | 10.05.23 Clr Oscar Ford 13.09.23 Clr Oscar Ford 29.11.23 Clr Oscar Ford DNA. 06.02.24 Clr Oscar Ford |
| Voluntary Sector - Healthwatch - | Anne Marie Dean – member 06.02.24 | 10.05.23 13.09.23 29.11.23 06.02.24 Anne Marie Dean DNA |
| Independent Scrutineer | Prof Jenny Pearce OBE Independent Scrutineer HSCP | 10.05.23 Jenny Pearce 29.11.23 Jenny Pearce 06.02.24 Jenny Pearce |



