City of London Safeguarding Children Partnership Board Minutes
11 March 2025
Summary

Attendees:

- Jim Gamble (JG)- Independent Safeguarding Children Commissioner CHSCP - Chairing
- Jessie Rowland (JR) Probation Service Area Manager East, City & Hackney
- Ratchel Talmage (RT) - Head of Children's Social Care & Early Help CoL
- Valeria Cadona (VC) - Team Manager Community Safety CoL
- Laura Demetriades (LD) - Head of Safeguarding & Quality Assurance CoL
- Debora Bell (DB) - Head of Education CoL
- Dinh Padicala (DP) - ELFT -Director Safeguarding
- Alistair Marman (AM)- A/Detective Chief Inspector CoL Police
- Amananda Horsburgh (AH) - Detective Chief Superintendent – Head of Specialist Operations CoL Police
- Claire Doyle(CD) - Police Constable, Prevent and Channel Officer CoL Police
- Frazer Gledhill (FG) - Detective Inspector CoL Police
- Omar Haque (OH) - Community Safety Officer
- Vivienne Hobbs (VH) - Homerton Hospital NHS-FT
- Rushena Miah, (RMi) - CHSCP Partnership Coordinator - Minutes

Agenda Item 1: Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising (Presenting: JG)

The minutes from the meeting on 03/12/24 were approved as an accurate record.

Agenda Item 2: Risk Register & Operational Risk Register (Presenting: JG)

Risk 1, concerning the CHSCP's influence, was downgraded from red to amber following the approval and online publication of the new Safeguarding Arrangements by the Executive. Other risks remained unchanged. The board noted the risk registers.

Agenda Item 3: GCP2 Neglect Tool Update (Presenting: RT)

RT updated the board on the City's use of the GCP2 toolkit, which assesses the quality of care provided to children. The tool's videos and resources have been updated and are used by over 100 Local Authority Children's Services. City of London practitioners use the tool to identify low-level neglect, though extensive use is infrequent. The board approved the recommendation for practitioners to continue using the tool and for leads to provide information and attend refresh training. The GCP2 has positively impacted the distinction of low-level neglect and serves as a useful reference, complementing professional expertise.

Agenda Item 4: Disproportionality - Multi-Agency Case Audits (Presenting: RT)

This item addressed disproportionality in services, prompted by national findings on inequalities for neurodivergent children. The City proposes a detailed multi-agency audit to proactively improve services and ensure equitable and effective support for all children.

LD and RM had preliminary discussions regarding the audit process, aligning it with the MACCA process but with an independent lead. LD also developed the terms of reference and framework for the audit. The board endorsed the recommendation for a detailed multi-agency audit to understand and address service disparities. The QA sub-group will lead

this initiative.

Agenda Item 5: Families First Programme (Presenting: RT)

The Families First programme, a government initiative for social care reform, mandates local authorities to implement changes promoting early intervention and multi-agency collaboration, though its implementation varies.

New guidance necessitates integrating the City's Families First programme with the local Family Hub model and the review of Children's Centre Services. A new temporary programme board has been established to oversee and align these three initiatives, aiming to prevent fragmentation and ensure a cohesive multi-agency approach.

Concerns were raised about agencies recruiting from the same limited pool of qualified professionals, potentially straining resources. Implementation also impacts training across agencies, highlighting the need for coordinated, joined-up training due to varying existing practices. The guidance emphasises evidence-based practice, calling for independent evaluations and longitudinal studies. Measuring the programme's impact from the outset is crucial.

After discussion, the board approved:

- The establishment of a new temporary programme board to manage the integration of the Families First programme, the Family Hub model, and the review of Children's Centre Services. This board will report to existing relevant partnership boards, with project management support provided.
- The application of an equality impact assessment to analyse the programme's impact on different demographics.
- Measuring the programme's impact from the start via a built-in independent evaluation process. Evaluations would be returned to the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership Board for primary oversight.

Agenda Item 6: Prevent Programme Presentation & Partner Updates (Presenting: CD/FG/OH)

A focused discussion on the Prevent programme, prompted by the Southport incident, highlighted the impact of online risks and ongoing efforts to refine the programme through various initiatives and policies. Critical elements included partnership working, safeguarding, engagement, and training. The Prevent duty's alignment with safeguarding responsibilities and its local implementation, especially in educational settings, were detailed, along with support provided by the City of London Police and training statistics.

National Prevent referral statistics for 2023-2024 indicated an increase in online extreme right-wing ideology. Discussions covered measuring Prevent success, factors contributing to increased child involvement in CT casework (like online radicalisation), and a City of London case study. Challenges in implementing Prevent locally, such as engagement and perception, were also addressed.

Agenda Item 7: Case Review / QA / TLD Updates (Presenting: JG/ML)

The board received updates on the Case Review, Quality Assurance, and Training Learning &

Development Sub-Groups.

Regarding quality assurance, a new round of multi-agency case auditing will commence, focusing on cases where consent for intervention was withheld, to assess outcomes. The training, learning, and development update detailed the collation of individual agency updates on safeguarding training, highlighting both the breadth of delivery and specific areas of expertise.

Agenda Item 8: COLSCPB Terms of Reference (Presenting: JG)

The meeting addressed the City of London Safeguarding Children Partnership Board's Terms of Reference, circulated for review.

The meeting clarified the exceptional circumstances under which the Independent Safeguarding Children's Commissioner continues to chair the board, deviating from standard practice outlined in Working Together 2023. This decision maintains independence, ensures robust scrutiny, and acknowledges the dual footprint of the City and Hackney. This arrangement prevents potential conflicts of interest from Designated Safeguarding Partners (DSP) from either area chairing the other's board.

Agenda Item 9: Any Other Business (Presenting: All)

No other business was raised. The Chair thanked attendees for their engagement and closed the meeting.

END: 12:00