



Local Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report Addendum (October 2020 – March 2021)

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Introduction

This addendum provides an update to the 2019-2020 Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) Annual Report, which was published in October 2020. In September 2020 the Department of Education requested a review of all the Partnerships in England and Wales, and the previous report was in accordance with this expectation.

The report provides an update on the work of the partnership from October 2020 to March 2021, before the shared Local Safeguarding Children Partnership across the three boroughs came to an end.

During the last six months of the shared partnership, we did not have an independent chair appointed, however, the safeguarding partners did appoint an external consultant to undertake a piece of independent scrutiny by means of an audit. Details of this can be found on page 24.

Further details about the new safeguarding children partnerships and their priorities being developed in Hammersmith and Fulham, and separately in Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster from April 2021 can be found on page 31.

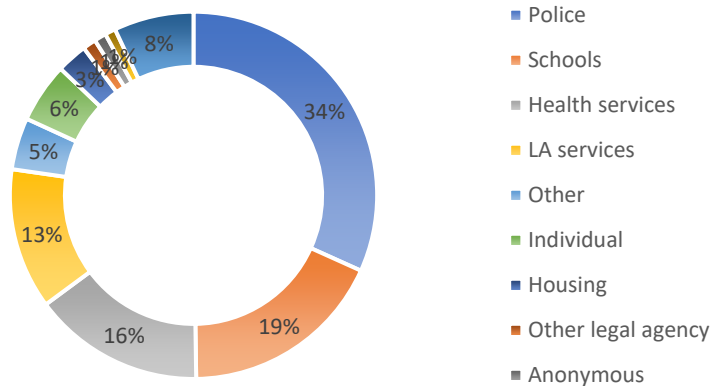
Safeguarding in numbers

Hammersmith and Fulham

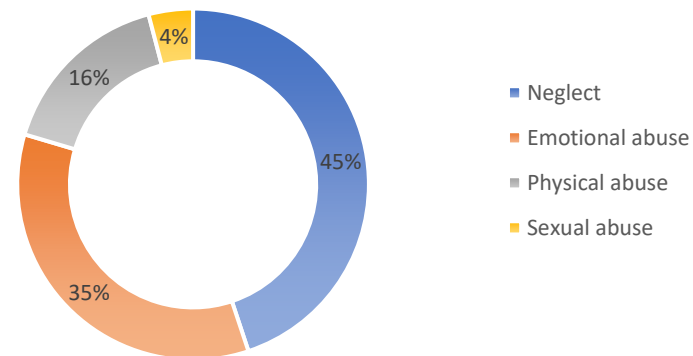
Key facts

- There were 800 referrals made to Children's Services between 1 October 2020 – 31 March 2021.
- The majority of the referrals came from the police (34%).
- 80% of initial child protection registrations were under the category of emotional abuse or neglect.

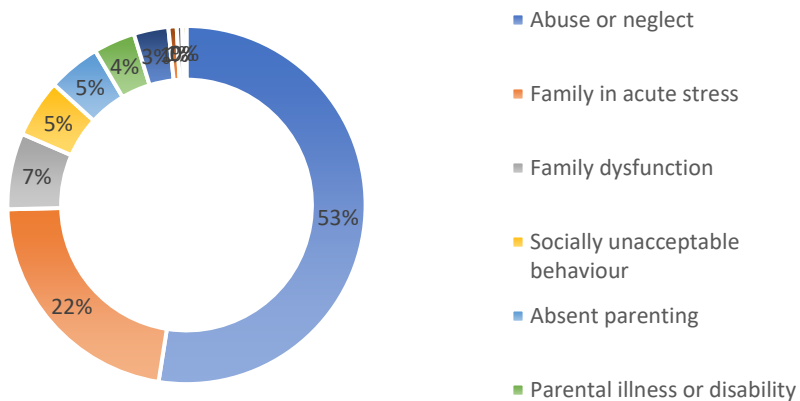
Hammersmith and Fulham referrals October 2020 –31 March 2021 by source protection plans March 2021 by primary need group



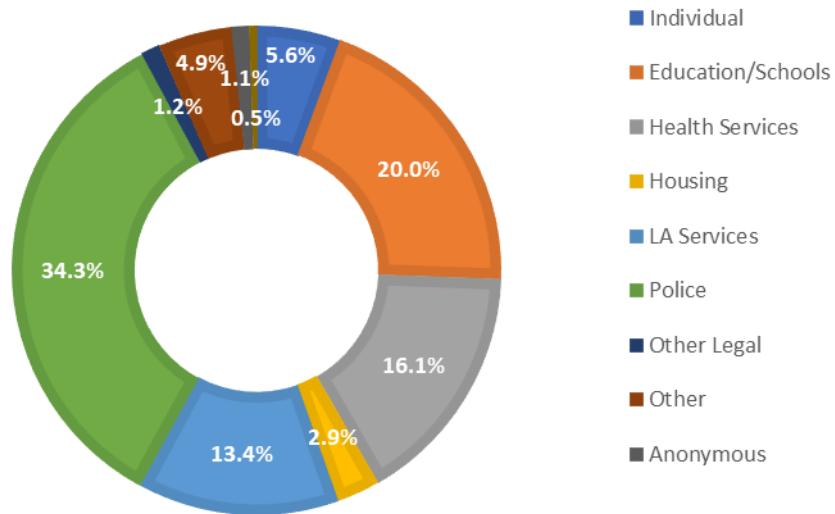
Hammersmith and Fulham child October 2020 – 31



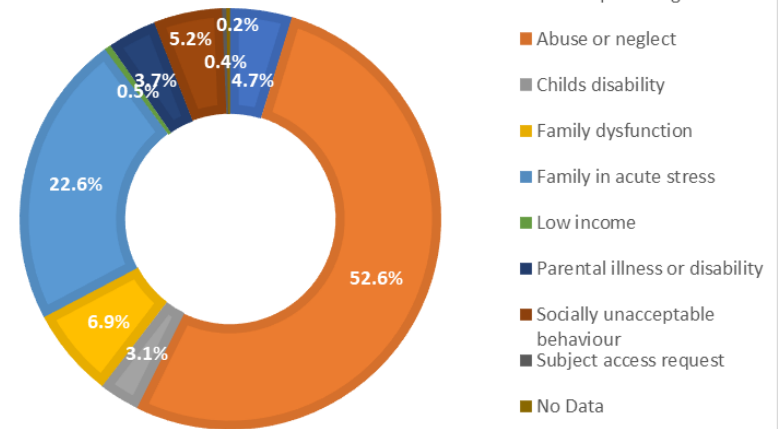
Hammersmith and Fulham referrals October 2020 – 31 March 2021 by primary need group



