

## Executive Group Minutes (Summary)

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Monday 22 January 2024, 15:00.
<b>Venue</b>	Online MS Teams
<b>Chair</b>	Jim Gamble (JG), Independent Child Safeguarding Commissioner
<b>Minutes</b>	Rushena Miah (RSM), Partnership Coordinator

Agency	Membership	Attendance
CHSCP	Jim Gamble (JG), Independent Child Safeguarding Commissioner	Present
	Rory McCallum (RM), Senior Professional Advisor to the CHSCP	Present
Police	James Conway (JC) Borough Commander MPS Hackney and Tower Hamlets	Present
	Umer Khan, Commander (UK) – Operations & Security, Chief Officer Team - City of London Police	apologies
NHS NEL	Diane Jones (DJ), Chief Nursing Officer, NHS North East London ICB, Part of North East London Health & Care Partnership	apologies
City of London	Judith Finlay, (JF) Executive Director, Community & Children's Services	apologies
Hackney Council	Jacquie Burke (JB) - Group Director Children & Education	Present
Hackney Education	Paul Senior (PS) - Director Education	apologies
City Academies Trust	Mark Emmerson (ME) - Chair of City Academies Trust	apologies

- Denotes no response

Also in attendance:

Agency	Role	Attending for
NHS NEL	Marsha Jones (MJ) - Interim Director of Nursing and Safeguarding	DJ

This summary captures the main discussion points and decisions made at the 22 January 2024 meeting of the Executive.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2023 were approved as an accurate record. A number of apologies had been received, but there was representation from the statutory safeguarding partners in Hackney. It was agreed that any cross-border decisions would be escalated to City representatives as required.

RM provided an overview of the CHSCP risk register. The Executive was alerted to the potential impact on the effectiveness of the CHSCP given the revisions to Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023. The consultation response raised several areas of concern. Despite this, most, if not all, the key changes have been accepted by the government. The CHSCP has followed up with an FOI request to the DfE to understand how the results have been interpreted.

It was noted that the DfE are providing each partnership area with a one-off payment of £47k to assist with the implementation of the new guidance.

It was suggested that this funding could be used to conduct an external independent review of the CHSCP arrangements. It was noted that Hackney Council recently completed an audit of the CHSCP's governance and approach to risk management and found these secure. Options to take this forward to be further considered.

There was also a suggestion for the CHSCP to seek legal counsel regarding the revised guidance given its conflict with locally defined arrangements for delivering independent scrutiny i.e. via the Independent Safeguarding Children Commissioner.

Given the timescale to revise and publish new arrangements against the revised guidance is set for the end of the year, the Executive agreed to continue with the existing governance for the next two quarters.

The newly added risk on the impact of the conflict in Gaza was agreed to remain Red as a RAG rating given events were ongoing.

Key areas of progress against the CHSCP's Business Plan were shared with the Executive.

The Self assessments / staff survey have identified the need to engage with VCS / OOSS and Housing providers to better connect them with the CHSCP and strengthen their arrangements.

It was noted that the Safeguarding Adolescents Strategy and action plan is being refreshed further to a workshop at the end of last year.

JC provided an update of local actions in response to the HMICFRS inspection in 2023 on missing children. Improvement activity is ongoing in terms of the accuracy of risk assessment, risk grading and ensuring missing activity translates into offender focused activity. The combined Shield team in the CE BCU is a different model to other areas in London and is considered beneficial.

The Executive noted the lack of progress in respect of UES. JG is scheduled to write to the SoS again regarding the lack of action from the government following the Schools Bill being halted.

It was noted that the Business Plan required a refresh. RMc and JG were tasked with updating the plan and bringing it to the Executive for review for 2024/25.

There was a discussion on the quality of police data and a hesitancy to share data due to new Information Commissioner rules. It was agreed that the police would meet with RM to discuss better data sharing practice and improved quality of information being provided.

The Executive was notified that the ILACS inspection was likely to take place close to the upcoming half-term. This would likely be followed by a SEND inspection in the summertime. The importance of being prepared was highlighted.

The Executive was briefed on a meeting with the Home Office regarding MTIP searches and proposals to change PACE legislation. Overall the ISCC's position was that the CHSCP would not endorse any policy position that allowed the search of a child in a school setting. Home Office Colleagues agreed to consider the ISCC's comments and the CHSCP is awaiting a response.

There was no other business. The following papers were noted for information:

- Performance Dashboard
- Inspection Dashboard
- Case Review Summary Report

JG thanked colleagues for their time and closed the meeting.

**END 15:49**