

City of London Safeguarding Children Partnership Board Minutes (Summary)

Date of Meeting	Thursday 29 February 2024, 10:00
Venue	MS Teams
Chair	Jim Gamble (JG), Independent Child Safeguarding Commissioner
Minutes	Rushena Miah (RsM) Partnership Coordinator

Agency	Membership	Attendance
CHSCP	Jim Gamble (JG), Independent Child Safeguarding Commissioner	present
	Rory McCallum (RMc), Senior Professional Advisor to the CHSCP	present
CAFCASS	Jessica Rowland (JC), Area Manager East, City & Hackney	present
CoL Corporation	Chris Pelham (CP) Assistant Director, People	present
	Valeria Cadena (VC), Team Manager Community Safety	present
Fire Brigade	James O'Neill (JON) Borough Commander	apologies
NHS NEL	Ade Dosunmu (AD), General Manager CAMHS	absent
	Andrew Horobin (AH), Deputy Borough Director	absent
	Dr Emma Tukmachi (ET), Named GP Safeguarding Children	apologies
	Marcia Smikle (MS) Head of Safeguarding Children	present
	Mary Lee (ML), Designated Nurse (0.5)	-
	Sam Martin (SM), Designated Nurse (0.5)	present
	Nikhil Katiyar (NK), GP & Governing Body Lead for Safeguarding	absent
	Dr Nick Lessof (NL), Designated Doctor	absent
	Dinh Padicala (DP), Director Safeguarding ELFT	apologies
Vivienne Hobbs (VH), Named Doctor (Community)	absent	
Lead Member	Ruby Sayed (RS), Common Councilman	present
NHS North East London ICB	Korkor Caesar (KC), Associate Director for Safeguarding children, NHS NEL ICB.	absent
Police	Alistair Marman (AM), A/Detective Chief Inspector	present
Probation	Stephanie Salmon (SS), HoPDU for Hackney and City	apologies
Public Health	Carolyn Sharpe (CS), Consultant in Public Health	present

Also in attendance:

Agency	Role	Attending for
Probation	Sharon Smith (SS), Senior Probation Officer Hackney	Stephanie Salmon
London Fire Brigade	Darren McTernan (DT), Director LFB	James O'Neil
COL	Rachel Talmage (RT) Head of Children's Social Care & Early Help	presenter
ELFT	Bev Heredge (BH), Safeguarding Named Professional	Dinh Padicala

This summary captures the main discussion points and decisions made at the 29 February 2024 City Board meeting.

Introductions were given and apologies noted. The minutes of the meetings held on 28 September 2023 and 27 November 2023 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting. All actions were noted as green except the letter to Guinness Housing which is pending.

An update on the GCP2 pilot was presented by RT. It was noted that all City professionals were now trained on GCP2 and it is being used in multi-agency discussions and supervision. The Board was assured that they do not use the scoring aspect for decision making.

Partners expressed concerns around monitoring and impact of the tool if it was being used differently than the NSPCC prescribed. The Board agreed to the continuation of the pilot for a further nine months with the requirement that the following questions are responded to in its next update:

1. How does GCP2 compare to the neglect toolkit and why is it needed if we already have an effective threshold for neglect?
2. Given that the City uses the toolkit differently, how would the City monitor the tool?
3. How would the City accrue wider learning that identifies trends, themes, and patterns that can be meaningfully interpreted?

The Board were presented with a new Child Protection Complaints Procedure. The Board resolved to approve the new procedure and agreed to populate appeal panels where necessary. The Board was also presented with the Extra Familial Harm Strategy and were given two weeks to provide further input before publication.

JG briefed Partners on the key changes introduced by Working Together 2023. Implementation of the guidance is expected by December 2024. It was noted that for the first two quarters of 24/25 existing partnership arrangements would continue as usual, with any changes being implemented in quarter three (after an impact assessment exercise).

It was queried when the Lead Practitioner role would be introduced as this was a concern to health partners. The City provided assurance that they would not be deviating from current operational arrangements until research currently being conducted by Pathfinders at the national level was completed.

The Board was provided with an opportunity to add, alter or amend the Risk Register. There were no further comments.

Key points discussed under Partnership Updates included:

- An update on the City of London Police CAID (Child Abuse Image Database) system
- Inclusion of the City Threshold document for ELFT training sessions.
- Praise for the SUDI work.
- Low uptake of specialist CAMHS by children/families - further discussion to be had at Homerton Safeguarding Operational Forum
- Praise for the Barbican Library being awarded Children's Safe Haven status
- Care leavers now a protected characteristic
- Success at the Pan London Shining Stars Awards

It was noted that having conducted a successful 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 request to receive a summarised performance report outlining lessons learned, trends, themes and learning outcomes. This work was delegated to the QA Sub-Group.

JG thanked colleagues for their time and closed the meeting.

END: 12:00