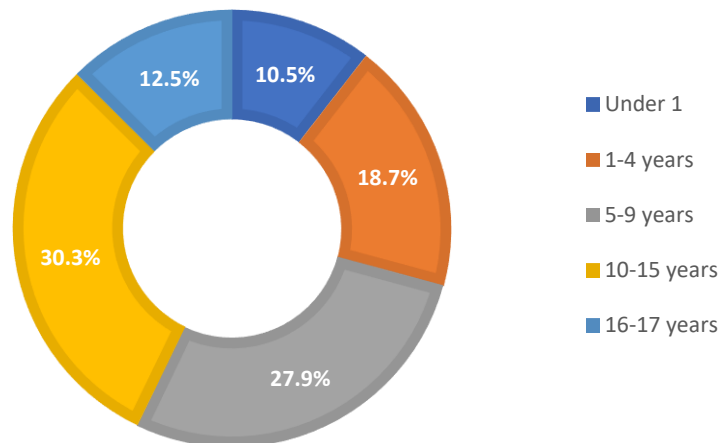
NUMBER OF REFERRALS BY SOURCE



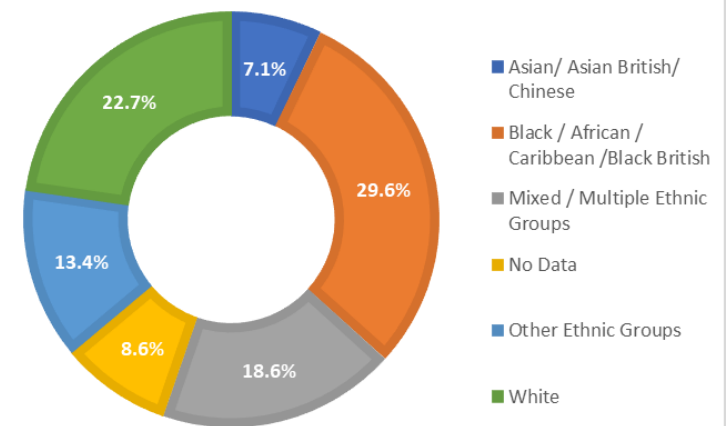
NUMBER OF REFERRALS PRIMARY NEED GROUP



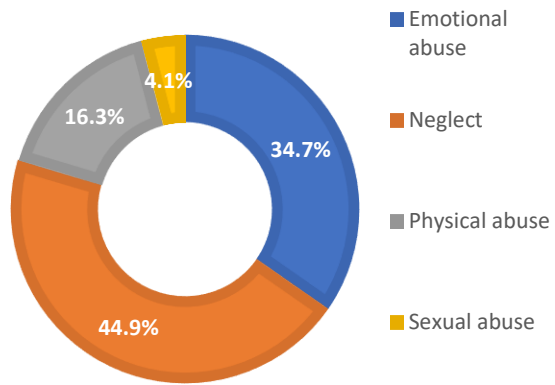
NUMBER OF REFERRALS BY AGE GROUP



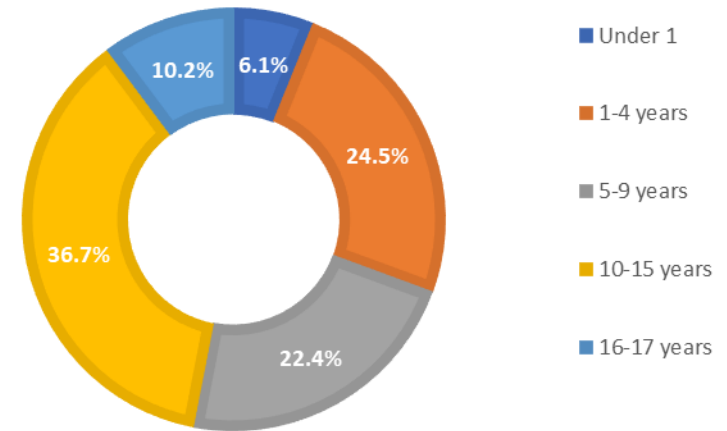
NUMBER OF REFERRALS BY ETHNICITY



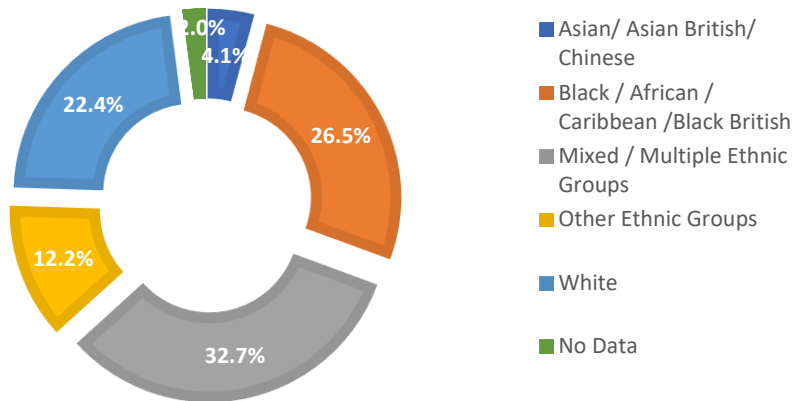
CP PLANS BY REGISTRATION CATEGORY



CP PLANS REGISTRATIONS BY AGE



CP REGISTRATIONS BY ETHNICITY



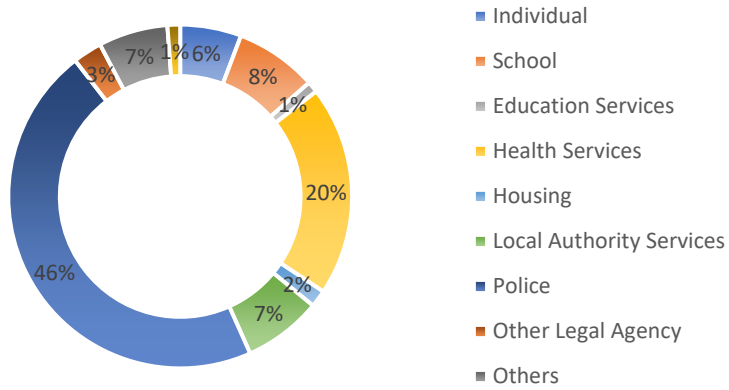
Kensington and Chelsea

Key facts

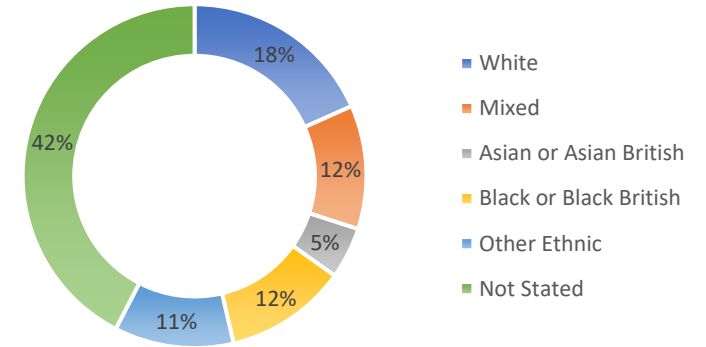
- Like Westminster, the main referrer to children's social care is the police.
- 79% of initial child protection registrations were under the category of emotional abuse or neglect.

Between 1 October 2020 – 31 March 2021, 1424 referrals were made to children's social care. The charts on the following pages show who was making the referrals, the age and ethnicity of the children referred and the nature of the concern.

Kensington and Chelsea referrals October 2020 – 31 March 2021 by source

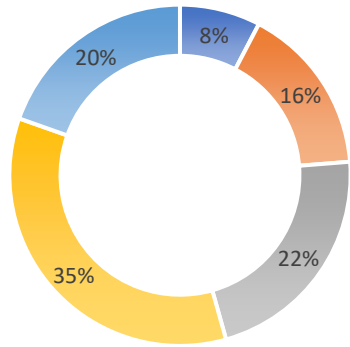


Kensington and Chelsea referrals October 2020 – 31 March 2021 by ethnic group

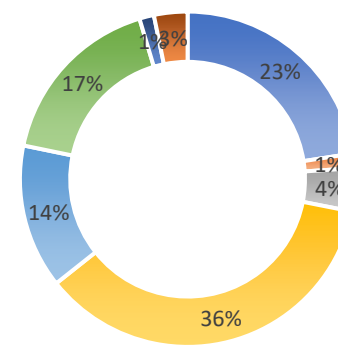


Kensington and Chelsea referrals October 2020 – 31 March 2021 by age groups

Kensington and Chelsea referrals October 2020 – 31 March 2021 by primary need



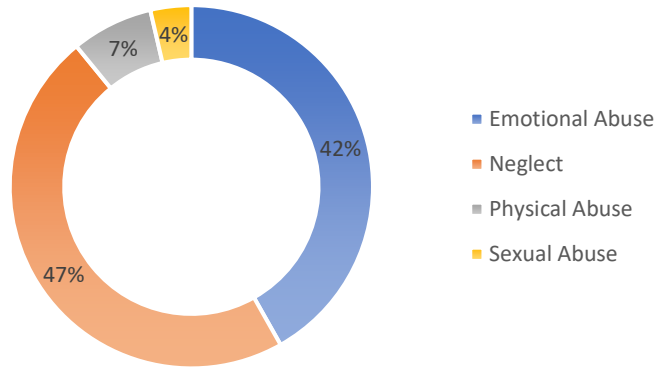
- Under 1
- 1-4 years
- 5-9 years
- 10-15 years
- 16 & over



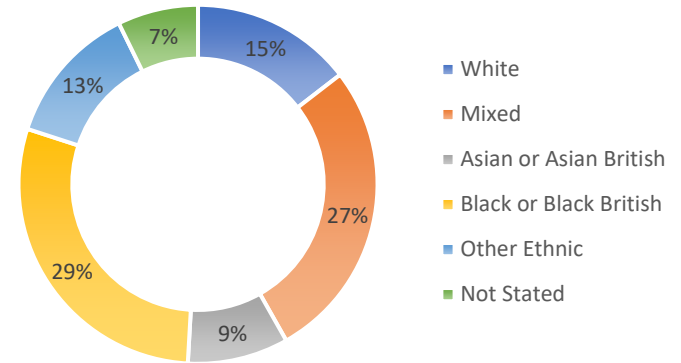
- Abuse or neglect
- Child's disability
- Parental disability of illness
- Family in acute stress
- Family dysfunction

