

# Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership Board Minutes (Summary)

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 22 February 2024, 14:00
<b>Venue</b>	MS Teams
<b>Chair</b>	Jim Gamble (JG), Independent Child Safeguarding Commissioner
<b>Minutes</b>	Rushena Miah (RSM) - CHSCP Coordinator

Agency	Membership	Attendance
CHSCP	<b>Jim Gamble (JG), Independent Child Safeguarding Commissioner</b>	<b>present</b>
	<b>Rory McCallum (RMC), Senior Professional Advisor to the CHSCP</b>	<b>present</b>
Cafcass	<b>Melinda Cassel (MC), Service Manager</b>	<b>present</b>
Probation Service	<b>Stephanie Salmon (SS), Head of Service Hackney &amp; City PDU</b>	<b>present</b>
NHS NEL	<b>Nick Lessof (NL), Designated Doctor</b>	<b>present</b>
	Nikhil Katiyar (NK), GP & Governing Body Lead for Safeguarding	absent
	Dr Emma Tukmachi (ET), Named GP Safeguarding Children	absent
	Mary Lee (ML), Designated Nurse (0.5)	apologies
	Sam Martin (SM), Designated Nurse (0.5)	apologies
	<b>Marcia Smikle (MS), Head of Safeguarding Children - Homerton</b>	<b>present</b>
	<b>Vivien Hobbs (VH), Named Doctor</b>	<b>present</b>
	Breeda McManus (BM), Chief Nurse - Director of Governance	apologies
	<b>Korkor Ceasar (KC), Associate Director for Safeguarding Children</b>	<b>present</b>
ELFT	Dinh Padicala (DP), Director of Safeguarding	apologies
	Ade Dosunmu (AD), Manager of CAMHS	apologies
	Andrew Horobin (AH), Deputy Borough Director - City and Hackney  East London NHS Foundation Trust	apologies
Police	<b>Kelly Hobbs, Detective Chief Inspector Central East BCU</b>	<b>present</b>
Hackney CFS	<b>Lisa Aldridge (LA), Head of Service, Safeguarding &amp; Learning</b>	<b>present</b>
	<b>Diane Benjamin (DB), Director of Children's Social Care</b>	<b>present</b>
	<b>Jenny Zienu (JZ), Strategy policy lead - poverty workstream</b>	<b>present</b>
	<b>Pauline Adams (PA), Head of Service, Young Hackney</b>	<b>present</b>
	<b>Maurice Mason (MM), Head of Service, Safer Communities</b>	<b>absent</b>
Public Health	<b>Carolyn Sharpe (CS), Consultant Public Health</b>	<b>present</b>
Housing	<b>Steve Waddington (SW), Strategic Director, Housing Services</b>	<b>present</b>
Hackney Education	Vacant	-
HCVS	Vacant	-
London Fire Brigade	James O'Neil (JN), Borough Commander for Hackney	apologies
Hackney Councillors	<b>Cllr Antoinette Bramble (AB), Cabinet Member for Children</b>	<b>present</b>
	<b>Cllr Susan Farjana Thomas (SFT), Cabinet Member for Community Safety</b>	<b>present</b>

Also in attendance:

Agency	Role	Attending for
ELFT	<b>Bev Heredge (BH) Safeguarding Lead</b>	DP
Hackney CFS	<b>Mags Wild (MW)</b>	-

This summary captures the main discussion points and decisions made at the 12 October 2023 Hackney Board meeting. It was noted that JZ was attending the meeting to provide an update on the end of the Household Support Fund and the impact of Universal Credit migration.

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2023 were approved as an accurate record.

The Board approved a pilot where professionals would be asked to complete a multi-agency chronology prior to Core Review meetings regarding neglect. It was agreed that a comms briefing would be sent to professionals to ensure that there was a unified understanding of the request and expectations.

The new Child Protection Conference Complaints Procedure was noted as follows:

**Stage 1:** Raised with the Chair via a conversation and a letter on the outcome is written in response.

**Stage 2:** If the appellant is unsatisfied with the first stage response, they may make a complaint to the Safeguarding Review Manager for an investigation.

