Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership Board
Minutes Summary
May 2025

Attendance:

- Jim Gamble (JG), Independent Safeguarding Children Commissioner CHSCP
- Rory McCallum (RMc), Senior Professional Advisor to the CHSCP
- Jessie Rowland (JR), Area Service Manager Cafcass
- Stephanie Salmon (SS), Head of Service Hackney & City PDU, Probation Service
- Michael Ogundele (MO), Designated Doctor NHS NEL
- Sam Martin (SM), Designated Nurse (0.5) NHS NEL
- Marcia Smikle (MS), Head of Safeguarding Children - HH NHS-FT
- Vivien Hobbs (VH), Named Doctor HH NHS-FT
- Dinh Padicala (DP), Director of Safeguarding, ELFT
- Jacquie Burke (JB) Director Children & Education Hackney
- Diane Benjamin (DB), Director of Children's Social Care Hackney
- Carolyn Sharpe (CS), Consultant Public Health
- Donna Thomas (DT) - Head of Early Years, Early Help & Wellbeing Hackney
- Dovid Lichtig (DL), Chief Executive, Interlink
- Cllr Antoinette Bramble (AB), Cabinet Member for Children Hackney
- Laura Bleaney (LB) Head of Corporate Parenting Hackney
- Frida Lannemyr (FL) MASH Service Manager Hackney
- Eden Munro (EM) Welcome Hackney Manager Hackney
- Jim S Mitchell (JSM) Public Protection – Offender Management, Met. Police

Agenda Item 1: Minutes of the Last Meeting & Matters Arising

The minutes from the 6 March 2025 meeting were approved as an accurate record.

Agenda Item 2: Risk Register & Operational Risk Register

The risk register ratings remained largely unchanged, though a new risk related to fiscal pressures for partner agencies, particularly the NHS ICB, was identified.

Agenda Item 3: Learning & Improvement

- **Case Reviews:** Updates were provided on ongoing case reviews.
- **National Panel (NP) Update:** The position on Case A was reconciled, and it was noted that Sir David Holmes would be taking over as Chair of the NP.
- **End of Year Training Report:** Concerns were raised about a high non-attendance rate of 30% for training. A review of communication methods and reasons for non-attendance was required.

Agenda Item 4: Family Help Programme Update

LA was appointed to a temporary post as Assistant Director for the Families First Programme. Recruitment for the project team was underway, and research with other local authorities was ongoing. The first programme board meeting was scheduled for 12 June 2025, with the formal programme plan to be published by the end of June 2025.

Agenda Item 5: Kinship Strategy

A report on Hackney Council's Kinship Care Self-Assessment and Strategy for 2025-2028 was presented. The strategy was developed in response to new statutory guidance. As of March 2025, Hackney was aware of 238 children in kinship care arrangements, with an estimated 740 overall. Older, single female carers were most vulnerable to breakdowns in arrangements. The partnership resolved to support the development of a training programme and communications strategy.

Agenda Item 6: MASH Service Update

An update on the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) developments and performance for 2024/2025 was provided. An Ofsted inspection in July 2024 commended MASH. Permanent Emergency Duty Team (EDT) workers were integrated in July 2024, and a staffing structure review was completed. MASH received 14,751 contacts in 2024/25. There is a significant overrepresentation of children from Black and Global Majority backgrounds referred to MASH. Future plans include strengthening multi-agency engagement and exploring technological advancements. Concerns were raised regarding the withdrawal of police officers from MASH.

Agenda Item 7: Safeguarding Asylum Seeking Residents in Asylum Hotels

A presentation highlighted safeguarding concerns for asylum-seeking children in contingency hotels in Hackney. Key issues included inadequate food, bed bugs, mental health concerns, and challenges with space for children. Concerns were also raised about exposure to issues with single adults in hotels and a lack of proactive risk assessment and accountability from accommodation providers. Mitigations included a monthly Safeguarding Assurance Meeting, advocacy, and weekly drop-in services.

Agenda Item 8: Partner Updates

The written partner update submissions were noted for information.

Agenda Item 9: Any Other Business

There was no other significant business. .