

HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

**Subject Heading: HSP Annual Report
2024-25**

Board Lead:

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The subject matter of this report deals with the following themes of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

<input type="checkbox"/>	The wider determinants of health
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase employment of people with health problems or disabilities• Develop the Council and NHS Trusts as anchor institutions that consciously seek to maximise the health and wellbeing benefit to residents of everything they do.• Prevent homelessness and minimise the harm caused to those affected, particularly rough sleepers and consequent impacts on the health and social care system.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lifestyles and behaviours <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/>• The prevention of obesity• Further reduce the prevalence of smoking across the borough and particularly in disadvantaged communities and by vulnerable groups• Strengthen early years providers, schools and colleges as health improving settings
<input type="checkbox"/>	The communities and places we live in <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/>• Realising the benefits of regeneration for the health of local residents and the health and social care services available to them• Targeted multidisciplinary working with people who, because of their life experiences, currently make frequent contact with a range of statutory services that are unable to fully resolve their underlying problem.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Local health and social care services <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of integrated health, housing and social care services at locality level.
<input type="checkbox"/>	BHR Integrated Care Partnership Board Transformation Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/>• Older people and frailty and end of life• Long term conditions• Children and young peopleCancerPrimary CareAccident and Emergency Delivery Board



- Mental health
- Planned Care

Transforming Care Programme Board

SUMMARY

The Annual Reports of the HSAB (Havering Safeguarding Adults' Board) and HSCP (Havering Safeguarding Children's Partnership) 2024-25 are presented here. The reports are the responsibility of the statutory partners; Brian Boxall Independent HSAB Chair; Barbara Nicholls, Strategic Director of People, Havering Council; Korkor Ceasar HSCP Chair, Deputy Director for Safeguarding Children, NEL ICB, Tara Geere, Director of Starting Well, Trevor Cook, Assistant Director Education, Havering Council, Det Super Charmaine Laurencin, EA BCU.

Over 50 people took part in a local survey in 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, and Child Sexual Exploitation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The HWBB is requested to accept the Havering Safeguarding Partnership (HSP) Annual Report 2024-25 and support the safeguarding priorities for children and adults 2024-27.

REPORT DETAIL

- This year we have seen a small rise in Child Protection Planning around Child Sexual Abuse (CSA), and a 50% rise in referrals for health assessments to the Sunrise (CSA) Hub. This is partially as a result of our focus on CSA, November 2024 multi-agency audit about Harmful Sexual Behaviour and our targeted training, involving the Sunrise Hub and other partners. And there has been a decrease in Child Protection Planning for Neglect- as a result of our focused work, Neglect training and refreshed strategy, which means we are identifying and addressing Neglect at an earlier point, and then intervening.
- Following concerted work by Adults' Social Care, including data cleansing, providing referral guidance, and training 60 delegates in autumn 2024, the conversion of multi-agency safeguarding adults' concerns to enquiries has improved by 14% this year, with better referrals being made by agencies, which frees the MASH to focus on those who have the greatest need.
- The SAB has been raising awareness of the PIPOT (People in Positions of Trust) Guidance and as a result, we have seen a rise this year in LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) investigations (where there are concerns for staff members or volunteers who work with adults or children). Referrals in regards to staff from the Health Sector has increased by 78% this year and make up 9% of referrals to LADO, with 25 referrals. We have seen a rise in escalations to the Partnership this year for both children and adults, which shows good professional challenge.

• As a result of an audit and review of the DVMARAC in October 2023, (risk assessment meetings for serious concerns of Domestic Abuse) GPs, Early Years' settings, colleges 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. We have seen rises in DVMARAC referrals for older people and teenagers, plus a rise in GP referrals, following support to practices from the Iris Project.

• The Sexual Health JSNA and local action plan were published by Public Health this year, with survey information from 78 Havering residents; the Healthy Weight Strategy was launched at a multi-agency event in Summer 2024, it was informed by two summits, attended by over 30 people. And following a local review of services, Summer 2025 saw the launch of new arrangements for Transitions of Young People to Adulthood.

• 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. We note the particular vulnerability of people from the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, adults who have a Learning Disability and Autism, and families from Black and minoritised ethnic backgrounds. We plan to offer more guidance to practitioners in the new financial year, including a piece of Independent Scrutiny.

• During the year, the HSAB completed one themed SAR (Safeguarding Adults' Review-Care Home and Hospital Discharge). The SAB has been working on 3 other SARs, around organizational abuse, rough sleeping, exploitation and suicide prevention. The HSCP published the "Henry CSPR- Child Safeguarding Practice Review" early in 2025, and has been working on others around Neglect, Suicide Prevention and Child Sexual Abuse. You can read more about the reviews in the report below. There has been a rise in referrals of serious incidents involving children and adults this year.

• Very sadly, there have been 15 child deaths this year, which have been or will continue to be reviewed by the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP). Particular priorities are safer sleep, suicide prevention and conditions caused by parents who are closely related. There have been 22 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.