**Kensington and Chelsea child protection plans
October 2020 – 31 March 2021 starting by category**

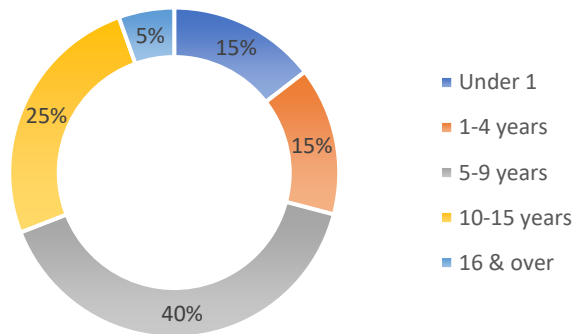
group



**Kensington and Chelsea child protection plans
October 2020 – 31 March 2021 starting by ethnic**



**Kensington and Chelsea child protection plans
October 2020 – 31 March 2021 starting by age group**



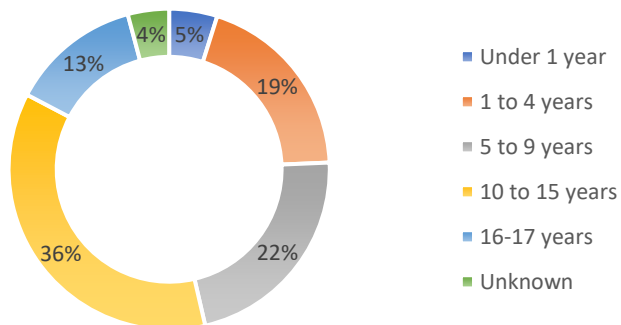
Westminster

Key facts

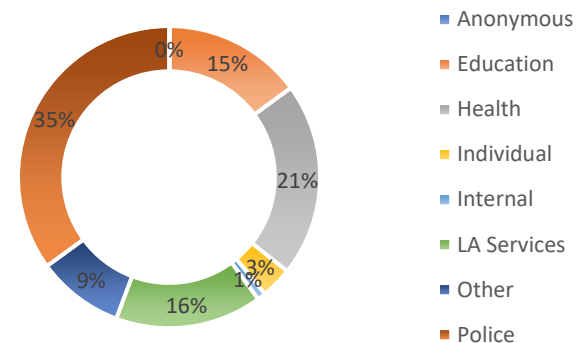
- 10 – 15 year olds continue to be the most common age group of children referred to children's social care.
- The main referrer to children's social care is the police.

Between 1 October 2020 – 31 March 2021, 1011 referrals were made to children's social care. The charts on the following pages show the age and ethnicity of the children referred and the nature of the concern.

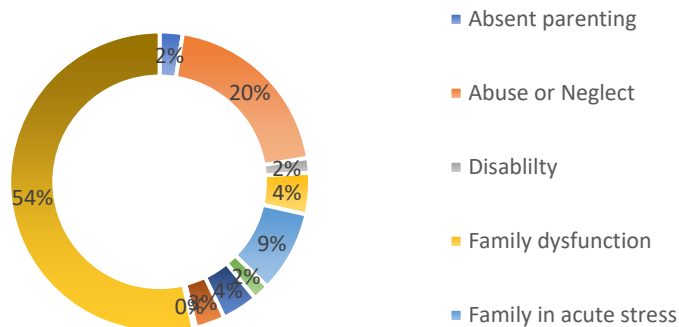
Westminster referrals October 2020 – 31 March 2021 by age groups



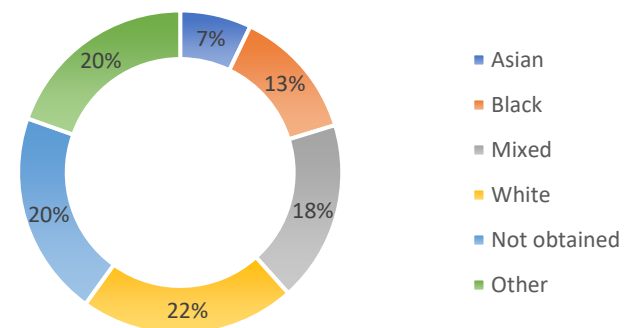
Westminster referrals October 2020 – 31 March 2021 by source



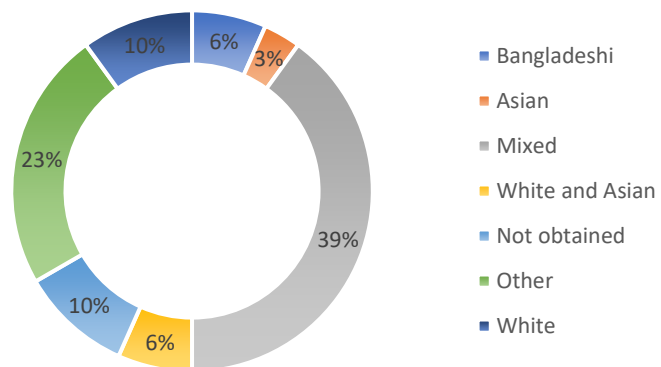
Westminster referrals October 2020 – 31 March 2021 by primary need groups



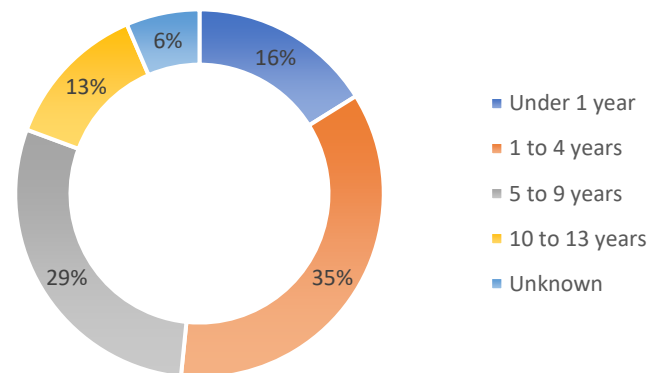
Westminster referrals October 2020 – 31 March 2021 by ethnic groups



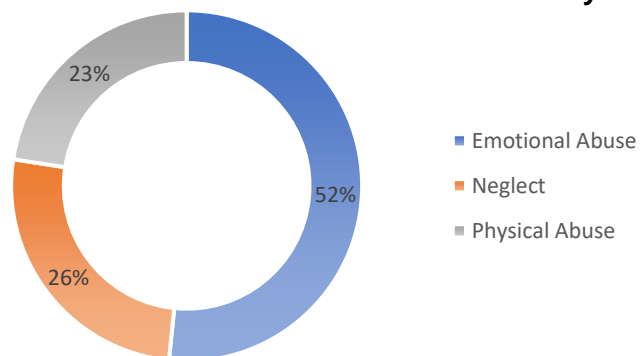
**Westminster child protection plans registrations
October 2020 – 31 March 2021 by ethnic groups**



**Westminster child protection plans registrations
October 2020 – 31 March 2021 by age**



**Westminster child protection plans registrations
October 2020 – 31 March 2021 by initial plan category**



Working together during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Having reflected on our experiences after the first Covid lockdown in the spring of 2020, between October 2020 and March 2021, the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership continued to ensure that there was close liaison across the three safeguarding partners in the local authorities, police and CCG about any safeguarding issues arising as a result of the pandemic.

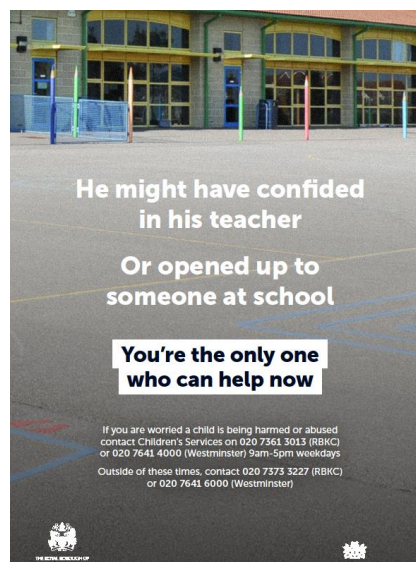
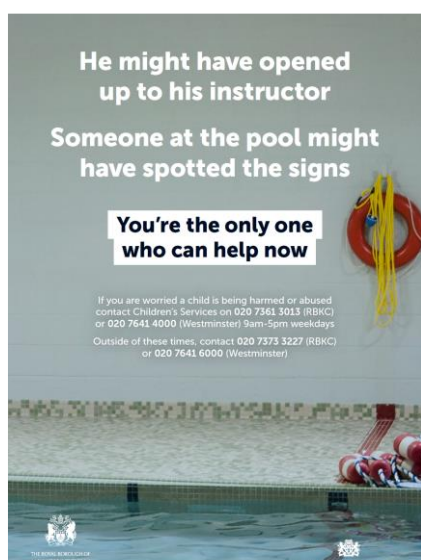
During this period, there was significant disruption to our schools, with the majority of children again being asked to stay at home and learn remotely. The local authorities and schools worked in partnership to ensure that the most vulnerable children were able to continue to access school in person and that children had access to laptops and connectivity to be able to participate from home. Any child who needed a device was provide with one. Children's attendance rates in early years settings and schools has and continues to be monitored. Children's Services also maintained contact with local colleges, with staff visiting to promote the support available to young people locally. Partners also ensured there was a robust emotional wellbeing / mental health offer for schools and recovery curriculums were shared with primary and secondary schools.