**Stage 3:** Final stage of appeal. A hearing will be set up with two members of the CHSCP Board present as impartial panel members and one member as Chair. The Panel will review the case, hold a meeting and make a final decision on the outcome.

The Board resolved to approve the new Child Protection Complaints Procedure and agreed to populate appeal panels when necessary.

The Board was notified of new risks on the Risk Register. These included:

- The impact of the Israel-Gaza conflict on local communities.
- The Impact of the Working Together Guidance on existing governance mechanisms within the partnership.
- An update on the cost of living risk was provided by JZ. It was noted that since the Board held its last extraordinary meeting on the cost of living crisis, the Strategic Delivery Team had been working on the dispersal of the Government's Household Support Fund. It was confirmed, however, that there would be no further funding provided.
- Therefore the team will be shifting its focus from identifying and allocating funds to families, to an early intervention and prevention service alongside voluntary sector partners.
- A new risk was raised on Universal Credit migration. Recipients of UC will be migrated to a new system in phases. 30% of recipients have reported missing a payment or losing their access if they were late in complying with instructions. The key message to frontline staff is to raise awareness of this with families and advise they act quickly to avoid missing out.

The Board noted the Risk Register and Operational Risk Register.

Changes to the Working Together guidance and its impact on the Partnership was discussed. The Board felt that the consultation yielded an unfavourable outcome as the new guidance was incompatible with current arrangements across the CHSCP footprint.

It was noted that £47k was awarded by the DfE towards transformation costs. RMc was tasked with producing an options paper on how to utilise the funding and governance arrangements. It was noted that any changes to the governance arrangements would be implemented from Quarter 3, 2024/25.

The Board noted the update.

LA provided a report on targeted prevention regarding S.47s in Hackney. The following information was presented:

- The service noticed a disproportionate amount of black and global majority children on S.47 assessments.
- It was found that S.47s were most frequently applied to cases where domestic abuse was present, physical chastisement was being used (though in these cases it was found parents were remorseful and willing to engage in support), or where a child protection plan was put in place very quickly.
- It was found that there was an inconsistent approach to decision making on S.47s. In order to reduce the number of unnecessary investigations, two approaches are being taken:

- 1. Working with colleagues to discuss an agreed threshold of 'significant harm' and whether a S.17 ('child in need' as opposed to a 'child at risk of significant harm') would be more appropriate.
- 2. Working with voluntary sector organisations to support engagement work with parents on the harms of physical chastisement.

The Board noted the report and looked forward to receiving an update after the pilot.

The Board was asked to ratify the Extra-Familial Harm Strategy. The strategy would replace the Safeguarding Adolescents Strategy with a renewed focus on extra-familial harm.

The Board approved the strategy and welcomed a partnership approach to extra-familial harm.

The Board noted the partner updates. Comments included:

- Well done to the Homerton regarding the case of the baby.
- Could ELFT provide an information paper on the Double R initiative?
- The Housing Team were in the process of creating a Vulnerabilities Policy which will address reasonable adjustments for housing and linking in with other services.
- A query on how the Probation Service was faring given several years of turbulence. It was noted that challenges were being recognised and addressed and the service was optimistic of the future.

Having conducted a pilot with the Board, the Child Safeguarding Statement initiative was approved for roll out to CHSCP agencies. The first round of statements were expected by the end of 2024/25.

The Board received a briefing from ET (Named GP) explaining that patient records were accessible via subject access requests. Therefore it was recommended that any documents containing safeguarding information should be clearly marked as "CONFIDENTIAL SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION ATTACHED - NOT SUITABLE FOR PATIENT ONLINE ACCESS". The Board noted the recommendation.

There was a suggestion to receive a summarised performance report outlining lessons learned, trends, themes and learning outcomes. The suggestion was taken on board for consideration.

The following reports were noted for information:

- Business Plan
- Case Reviews
- Autism - a guide for police
- FGM Protocol

JG thanked colleagues for their time and closed the meeting.

**Date of next Meeting**

Thursday 6 June 2024, 10:00-12:00, Tomlinson Centre.

**End: 16:00**