

# Child Safeguarding Statement



Hackney Council, Children and Families Service

Our organisation has completed a CHSCP Self-Assessment.



## Nature / Type of Organisation and Services Provided:

Children and Families Services provides support and advice for Hackney's children and young people and their families and carers. This includes the statutory responsibility to safeguard children, acting as Corporate Parent for our looked after children, providing fostering and adoption services, and children in need, universal youth and youth justice services.

## Our commitment to safeguarding children:

Children Act 1989 and as set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018). It is the duty of the local authority to 'provide services to children in need in their area, regardless of where they are found; [and] to undertake enquiries if they believe a child has suffered or is likely to suffer significant harm'.

As set out in the Children Act 1989 safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

### Risk that children might face (1)

National cost of living crisis continues to impact families meaning more poverty, homelessness and hunger.

### How are we mitigating this risk? (1)

- Support via children's centres, youth hubs, community partners
- Free school meals and food vouchers available
- £35k funding for food vouchers to support care leavers, families supported by Child in Need, Child Protection, Family Support plans, and in-house foster carers
- Guidance for practitioners supporting families requiring financial assistance

### Risk that children might face (2)

High staff turnover and challenges recruiting/retaining social workers, resulting in increased caseloads.

### How are we mitigating this risk? (2)

- Retention bonuses
- Establishing Senior Social Worker role
- Streamlined process for agency social workers to progress to permanent roles
- Development of Refer a Friend scheme
- Ensuring planned and informative induction period for new starters
- Parking Permits for social workers
- Improved support and oversight of students and ASYE

### Risk that children might face (3)

The timely allocation of accommodation for care leavers.

### How are we mitigating this risk? (3)

- Council tax exemption for all care leavers
- Clear and well publicised rent deposit scheme
- Plans to implement an intentionally homeless exemption, increase the number of social care tenancies and allow care leavers to join the Hackney housing register in a priority band from the age of 18.

### Risk that children might face (4)

The delivery and oversight of return home interviews when children go missing.

### How are we mitigating this risk? (4)

Children's Rights Officers will undertake all return home interviews unless a child wishes to have a conversation with their social worker or a trusted adult.

This will:

- Ensure consistent best practice
- Track the offer, take up, timely completion and correct recording of return home interviews
- Provide stronger management information and

### Risk that children might face (5)

N/A

### How are we mitigating this risk? (5)

N/A

The following legislation, policies, procedures and guidance also support and inform our intention to safeguard children while they are accessing our service(s). These documents are available upon request.

Children Act, 1989  
Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2023  
London Child Protection Procedures  
Hackney Child Wellbeing Framework  
Matrix of Responsibility  
MASH Operational Protocol  
Local Assessment Protocol  
Transfer Protocol  
Children's Social Care Practice Standards  
CFS Supervision Policy

The final draft of this safeguarding statement has been agreed for submission by the individual with overall responsibility for the organisation. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Please confirm



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Procedures are available to the public here:

<https://hackney.gov.uk/children-and-families>

For queries, please contact: [cfscoms@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:cfscoms@hackney.gov.uk)

Submission N° 19706880 Date of Publication 30/08/2024