Moving forward, the Partnerships in Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster and in Hammersmith and Fulham will continue to actively monitor the rates of children who are electively home educated and children missing education as school attendance levels remain below pre-Covid levels.

Partners continued to revise our safeguarding procedures to be purposeful in the circumstances. The local authorities reviewed and revised all child in need and child protection plans so ensure that they were tailored to the covid lockdown circumstances and children's services reviewed performance data frequently to ensure that children were being contacted at regular intervals. Were it was considered necessary to do so – children and families were seen face to face by their social worker. The local authorities also risk assessed all care placements for our looked after children and additional support was offered where it was considered necessary. Children with disabilities were seen at home rather than bringing them into our local centres.

As in the first lockdown period, partners utilised digital platforms creatively to engage children and families. Virtual parenting support and virtual children's centre activities were offered and families were also sent activity and wellbeing packs. New mothers were contacted, provided with a new birth pack and linked in with key contacts.

In Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster, a publicity campaign to encourage members of the public to report concerns was rolled out again:



The Partnership has maintained an oversight of multi-agency working and safeguarding arrangements. Building upon the Covid19 multi-agency safeguarding guidance established in April 2021, and updated regularly throughout the year, partners have maintained a regular and open dialogue, shared information about local and national impact upon services, raised challenges about delivery, and sought to work together to meet the increasing and varied needs of children and young people. Focus areas have included health visiting, services to new mothers, newborns and under 5s, child and adolescent mental health services, changing criminal exploitation patterns, placement support for Looked After Children, and asylum-seeking families placed in local hotels by the Home Office.

As the prospect of lockdown measures being reduced arose towards the end of winter, Children’s Services and partners continued to innovate. We began planning for how we might be able to host child protection conferences safely in person again. This required thoughtful planning around whether families felt safe to attend, and the use of additional technology to facilitate the involvement of the families and other agency partners who could not attend in person. The needs of the children and families were front and centre in our planning as we developed this important strand of work. Multi-agency partners have also continued to explore new ways of working with families in the child protection pathways.

Progress with our priorities

The following section details some of the activities that have taken place over the last six months to address our LSCP priorities.

Priority 1: Reducing the harm from domestic abuse and coercive control

Operation Encompass

As highlighted in the main Annual Report, Operation Encompass is an initiative whereby the police will notify a child’s school if they (the police) are called to an incident of domestic abuse at the child’s home address. This allows the school to provide appropriate pastoral care for the child as they come into school.

Over the period of 1st October 2020 to 31st March 2021, 97 notifications were made to schools across the three boroughs.

Borough	No. of notifications
Westminster	12
Hammersmith and Fulham	47
Kensington and Chelsea	38
Total	97

Further developments

Further work is required to develop the accuracy of the schools notified via Operation Encompass. Currently the notifications are made by police officers but there needs to be greater assurance that new incidents are recorded accurately and that officers are not relying on information already on the police databases from previous incidents.

How do we know Operation Encompass can make a difference?

The LSCP is keen to further understand the impact of Operation Encompass and as such, we will develop a way of seeking further assurance from schools that receiving the police notifications leads to positive interventions for the children concerned. This is currently not something that is routinely collected by the Police.

Safe & Together Audit findings

To coincide with the roll out of training to children's social care practitioners on the 'Safe and Together' model (a model that aims to help practitioners better support survivors and support children to remain safe and together in the care of the non-abusing parent, as well as better intervene with and hold perpetrators to account), an audit of domestic abuse case files in children's services was undertaken.

The key findings include:

- There was evidence that Signs of Safety was a tool that aided assessment and centred risk in relation to domestic abuse
- There was a strong focus on the impact of domestic abuse on children in most cases
- However, there was evidence of mutuality of language, with incidents described as 'conflict', 'fights' or 'arguments'. This was presented within the context of a lack of insight into the full spectrum of the perpetrator's pattern of behaviour.
- There was evidence that risk in relation to domestic abuse was not always explored or understood. In some cases, high risk domestic abuse was not referred into the MARAC process

The audit will be repeated once further 'Safe and Together' training has been delivered to children's social care practitioners in order to test the improvements to practice and outcomes for children and young people.

IRIS project

The IRIS project has been commissioned by MOPAC in the boroughs of Westminster and Hammersmith and Fulham for one year from November 2021 to improve General Practices' recognition and referrals of patients experiencing domestic abuse. Nationally there has been a rise in DVA during the pandemic and the huge negative impact this has had on victims and families. General Practice remains one of the few places that are open for patients to attend in person be it to book appointments or collect prescriptions as well as see health care professionals. So far in Westminster 11 practices have received the training and their patients have benefitted from this by receiving appropriate onward support from the IRIS team.

Below is a quote from a local GP's experience of the IRIS programme:

'We've all found it immensely helpful in keeping the potential for domestic abuse at the forefront of our minds, which is particularly pertinent during this difficult time. We have all learnt how to ask safely and sensitively about this and also how to ensure that the victim is kept safe and referred on to support services such as IRIS. Our experience of working with the IRIS Advocate Educators has been extremely positive and we have received positive feedback from patients as well as staff.'

In addition, The Home Office has launched a new domestic abuse codeword scheme in thousands of pharmacies across the UK. The Ask for ANI codeword scheme allows those at risk or suffering from domestic abuse to discreetly signal to pharmacy staff that they need help accessing support. A trained pharmacy worker will offer a private space where they can

understand if the victim needs to speak to the police or would like help to access support services, such as a national or local domestic abuse helpline.

We know that the coronavirus lockdown was a significant barrier to residents accessing a wide range of Council services – and know that for domestic abuse survivors living with their perpetrators, lockdown has made accessing support more difficult. Therefore, we worked with key partners to run several public awareness campaigns focusing on child protection and domestic abuse throughout the past year so that people knew how to access support.

Priority 2 – Protecting children vulnerable to exploitation

Development of the Detached Outreach Team in RBKC

Our Family Services team listened to the voice of the child and implemented children and young people's feedback collated during the Youth Review in the shaping of the new model of working for the Detached and Outreach Team (DOT) and the new Targeted Prevention Team (TPT) for young people at risk, including those not in education, employment, and training (NEET). They deliver one-to-one regular support using a life coaching approach to help enable young people to gain skills, grow in confidence and overcome barriers so that they can access employment and/or training and to maximise their life chances. In RBKC the total number of leavers moving onto education, employment, or training as a percentage of NEET is at 92% (September 2020), which is above the national average of 90%, and the London average which is at 86%. The team works closely with schools and colleges as well as local employers to help young people access a wide variety of opportunities.

In 2020/21, the number of first-time entrants (FTEs) decreased by 30% from 27 to 19 with the number of convictions to Court dropping by 50%. As a partnership, we need to understand what drives offending and violence, changing the narrative from criminality to one of vulnerability. Although offending and crime affect us all, we know locally that it disproportionately affects children and young people from black communities, and of course, we cannot ignore the unique vulnerabilities and needs of young women and girls. We know that most of the solutions to youth crime lie outside the justice system so we must work closely together across organisational boundaries so that children's services, education, health, police, and other stakeholders are all part of the solution. A Bi-Borough Drugs Strategy is being developed as well as a RBKC Youth Crime Strategy. For the first time, the development of the strategy will be coordinated jointly by Family and Children Services and Community Safety.

Serious Youth Violence

We continue to strengthen our response to Serious Youth Violence and enhance the local delivery of targeted services for vulnerable adolescents. The Integrated Gangs and Exploitation Unit (IGXU) employment coaches continue to ensure that young people have access to the latest opportunities to support young people into education, employment, and training. During the pandemic the team creatively adopted a model of 'ride-outs' to maintain a presence on the streets. These proved highly effective in enabling staff to cover the whole of the city, attending hotspots where activity has been reported and seeing young people. The team have also had some excellent unplanned outcomes such as mediating between young people involved in a fight at the alternative education provision and doing on-the-spot community reassurance in a shop following a robbery.

We have seen a decrease of 12% (42 to 37) of First Time Entrants to the criminal justice system and as part of the local authority's Partner's in Practice work, we are currently piloting a systemic assessment as an alternative to the ASSET PLUS. The pilot programme was launched in November 2019, introducing a systemic assessment framework for young people subject to a Referral Order or Youth Conditional Caution, a bespoke systemic training programme for staff and the introduction of a systemic clinician to the team. The pilot has been extended by the Youth Justice Board for a further year to enable ongoing evaluation. We are currently undertaking our own internal evaluation of the pilot which is already giving us really positive feedback: "***We found it helpful and it gave us an insight into the process. the assessment opened up different pathways and we felt super supported. It helped us to understand things well.***" (Young person and their parent)

Development of GVEU (Gangs, Violence and Exploitation Unit) in Hammersmith & Fulham:

The Gangs Violence Exploitation Unit (GVEU) is a non-statutory service that was formed in September 2020. The unit is made up of staff from LBHF and Council-funded Metropolitan Police Officers. The GVEU was set up in response to the need to tackle the escalation of gang-related violence and exploitation impacting vulnerable young people in Hammersmith and Fulham.