• We receive regular learning from LeDeR reviews (Learning from Lives & Deaths- People with a Learning Disability and Autism), which identify good practice and learning within the Partnership. The CDOP Reviews have led, for example to focused work on safe sleeping for babies in the borough, and themed Panels this year around knife crime and self-harm.

• We held an extra-ordinary meeting to discuss multi-agency safeguarding training with our partners in October 2024. One of our joint priorities this year was to see stronger engagement and representation from the Voluntary Sector in Safeguarding. We have supported some specialized training for volunteers on two occasions at the new St George's Hub.

• In anticipation of learning from a fatal fire, we have been focusing on fire prevention for the most vulnerable and the Fire Brigade visited Avelon Road Day Centre for adults with Learning Disability during the year, to explain about keeping safe from fire.

• One key issue we have identified through our local learning and scrutiny of data is the need to prioritise the prevention and identification of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA). We were sponsored by the NSPCC to hold a Talk Pants campaign this year and all schools, libraries, Children's Centres, Early Years' settings, and GP surgeries have received resources. The campaign was launched in October 2024, and we plan to continue this legacy. The Pantosaurus adult costume has attended many schools, and community events, and we have held regular briefings, training practitioners. We held a Christmas colouring competition for children through our schools and libraries, and over 100 children took part. We have subsequently seen a rise in LADO referrals during the year, including from young children reporting unsafe touching, during the year, which we see as a result of the Talk Pants campaign.

• 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-evaluations, which has highlighted that their most significant concerns remain Domestic Abuse and Neglect. During the forthcoming year, we are redoubling our efforts to work with Independent Schools more closely.

• We saw 1,116 delegates attend our multi-agency safeguarding training this year, plus 120 delegates attend our Conference on Transitional Safeguarding in November 2024, an increase of approx. 10%, and a decrease in non-cancellations. As delegates said, after attending our Safeguarding Week training on Gangs and Youth Violence by Junior Smart in November 2024,

“I am now more confident in how to support young people”; “I can take a lot of things I’ve learned into my daily work”; “How important being authentic is”. “Identifying pupils and risk and how to best support them.” “The trainer Junior was brilliant. Very engaging and knowledgeable”. “Better understanding of County Lines and Child Criminal Exploitation”.

“To plan the support provided to families who have had members involved with gangs and youth violence”.

“I’ve learned more about the reasons why these vulnerable children get caught up in gangs and violent crime”.

- One of both our adults' and children joint Partnership priorities is Mental Health. During this year, Public Health published the borough's Suicide Prevention Strategy with a number of briefings to the Partnership, forming lived experience, stakeholder and strategic groups.
- In terms of driving forward multi-agency learning, this year we have published a good practice 7 minute briefing following a SAR referral, Mr Avon, about pressure ulcers; information about Window Safety, following learning from a Havering CSPR; Private Fostering awareness posters; a PIPOT animated film; and publicized national learning from the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, the Safeguarding Adults' Networks, and other partnerships and research.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

- This year has seen significant changes in many agencies and challenges in recruitment and retention of staff in East London. NEL ICB, BHRUT and NELFT are facing funding challenges this year, and recruitment to safeguarding leadership posts is not easy. The Council, like many other statutory bodies, has faced significant financial pressures and last year received 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) and the Met Police for data submissions. The Combatting Drugs Partnership scrutiny has led to improved data around hospital admissions for people with substance use concerns.
- The Partnership has seen some growth in safeguarding enquiries for adults from a Black and Minority Ethnic Background. We have seen higher numbers of serious incidents in particular for males with Learning Disabilities and Autism, and children from Black, Traveller, and Asian ethnicities, compared to the White British population. This year we have provided more training on equalities and discrimination.
- Our improved understanding and production of data, has shown that White people are over-represented in many aspects of multi-agency data. This year we have seen more people aged over 60 being referred for the DVMARAC, those from protected characteristics, and those aged 16 and 17 years. We wish to raise awareness this coming year regarding the vulnerability of adults to Domestic Abuse from family carer; and the management of support to people with multiple needs.
- In comparison to our statistical neighbours and London averages, we see growing numbers of children subject 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, whether children or adults. This gives us renewed impetus and drive to bring about improvements.

- In terms of risks on our Partnership Risk Registers, we have seen improvements in the PELC (Partnership of East London Cooperatives Ltd) Service, which has meant retirement from our Registers; we have seen improvements in the provision of timely Initial Health Assessments for Children in Care; and the work of the CSA Hub; added to the Register this year has been the quality of Met Police safeguarding data and the Connect and Operation Encompass process; the sufficiency of the NELFT School Nursing and Special School Nursing contracts, held respectively by Havering Public Health and NEL ICB; and the quality and provision of NELFT (North East London NHS Foundation Trust) safeguarding data.
- The Partnership is well engaged with Starting Well's Ofsted Improvement Boards and has seen improvements in Child Protection Planning and the care of children in Local Authority Care. As we await the formal Inspection feedback from the CQC for Adults' Social Care in August 2025, we have seen 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. 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.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

HSAB: [Annual Reports - Havering Safeguarding Adults Board](#)

HSCP: [Annual Reports - Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)