

# Priorities and Pledge

2025-27

The strategic priorities guiding the work of the **City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership (CHSCP)** are established annually by its **Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs)**. Responsibility for delivering these priorities lies with the **Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs)** of the CHSCP Executive and the broader group of relevant agencies that form the Safeguarding Boards in both the City of London and Hackney. These priorities aim to ensure the right conditions are in place for high-quality safeguarding practice to flourish, and that multi-agency help and protection are effective.

## Our Vision

Children in the City of London and Hackney are **seen, heard and helped**; they are effectively safeguarded, properly supported and their lives improved by everyone working together.

## Our Principles

- **Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.** As a partnership, we will champion the most vulnerable and maintain a single child-centred culture.
- **Context is key.** Capitalising on the unique opportunities presented by a dual-borough partnership, we will have an unswerving focus on both intra-familial and extra-familial safeguarding contexts in the City of London and the London Borough of Hackney.
- **Active Anti-Racist practice is key.** The CHSCP's safeguarding arrangements are proactively anti-racist. Our focus in this context moves beyond the rhetoric and is evident in our leadership, our practice and in the outcomes of the children and families we engage.
- **The voice of children and families.** We will engage with children and their families, using their lived experience to inform the way we work. Their voices help both design and improve our safeguarding arrangements.
- **The voice of communities.** Improving our understanding of the diverse communities across the CHSCP's footprint, we will regularly communicate with, listen to, and engage local communities in the work of the CHSCP. We will harness their experience to both inform and improve the way we safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- **Enabling high quality safeguarding practice.** We will promote awareness, improve knowledge and work in a way that is characterised by an attitude of constructive professional challenge.
- **Fostering a culture of transparency, learning and improvement.** We will enable the CHSCP to learn from the lived experience of children and continuously improve the quality of multi-agency practice.

# Our Priorities

## Priority 1: The Health & Stability of the Safeguarding Workforce

**Outcome:** Safeguarding partners, relevant agencies and named organisations attract, retain, develop, and support their workforce. A healthy and stable workforce contributes to high quality safeguarding practice that improves outcomes for children and young people.

## Priority 2: Active Anti-Racist Practice

**Outcome:** The partnership's approach to safeguarding children is characterised by active anti-racism and aligns with the CHSCP's Anti-Racist Charter. Practice that disproportionately and negatively impacts on Black and Global Majority children (and their outcomes) is identified and reduced. Children and their families are confident in challenging their experiences of racism, have mechanisms in place to escalate their concerns and tell us that they can see change. Practitioners are confident in challenging racism and this happens.

## Priority 3: The Voice of Children

**Outcome:** Multi-agency safeguarding practice reflects the lived experience of children. The voices of children are central to all aspects of the child's journey and are used to influence service design, develop practice and improve outcomes.

## Priority 4: Maintaining and Building on the Foundations of Good Practice

**Outcome:** Multi-agency safeguarding practice demonstrates a strong foundation, continuous improvement and alignment with the national standards for child protection.<sup>1</sup> Children and families are effectively supported by early, robust, timely and coordinated multi-agency help and protection.

## Priority 5: Strategic Vulnerabilities & Pathways to Harm

**Outcome:** The CHSCP identifies and develops action in response to identified strategic vulnerabilities and the pathways to harm facing children. For 2025/26, local priorities centre on **Child Sexual Abuse, Safeguarding Adolescents, Neglect and Unregistered Educational Settings**.

## Priority 6: The Appetite to Learn

**Outcome:** Children and young people are effectively safeguarded by professionals being actively engaged with the CHSCP's learning & improvement framework. Leaders encourage independent scrutiny, challenge performance, and embed lessons for practice improvement across their respective organisations.

<sup>1</sup> [Page 80 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#)

## Our Pledge

**The Health & Stability of the Safeguarding Workforce** - Without a healthy and engaged workforce, no agency can fully participate in and support the work of the partnership. The CHSCP will therefore seek to develop a better understanding of the pressures that staff and volunteers face and the steps that can be taken to mitigate them. This work will be undertaken in the context of what we know about the current conditions – organisational change, reduced resourcing levels and increased demand. It will include evaluation of workforce stability, its capacity, and the support available to help deliver high-quality practice.

**Active Anti-Racist Practice** – Through our collective leadership, we will model our values and promote a way of working that puts active anti-racism front and centre. This will be seen in the strategies we develop, the decisions we take and the people we employ. Critically, active anti-racist practice will be evidenced in the behaviours of our staff and volunteers. Through a relentless focus on improvement and challenge, Black and Global Majority children and families will see, hear and feel the difference when engaged by those responsible for their help and protection.

**The Voice of Children** - We will support and enable a culture of working that routinely seeks out and reflects the voices of children. The lived experience of local children and their voices will be evident in the policies we create, the practice we review and the communication channels that our wider partnership creates. Importantly, it will be evident in our casework and our intervention to improve outcomes for children and their families.

**Maintaining and Building on the Foundations of Good Practice** - The CHSCP recognises that good practice is built upon solid foundations, and we are committed to maintaining and continuously building upon these. We will maintain focus on ensuring these fundamental aspects are embedded in our work, covering the journey of the child through the safeguarding system. This includes our approaches to family help, child protection, looked after children, and care leavers.

**Strategic Vulnerabilities & Pathways to Harm** – We will proactively respond to local strategic vulnerabilities and identified pathways to harm through robust and focused multi-agency arrangements. We will commit to developing our understanding of these issues and work together to implement solutions that directly support practice, improve outcomes and help tackle the root causes of harm to children.

**The Appetite to Learn** - We are committed to maintaining our improvement journey and to that end, we will actively seek out and embrace opportunities to learn. Our quality assurance activity remains structured on our learning and improvement framework. We will routinely revisit the action plans to ensure that identified improvements are reflected in contemporary practice. Critically, we will respect the independent scrutiny role of the Independent Safeguarding Children Commissioner, the right to 'roam', the right to ask difficult questions and the right respectfully challenge. Whenever required, safeguarding partners, relevant agencies and named organisations will provide whatever information they can to address a relevant enquiry or concern