The unit is supported by both the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council and has been funded through S106 funding. The unit is led by the Head of Community Safety and works in partnership with the Metropolitan Police, The ASB Coordinator and the GVEU Manager. The unit aims to support young people at risk of gangs, violence and/or exploitation, young people aged 10-15, Families affected by serious youth violence, young people involved in gangs, violence and/or exploitation, victims of gang-related activity and exploitation, third sector organisations and external and internal partners.

The unit has a number of core principles that guide its work which include: community participation, community support, protection, prevention, community resilience and early intervention.

A comprehensive vulnerability tracker has been developed by the GVEU data analyst, along with a wide-ranging data dashboard that provides a multitude of information as required. GVEU works with both internal and external partners to ensure the best support is provided to young people, families and the wider community.

In addition to community-based partnerships, the unit sits on the following panels with other professionals, which includes the Care Leaver Accommodation Pathways Panel, Risk and Wellbeing Panel, Serious Youth Violence Consultations, Out of Court Disposal Panel and the No Further Actions Decisions Panel. GVEU uses several models of practice as a framework including:

Systemic Practice promotes the use of therapeutic interventions to enhance working relationships with young people, adults and families and professional partners.

Contextual Safeguarding recognises the impact of relationships outside family or care settings on young people. The unit recognises that young people can be vulnerable to abuse, violence and exploitation in different ways. We work with schools, community groups and other partners to help young people affected by gang-related violence and/or exploitation.

GVEU has had a significant impact since it started in September 2020 and has been rated as 'Good' by the Violence Reduction Unit.

Safeguarding Adolescents at Risk Panel:

This Panel meets monthly alongside Heads of Young Offending and the Exploitation Lead for Children's Services. The panel is well attended by a number of partner agencies with the aim to look at cases of young people who are experiencing or at risk of extra-familial harm, including gangs, serious youth violence and exploitation. The purpose is to ensure that risk is jointly held and that a problem solving approach is taken to reduce risk and increase positive outcomes for children and young people.

Transitions and Resilience Project:

Hammersmith & Fulham Council are currently delivering a dynamic and innovative piece of work called 'Transitions and Resilience Project'. This was created by Family Support who were granted funding from the Youth Endowment Fund via the Home Office for innovative ways to tackle Serious Youth Violence. The project is also being evaluated by the University of Hertfordshire. This project aims to reduce the number of school exclusions in Hammersmith & Fulham, which is a common factor for children who become involved in serious youth violence. The project team focus on tackling the impact early life trauma has during key transition points for young people aged between 10-14 and uses creative technology (virtual reality) and 1-2-1 support to achieve this.

Response to the ['Everyone's Invited' Website](#)

[Everyone's Invited](#) is a website that was set up last year for victims and survivors of sexual assault and harassment to anonymously share their stories. Since the 8th of March 2021, over 15,000 anonymous testimonies have been submitted, some of which have included the names of schools and education settings.

A small number of local schools, including maintained and the independent sector, were named on the Everyone's Invited website. Whilst many of the testimonials on the website relate to incidents that took place out of school in private homes or elsewhere in the community, our local education settings are key partners in helping to develop safe spaces for children and young people.

The LSCP was first alerted to the Everyone's Invited website by colleagues in Hammersmith & Fulham following testimonials on the site naming a local school. The website was shared with the London Safeguarding Partnership who escalated the matter to the lead for Safeguarding in the Met Police who swiftly initiated a London wide police response.

Our local LSCP Response

The LSCP wrote to all schools to remind them of their safeguarding responsibilities, the need to refer to Children's Services (including referrals to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) service) and the police and signpost to the safeguarding support on offer from Children's Services and other partner agencies. The letter can be found in Appendix A.

The LSCP liaised with the Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership (VAWG Partnership) in order to develop an appropriate local response across the three boroughs and work in partnership with local schools and colleges to strengthen the development of a whole school approach to tackling harmful sexual behaviours.

The Police Safer Schools officers offered a 'Staying Safe' training package to schools impacted by testimonials on the Everyone's Invited website.



(slide from 'Staying Safe' presentation delivered to schools)

The Basic Command Unit also initiated a pilot whereby they have allocated a Safer Schools Officer dedicated to the independent schools in Westminster. If this is successful, the intention is to extend the offer to independent schools based in Hammersmith and Fulham and Kensington and Chelsea.

Did you know?

Safer Schools Officers in the Police are linked to all the secondary schools across the Partnership. Their role is to

- Provide a visible and familiar point of contact with their assigned school(s).
- Advise Head Teachers and their staff on policing issues and work in partnership to investigate crime and deal with emerging issues.
- Participate in multi-agency case conferences for students coming to notice.
- Make pupil referrals to intervention and diversion schemes for the purpose of safeguarding the child's welfare and/or diverting them from criminal activity/anti-social behaviour (ASB).
- Gather and share information/intelligence in relation to pupil behaviour linked to crime or ASB, or for safeguarding in accordance with data sharing agreements.
- Perform regular uniform patrols after school to address, truancy, ASB and crime, working with Safer Transport Teams and Safer Neighbourhood Teams as required.
- Perform weapons sweeps of identified 'hotspots' within and outside the school boundaries.
- Develop strategies to keep young people safe, in partnership with the school.
- Deliver key messages to pupils around general policing themes of crime prevention and facilitate delivery on more specialist themes.

Locally, the LADO services and the Safeguarding Schools in Education officers within children's services in the three local authorities have worked closely with schools to address and review any allegations made on the Everyone's Invited website.

The Designated Nurses also liaised with local health providers to keep them updated with developments about Everyone's Invited and that there might be an increase in young people coming forward to help and support. The Designated Nurses reminded providers of their

responsibilities to follow safeguarding policies and procedures as normal and to contact the Designated Nurses for Safeguarding Children for additional advice and guidance where needed.

The national response

At a national level, the DfE announced a new helpline run by the NSPCC to support potential victims of sexual harassment and abuse in education settings. This helpline is open to both children and adults as well as parents and professionals. Following advice from the Metropolitan Police, the Everyone's Invited website was updated to include better signposting to support and guidance to victims and survivors.

The government also asked Ofsted to undertake a rapid review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges which was due to be completed by end of May 2021 and both the Partnerships will take the findings from this review into consideration. Hammersmith & Fulham Partnership received positive feedback from Ofsted during their field work for the rapid review. Ofsted noted that the partnership response to the concerns raised were wide reaching, layered, intelligent, comprehensive and mature.

Priority 3 – Listening to children and young people, and community engagement

Youth Council – Hammersmith and Fulham

The Hammersmith and Fulham Youth Council continues to be an active forum giving young people an opportunity for their 'voice' to be listened to by local decision makers and for them to contribute to the decisions that affect them. The council has worked to improve the representation of all young people, especially those who are more vulnerable, so that they are considered and can contribute to local projects.

The Council works closely with members of the Young Hammersmith and Fulham Foundation to identify areas for change in local service delivery / policy in response to local need.

The Youth Council has worked on a range of projects, including, and not limited to:

- a review of mental health services and young people's access to them in Hammersmith and Fulham
- improving the relationship between police and young people
- improving access to online information and support services for young people
- created principles to guide any youth voice and engagement in the borough
- produced a mapping of all youth voice activities and a 'menu' of feedback from young people
- designed and created a role description for the Youth Voice Champion
- presented the work at the Youth Crime Prevention Panel, LSCP and LSCP Forum.
- Consulted with Young H&F Members on the plan in a focus group

Youth Voice has worked on making their purpose clear and identified a number of guiding principles, such as:

- working in partnership with young people to reach collective outcomes and shared solutions (co-production).
- Involving them wherever possible from the on-set of decision-making processes.
- Ensuring that young people feel visible and valued: young people are at the centre of articulating our priorities and determining the best ways to address them.
- Young people are rewarded and recognised for their time, commitment and ideas.

Some highlights include:

- Youth Council recruitment drive: more schools are now represented, which increases diversity
- Youth Council involvement in an Education, Employment and Training event, a sexual health and relationships consultation, mental health co-production as well as the hate crime workshops and strategy

- Peer researcher podcasts
- Improving police and relationship with young people workstream
- Empowerment Co-Production with disabled young people.

Voice of the Child – Kensington and Chelsea

A key outcome for all children and young people in Kensington and Chelsea is that they feel listened to, have a voice in the decisions that affect them and that they feel their views and experiences shape the services they access or receive. The newly formed Youth Council is joined by representatives from other Youth Forums including Care Leavers, Young Carers, and young people with special educational needs and disabilities, and acts as the formal representative body for the borough's young people. It provides a link for young people to the borough's Mayor, Lead Members, and other decision-making bodies.

Looked after Children (LAC) Advocacy Officers, Child Protection Advocacy Officers and LAC Participation Officers, Customer Relationship Teams and quality assurance staff looked at how we gather feedback and what we do with it. One of the learning points from COVID-19 in terms of first visits and the use of digital/virtual platforms was that we observed an increased engagement via these and young people reported that they like the shift to the use of such platforms. We are in the process of producing our annual report on the voice of the child, what children and families told us and what we did as a result.

Children's Services is currently co-producing a refresh of our SEND Strategy. In the past three months they have engaged through consultation and discussion with a wide group of stakeholders to shape ambitious priorities for the new 2021-2024 strategy. 66 responses were received across Bi-Borough (excluding children and young people's focus groups). The majority of respondents reflected that they are happy with the current vision. Some suggestions from children and young people and their parents/carers included increased co-production and focussing on Emotional Health and well-being. 'All for Youth newsletter' is developed monthly by young people with SEND, for young people with SEND.

ALL FOR YOUTH 

Share your voice

Welcome to the All for Youth Newsletter!

This inclusive newsletter is a way for you to share your voice with other children and young people across Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea.

Welcome to our November edition. In this issue you will find:

- Remembrance Day article by Ava
- Picture gallery from St Quintin Centre
- Movie review by The Anonymous Critic
- Spotlight on Young Healthwatch
- Prize winners and games corner

 Thanks for the photo of your college Arthur!

We need your help! 

Want to have your say while meeting new people and having fun?
Then join our brand-new group for young people with additional needs or disabilities (SEND). This group will speak about important issues, plan events for young people, check information is accessible and lots more.

Are you interested in being a writer for our newsletter?
We are looking for young writers to contribute to future editions of the newsletter. You could write articles or reviews, submit recipes, artwork and photos or recommend apps, movies or places to go!

Find out more information on both groups by [emailing Marianna](#) or visiting our Young People's Participation Page [here](#).

To support the planning for the return of all students this September, the SEN service undertook a survey of over 500 children from across Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster City Council to hear how they felt, both positive and negative, about returning to school. The results of this survey have informed the Recovery Curriculum.

‘Here to Listen’ Community Event (Westminster)

The Council and our partners initiated a series of events focusing entitled ‘Here to Listen’ to respond to any concerns that young people had as they came out of lockdown. Young people who attended the event shared their thoughts about mental health, concerns around education following lockdown, and attitudes towards women and girls. Children’s Services put in place several immediate practical solutions including free printing in libraries for school course work, whilst other more long-term solutions are being developed. The young people who attended will be updated as to progress and actions that partners have and will take. Further ‘Here to Listen’ events are planned for 2021 which will focus on parent/carer concerns and youth provision.

Children in Care and Care Leavers

Children can come into the care of the local authority for a number of reasons, including as unaccompanied asylum seekers. They may be at risk of significant harm or because their families are seeking additional support as they are finding it difficult to manage.

Number of children in care:

As of 31st March 2021 there were:

- 245 children in care in Hammersmith and Fulham (a small reduction from 252 the previous year). 19.6% of these were unaccompanied asylum seeking children. The profile of CYP entering care remains the same as the last reporting period. The highest proportion of new entrants to care were boys aged 16-17 (71). In part this is due to the continued increase in UASC presentations, but the data also suggests a general increase of late entry into care

- 106 children in care in Kensington and Chelsea (which is consistent with the 106 cases open at the end of the previous year)
- 166 children in care in Westminster, 53 less than the previous year. The care population is changing in Westminster, and we have seen a reduction in the number of children in care under the age of 13 whereas the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children has increased and a significant number of young people have become care leavers.

Looked After Children Reviews:

In Hammersmith and Fulham, 763 Children Looked After (CLA) Reviews were conducted (an increase of 17%). 90.4% (690) of Looked After Reviews took place within the statutory timescales (an increase of 7.4%).

In Kensington and Chelsea, 292 reviews were conducted and 96% of reviews were undertaken within the statutory timescales. Just over 93% of children and young people were recorded as attending or having their views conveyed.

In Westminster, there were 590 Looked After Children Reviews completed, of which 98% were completed within timescales. 97% of children over 4 years of age contributed to their statutory review, with 89% of children attending.

The voice of the child / young person is a key to all discussions and care planning arrangements in all three local authorities.

Across all three boroughs, the Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) overseeing the reviews have found creative ways of engaging young people in the digital space while conducting the reviews virtually as a result of the pandemic

The Designated Nurse for Looked After Children also has oversight of and ensures that the health needs of this cohort of children and young people are being considered and addressed.

Care Leavers:

Care leavers can access the Leaving Care Services, which aim to support young people to thrive as they make the transition into adulthood. This can include support and signposting to education or training opportunities, career advice, as well as support to develop their independent living skills.

Across all three local authorities, care leavers have the opportunity to meet on a regular basis as a group and receive support and camaraderie from their peer group. We know as a partnership, however, that care leavers can nevertheless face challenges with isolation and lack of family support, and vulnerabilities with their mental health. Our partnership is keen to keep this cohort of young people in mind when working with the Safeguarding Adults Boards in the future about transitions, to ensure that we can continue to best meet their needs.

LSCP Learning & Development

During the period October 2020 to March 2021, the LSCP conducted a further 46 multi-agency safeguarding children workshops. These were amended in order to be delivered online rather than in person due to the Covid19 pandemic. Engagement with the learning and development programme continued to be strong, despite the switch to virtual delivery.

The most popular workshop continues to be the 'Multi-agency Safeguarding Children and Children Protection' workshop – a whole day workshop.

Further workshops on offer in this period have included but weren't limited to:

- A new social media workshop provided by the Social Switch Project
- Safeguarding Children and Domestic Abuse
- Safer Recruitment
- Meet the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer – management of allegations)

The LSCP sought feedback from training delegates in order to quality assure both the content and delivery of the workshops on offer, as well as try and measure the impact of the workshops on frontline practice.

Feedback from delegates includes

- "Crucial learnings and guidance for anybody who works with children!!"
- "I gained advanced information about safeguarding and enjoyed attending the training."
- "It is very topical and useful to safeguarding children and also the lady who gave us her real life story"
- "I enjoyed the videos created by young people. it gave me creative ideas of how to engage and listen more to the young people I work with."

Future learning and development needs

From 1st April 2021, it was agreed that the multi-agency learning and development offer will continue to be shared across all three local authority areas from April 2021 for at least the first year of the two new LSCPs. This was in recognition that we share a large number of partners across the boroughs, as well as children accessing services across geographical boundaries.

In order to help plan for the upcoming Learning and Development programme from April 2021, a training needs analysis was undertaken via a questionnaire shared with partner agencies to ascertain the multi-agency training needs for practitioners.

As a result of feedback from partners and themes emerging in the LSCP subgroups, further workshops to be commissioned from April 2021 onwards will include:

- Child Sexual Abuse
- Disguised Compliance
- Safeguarding Children with Disabilities
- Child Exploitation
- Children's Mental Health
- Parental Mental Health
- Learning from Case Reviews
- Fabricated and Induced Illness

We will be evaluating the effectiveness this arrangement at the end of quarter 3 2021/2022.

Learning from Case Reviews

In the period October 2020 to March 2021, the LSCP continued to work towards the publication of a Serious Case Review that had been commissioned by the previous Local Safeguarding Children Board.

The 'David' Serious Case Review was published in April 2021.

This case was commissioned following a tragic incident involving a Looked After young person who committed a serious assault on a younger child.

This complex review identified the following key findings:

- 1) Parents of autistic children without other disabilities can struggle to access support quickly or easily if difficulties start to emerge. This is because current services for autistic children are primarily focused on diagnosis or longer-term support for autistic children with additional learning and/or physical disabilities.
- 2) Nationally, there is a lack of suitable facilities to provide therapeutic treatment for the small number of young people with emerging personality disorder, co-existing autism spectrum condition and distressed behaviours of concern. This means that the legal frameworks available provide extremely limited options and support for these young people, which sometimes results in inappropriate admission to psychiatric hospital or prison as the only alternatives available.
- 3) Professionals working on these complex cases sometimes find it difficult to escalate concerns where they have identified a need for a specific service but it is not available. Commissioning arrangements are complex and this sometimes leads to gaps in understanding around the governance arrangements. This can lead to inter-agency conflict at an operational level and difficulties in finding a resolution, leaving the young people with unmet needs.
- 4) Professionals can find it difficult to identify, articulate and discuss features such as 'callous and unemotional traits' in autistic young people that could indicate a risk of future diagnosis of 'anti-social personality disorder'. This is partly because distressed behaviours of concern in autistic young people can present in a similar way. However it is also challenging as current service provision in the UK is underpinned by a developmental view of adolescence that accepts diverse behaviours, as well as a strong moral imperative to protect young people from being prematurely labelled with a mental health diagnosis, or from being criminalised.
- 5) There needs to be a robust structure for effective joint case management between the local authority and CCG to effectively manage individual packages of care for autistic children and young people with complex needs via an effective Dynamic Support Register and Complex Case Panel.
- 6) There is a need to develop better processes for joint quality assurance and scrutiny of case management across the CCG and Local Authority. Effective scrutiny of joint packages of care should not over rely on the IRO service for looked after children (who are not experts in health) or the CETR process which purely focuses on the risk of admission to hospital.

- 7) Commissioners should have access to tools to enable them to know what to look for when commissioning a service provider offering Positive Behaviour Support for autistic children and young people with behaviours of concern. Commissioners should be able to assess staff performance and evaluate the service provision that is commissioned.

The safeguarding partners in Hammersmith and Fulham are taking forward an action plan that will be reviewed regularly by their new safeguarding partnership. The safeguarding partners in Kensington and Westminster have also reflected on the learning locally.

Learning from Serious Incident Notifications and Rapid Reviews

The LSCP submitted one serious incident notification to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel between October 2020 and March 2021. This was in relation to the death of a Looked After Child. The LSCP did not conduct a Rapid Review in this case as the death was not attributable to abuse or neglect but the case will be reviewed by the Child Death Review Panel as per Child Death Procedures.

Independent Scrutiny: Multi-Agency Audit Considering a Child's Mental Health Needs and Emotional Wellbeing during Covid-19 Restrictions

Context

During the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been rising concerns about the impact upon children and young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health. To address the requirement for independent scrutiny, the Partnership commissioned an independent consultant to undertake a multi-agency audit of one case in each of the three boroughs between January -February 2021 in order to enable the partnership to reflect upon the quality of practice and multi-agency communication in child mental health cases

- The audits focused on young people aged 13 years plus. The selected cases were open to Children's Social Care (CSC) prior to March 2020 and remained open during the audit, including:
- a looked after child (LAC)
- a case where a young person was living out of their home borough (looking at the complications linked to the delivery of a care plan)

What's going well across the three boroughs?

It was recognised that since March 2020 lockdown, agencies have been willing to try and adapt services to offer a more flexible approach to work with young people and families.

Schools have demonstrated that they are often the agency that knows the young person the best and they have worked together within the borough and across catchment areas to provide a best offer for young people who needed a 'fresh start'.

There is clear evidence of effective communication and timely sharing of information between agencies to protect young people. Where there has been a crisis in a young person's life, all relevant agencies have responded quickly.

Practitioners are knowledgeable in their field of expertise and offer to provide 'consultation' to other services to support practitioners in other services or carers.

What could further develop the quality of our practice?

The audit has highlighted that:

- at the point a case is being considered for closure in children's services, step-down meetings could be considered as a helpful strategy to provide support to a family that may not have engaged with statutory services.
- Use of up to date chronologies and genograms can act as a helpful aide, especially during out of hours when the emergency duty teams need to know quickly as much as possible about a child's circumstances.
- The waiting list for young people requesting Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) is unacceptably long, though it was recognised that many health practitioners had been re-deployed to other roles during the pandemic.
- When carrying out initial assessments, it is good practice for both parents/carers to be spoken with separately, to allow the assessor to compare parenting approaches and the power dynamics within the parents/carers relationship. Practitioners should consider that the problem being presented may be a symptom of an underlying cause.

- A Think Family Approach is needed to prevent gaps in information sharing and to consider any impact of safeguarding issues across the family for a vulnerable child.
- Impact of Covid19 lockdown: if any further lockdown measures are reinstated due to the pandemic, a planning meeting between agencies can determine what will work best for any given child/family situation and which agency will be responsible for maintaining contact with the family

Recommendations

The independent consultant made a number of recommendations which both of the new partnerships will take forward:

- 1) All practitioners to be curious from the initial point of contact and assessment, as to what may be an underlying cause for a behaviour. Any concern or issue identified needs to be considered for all siblings.
- 2) The LSCP to explore with CAMHs providers the question of assessment waiting lists for children and young people over 3-6 months.
- 3) Increased understanding of information sharing agreements and the thresholds for agencies working with families – develop the Think Family approach further.
- 4) All agencies to use the LSCP to escalate and challenge to promote positive outcomes for children and their families, in relation to case and systems issues.
- 5) Consideration of training for foster carers to improve their understanding and capacity to manage the emotional needs of young people.

Developments in Early Help

Hammersmith & Fulham Council

Family Support continues to support families to identify individual needs and support delivery of a range of interventions. Our Family Support Practitioners take a trauma informed approach to supporting the whole family towards positive outcomes, offering targeted support to ensure families get the right help at the right time and avoiding unnecessary escalation into statutory services. The team works with families who are experiencing a range of challenges from mental health, domestic abuse, poverty, chaotic family life and related issues such as school attendance and behavioural problems. Utilising a range of tools to facilitate reflective discussion between parents and children, the team identify support needs and provide interventions to develop parenting skills, enhance family health and wellbeing and school attendance.

Family Support also have two key projects - The Traded offer where a bespoke service is provided to schools to focus on the provision of support for pastoral care, behavioural issues, attendance concerns and challenges within a student's home. The second project - The Transitions and Resilience Project funded by the Youth Endowment Fund provides intensive wrap-around support to identified children and young people transitioning through a key period of their education from primary to secondary. The aim is to keep children within education and has a long term aim to reduce youth violence. Both projects make use of some key resources one example being the use of Virtual Reality technology which is key to gaining an understanding for young people and professionals about the lived experiences of children.

Family support have team have been successful in securing Reducing Parental Conflict grant from the DWP which funds training to improve understanding of the harmful outcomes of frequent and poorly resolved conflict and how this can be addressed by working with

families. Grant monies will be used to fund mentalisation based training for our practitioners, an integrative approach bringing together psychodynamic principles, systemic theory, CBT practices and a social ecological framework to understanding and working with families to address a range of difficulties including emotional and behavioural problems, relational difficulties, and family conflict. Practitioners will be trained to support parents to focus on not only the feelings and emotions they are experiencing, but those of their children, learning to modify their behaviour and recognise different perspectives. This aims to close the link between poorer child mental health and long-term life outcomes associated with poorly resolved parental conflict.

Our Virtual children's centre, Alby's Place, ensured we continued to deliver valued early years sessions during the pandemic. Our children's centre staff also worked closely with our Early Help team to deliver targeted one-to-one and small bubble group provision to our most in need families. More recently the Early Years Team have managed the successful staged reopening of some of our key children's centres.

In April 2021 Early Help and Early Years staff and services within the Family Support LATC will return to the Children's Services Education and Children and Young People's department. This is an exciting opportunity to build on the award-winning success of Family Support and allowing us to enhance our early intervention offer through joint working and integration to support families earlier.

Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Early Help Strategy (2021-2023)

This year we developed and launched our three-year Early Help Partnership strategy and an action plan. Recovery from the Grenfell disaster and the pandemic and addressing inequalities are at the heart of the planned work. A key aim of the strategy is to *collaborate* better across the wide range of organisations that have already forged strong, supportive links with children and families in Kensington and Chelsea. A greater focus has been brought to this in 2020 by launching a new Early Help Partnership group, creating two family hubs, and setting up allied structures such as "Team Around the Family Hub". An additional layer of multi-agency oversight is being developed which will identify Integrated Leadership Teams (ILTs) that will include managers from core services including Targeted Early Help, health visiting, school nurses, children's centres, Vulnerable Children's Collaborative, Commissioning, schools, Children's social work, and Housing.

Development of the Family Hubs and new virtual partnership

During the pandemic, our Family Services colleagues adapted their children's centres/ family hubs to a virtual model and provided more than 1000 age-and disability-appropriate activity packs for families and running virtual parenting programmes. The joint focus and shared objectives were key in offering a holistic approach to supporting families during the pandemic. The Local Government Association (LGA) has published a range of good practices across local authorities during the first phase of COVID-19. The work undertaken by RBKC Early Help Service and the Virtual Children's Centre in RBKC has been highlighted in the LGA report. We worked closely with our early years' providers to ensure that younger children continued to have access to childcare provision. We contacted every new mother (1612 in total) across RBKC, sending out new birth packs, ensuring they have a link worker to monitor their wellbeing and support them with breastfeeding.

Westminster City Council

Pre-birth to five pathways

Following on from an extensive co-design process facilitated by the Early Intervention Foundation and the Design Council, we are working to transform and strengthen our pre-birth to five pathway, with a robust focus on speech and language development and school readiness. Just prior to the first lockdown we had spoken with 300 families to understand their experiences of the existing system and what they thought we could do differently. Interestingly there was a lot of support for communication using digital apps – which became really helpful in shaping our service offer during lockdowns and building what works into a revised integrated service model with our local community health provider. Over the next twelve months we will be trialling new ways of working to deliver the universal healthy child program alongside a more robust targeted offer using shared tools across the early years system to better identify additional needs and to secure the right support at the right time for families – routinely integrating digital applications and platforms into our local offer.

Partnership working with our education providers

DSL Forums: The Local Authority Leads for Schools and Education across Hammersmith and Fulham and Kensington and Westminster both coordinate regular forums for the Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) in Schools and Colleges. These forums provide an opportunity for DSLs to raise and share safeguarding concerns in their settings and share best practice.

Partners agencies including Police Safer Schools Officers, Healthy Schools Partnership and the LSCP Business Manager also attend to give regular updates on their work to keep education colleagues apprised of new initiatives and useful resources and contacts.

In Kensington and Westminster, the Local Authority Early Years Team is developing a similar DSL forum for our local early years and childcare providers across the private, voluntary, and independent sectors. This is due to start in the autumn term 2021.

DSL and Governors training: In addition to the multi-agency safeguarding and child protection training that staff schools and colleges can access via the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership, the Local Authority Leads for Schools and Education also provide termly single agency specific training to meet the needs of school based staff, including the DSLs and governors.

The role of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

The LADO services receive referrals from partners and also engages in consultations with partners where they are unsure of whether a case meets the threshold for a formal allegation to be referred. The LADO services across all three local authorities welcome consultations and have found these helpful in order to explain the thresholds and other possible. The LADO coordinates the investigations into the allegations. These investigations could be led by the employer, the Police, or Social Services. The LADO also provides advice to organisations on their management of allegations, their safeguarding policies and protocols and support for any children, staff or volunteers involved in an investigation.

The consultations with the LADO services have helped partners to determine whether a case meets the threshold for a formal referral and have proved useful to explore cases and share advice and guidance.

Annual activity reports are presented to the LSCP Local Groups within each borough, so target learning and development can be undertaken. The learning from this is shared with the wider partnership and informs the development of the LSCP training programme.

LADO Case Study

A referral came in from a MH support worker after a client disclosed to her that in Primary School her teacher kissed her and groomed her in other inappropriate ways. However the client had been clear with her MH worker that she wanted to remain anonymous. The victim had named the teacher and the school she had attended. The LADO was able to work with HR colleagues who were able to pull historic records which identified that this teacher had been in trouble at the time for similar concerning behaviours and had eventually been dismissed from the school. The LADO also submitted an 87A referral to the CAIT team who were very interested in the case as they had a previous complaint about this individual which was later NFA. The LADO held an initial allegations meeting where these concerns were discussed, it had also been identified that this individual had since changed his name and was living abroad. The police sent an alert to the country he was now living in to make them aware of the concerns about this individual in case he was working with children abroad. The LADO informed the safeguarding lead at the MH service so they could make sure the victim knew that if she ever wanted to take it further she could and she was made aware that the police felt they would have a strong case against this individual if she did as the police would also contact the previous complainant to add to any case brought against this ex-teacher.

Issues for the LADO service to consider:

- The victim wanted to remain anonymous and not take the allegations any further – despite this the LADO service has a responsibility to see if the person is still working with children and what other safeguarding measures can be taken.
- The case demonstrates strong multi agency working across HR, Police, and the LADO service.
- The police were able to alert the authorities abroad of the concerns – this is an example of good safeguarding information sharing and can make the difference in safeguarding children.
- Non-Recent Allegation Cases are managed by the LADO service in the same way as a recent allegation and it is important that services know to report these, even when the victim might want to remain anonymous and or not want to take something forward.

Updates across the health economy

During this financial year, our three local Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) have been working towards the transition to become part of the North West London single CCG from 1st April 2021.

North West London CCG is moving towards greater collaboration between health organisations and other partners, all focused on reducing inequalities in access to health services and delivering equality of outcome.

In practice, this means:

- Moving away from commissioner/provider split - end of traditional contracting
- Providers working together in chain
- More focus on joint working with local authorities - increased voice of Local Authorities in how health is run at system level
- Working together at system level as an integrated care system
- Supported by strong - borough based care provision through integrated care partnerships
- Single CCG per system

North West London CCG will continue to keep both the new emerging Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships in Hammersmith and Fulham, and in Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster appraised of new developments as the work of the ICS develops.

How will the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership work going forward?

Following an independent review of the shared three borough LSCP in July 2020, the safeguarding partners decided that it would be more helpful to have a closer local focus on activity within each borough and therefore agreed that the shared three borough LSCP would be disaggregated.

As of the 1st of April 2021, a new Local Safeguarding Children Partnership will cover Hammersmith and Fulham and a new Local Safeguarding Children Partnership will cover Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster. Both respective partnerships will publish their new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements on their websites. Both partnerships will identify key priorities to take forward in their new arrangements.

In Hammersmith and Fulham, key priority areas will include

- Safeguarding adolescents, including children/young people with disabilities
- Increasing awareness and strengthening the response to domestic abuse
- Increasing awareness and strengthening the response to mental health, with focus on child's mental health
- Transitional safeguarding
- The voice of the child to be weaved through all the priorities

In Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster, key priority areas will include

- Recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, with a focus on children and young people's mental health and wellbeing
- Transitional safeguarding
- Safer Communities (including serious youth violence, exploitation, and harmful sexual behaviours)
- Reducing the harm of domestic abuse and coercive control

Both partnerships will report back at the end of the financial year 2021-2022 to provide an overview of their work towards these priorities.

Appendix A: Everyone's Invited Letter from LSCP to local Schools



Final LSCP Letter to Schools - Everyone's I

Appendix B: Budget Sept 2020 – March 2021

2020/21 Outturn				
	LBHF	RBKC	WCC	Total
CONTRIBUTIONS				
Sovereign Borough General Fund	-79,169	-41,700	-59,800	-180,669
Metropolitan Police	-5,000	-5,000	-5,000	-15,000
Probation	-700	-700	-700	-2,100
CAFCASS	0	0	0	0
London Fire Brigade	0	0	0	0
CCG (Health)	-20,000	-20,000	-20,000	-60,000
Total Partner Income	-25,700	-25,700	-25,700	-77,100
Training income	-2,300	-2,300	-2,300	-6,899
Total Funding	-107,169	-69,700	-87,800	-264,668
EXPENDITURE				
Salary expenditure	84,258	84,283	84,258	252,799
Independent Chair	5,375	5,377	5,375	16,128
Training	618	618	618	1,853
Other LSCB costs	9,778	9,778	9,778	29,333
Total expenditure	100,028	100,055	100,028	300,112
Forecast variance	-7,140	30,356	12,229	35,445
Final outturn variance	-7,140	30,356	12,229	35,445
BALANCE SHEET				
Reserves Brought Forward	-119,173	-181,335	-153,039	-453,547
Adjustment in year	0			0
Contribution to LSCB balance sheet accounts	-7,140	30,356	12,229	35,445
Reserves to take forward	-126,314	-150,979	-140,810	-418,102

Appendix C: Glossary

CCG: Clinical Commissioning Group

DOT: Detached and Outreach Team are youth workers who support young people aged 11-19 in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. They will work with young people in a range of settings across the borough to build their skills, reach their goals and feel safe in their community. They offer mentoring and refer young people to more specialist help if required.

LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer): All local authorities should have designated a particular officer, or team of officers (either as part of local multi-agency arrangements or otherwise), to be involved in the management and oversight of allegations against people who work with children. The LADO service provides advice and guidance to employers and voluntary organisations and agencies on how to deal with allegations against people who work with children. The LADO service liaises with the police and other organisations and agencies to monitor the progress of cases and ensure that they are dealt with as quickly as possible, consistent with a thorough and fair process.

NEET: Not in Education, Employment or Training

Partners in Practice (PiP): A programme funded by Department for Education (DfE) to create a genuine partnership between local and central government by bringing together the best practitioners and leaders in children's social care to improve the system.

Positive Behaviour Support (PBS): a person centred framework for providing long-term support to people with a learning disability and/or autism, including those with mental health conditions, who have, or may be at risk of developing behaviours that challenge. Behaviours that challenge usually happens for a reason and may be the person's only way of communicating an unmet need. PBS helps us to understand the reason for the behaviour so we can better meet people's needs and reduce the likelihood that the behaviours will happen.

Rapid Review: a multi-agency review undertaken by the safeguarding partnership within 15 days of a Serious Incident Notification to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.

Serious Incident Notification: a notification made by the local authority to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel when abuse or neglect is known or suspected and a child dies or is seriously harmed.

Signs of Safety: An approach in child protection cases that helps practitioners and families to understand:

- What are we worried about? (past harm to children, future danger, and complicating factors)
- What's working well? (existing strengths and safety)
- What needs to happen? (safety goals and next steps)

Vulnerable Children's Collaborative: The Bi-Borough Children's Services VCC is a collaboration of services working in partnership to tackle some of the most complex attendance and exclusions cases of children and young people living in Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea. The focus of the VCC is on vulnerable children that are not in receipt of full-time education and require further support to improve their attendance and engagement in their school/ education provision.