



Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership

Annual report 2019-20



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Foreword from the statutory safeguarding partners

Safeguarding children is a shared responsibility in Camden and this is the first annual report of the Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership. Following the publication Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, we transitioned from a LSCB to the new local safeguarding partnership model on the 1st July 2019. This report analyses how the Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) has operated under the new safeguarding arrangements - maintaining good governance and oversight of the quality and performance of our multi-agency safeguarding work.

As a safeguarding partnership we were building on and moving forward from a position of 'Outstanding' performance. The development of our partnership took into account the new legislative emphasis on collective accountability, the fiscal climate and reform of public sector services. This has included broadening the geographical footprint of the CCG, which now covers Camden and four other North Central London (NCL) boroughs. Our previous Chair of the Board has helped us maintain continuity and focus through this period of change as our CSCP Independent Scrutineer. Through encouraging a culture of mutual support and healthy challenge, the Independent Scrutineer has strengthened the way in which we maintain oversight and connectivity between the overarching business plan and the current safeguarding risks faced by children and young people growing up in the borough.

Thinking deeply about the lived experiences of children and ensuring they continue to have a meaningful voice has always been central to our partnership's approach. We are therefore pleased to be joined this year by our CSCP Young Advisors, who have supported the Independent Scrutineer to keep in touch with the local young people's perspective. Their impactful contribution is described in chapter 1.

The strength of our partnership was tested from March 2020, as we faced the unprecedented challenge of maintaining critical frontline functions and fulfilling our safeguarding duty during the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) global pandemic. Through the sharing of our collective frontline expertise, we had a clear line of sight on the everyday challenges and hardship experienced by vulnerable children and their families. We are proud to say that at this defining juncture, our shared efforts to protect and support the most vulnerable, was evident in the continued commitment and resilience of our collective workforce, and the creativity and spirit shown by our local community to work together with us. Over 2020-21, we hope to build on the best-practice and our learning from the delivery of our 'blended' multi-agency safeguarding model. However, we know that we are not yet free of Covid and that we must continue to be vigilant, determined and ready to learn and adapt our practice to this environment. We also know that despite our best efforts some children may have been subject to hidden harm during the lockdown period and we will continue to seek this out, listen carefully for their voices and be ready to respond.

The pandemic reminded us that promoting the safeguarding and welfare of children and young people relies upon those working with children and communities recognising and responding to vulnerable children and taking steps to keep them safe. With support from our Young Advisors, the CSCP's new twitter ([@CamdenSCP](#)) and [website](#) have raised the profile of and access to health, care and safeguarding support services. Over the coming year, we will also look to redesign our multi-agency safeguarding pathways to support vulnerable young people as they transition into adulthood. We will challenge ourselves to think carefully about how aspects of identity including race, ethnicity and religion influence the difficulties children and families face, and the way in

which we can improve how we interact and engage with them. Our ambition is that this will bring about wider systemic change to ensure Camden's safeguarding practice is truly inclusive.

We have continued to be part of Pan-London and National dialogue in order to develop and improve outcomes for vulnerable children. Learning from safeguarding practice reviews (formerly known as serious case reviews) both local and national, continues to shape the work programme of the CSCP. Themes highlighted include safeguarding children with complex medical needs, Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Infancy (SUDI) and youth violence. Through our shared leadership we strive to embed a culture of learning and innovation across the multi-agency partnership and to continuously improve the life chances for Camden's vulnerable children.

Martin Pratt

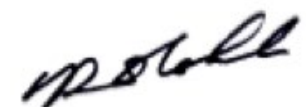
Deputy Chief Executive, DCS
Executive Director of Supporting People
London Borough of Camden

**Sarah McDonnell-Davies**

Executive Director of
Borough Partnerships
North Central London CCG

**Chief Superintendent Raj Kohli**

Commander, Central North BCU
(Borough Command Unit)
Metropolitan Police Service



Comments from CSCP Independent Scrutineer

The Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership has now been working under the new arrangements for just over a year now. July 2019 was the official transition date and for me personally I ended my role as Independent Chair of a safeguarding board and became the Independent scrutineer of a safeguarding partnership. These are two distinct roles and the transition has not been as straightforward as I first thought, it has taken time for all concerned for these new arrangements to take shape and for partners to understand the changes in approach as required by Working Together 2018.

In last year's final annual Board report, I stated that the expectation now is for the three statutory partners to provide leadership and strategic direction for the whole partnership. Together they should ask demanding questions of each other and keep that central focus on delivering improved outcomes for those children and young people who need their help and support. It is my role to seek assurance from the Safeguarding Partners and the Partnership that they are meeting their safeguarding responsibilities. This report outlines how I have been able to fulfil this requirement.

Since July 2019 the three statutory partners have been adjusting to these new ways of working. The partnership has experienced personnel changes in some senior roles and this always carries a risk to continuity but the impact is particularly heightened when adapting to new ways of working. However, steady progress has been made. The Statutory Partners meet on a regular basis and we continue to have full partnership meetings albeit at a reduced frequency. The various sub groups continue to deliver operational implementation of the Business Plan.

Our working relationship with the new National Safeguarding Practice Review Panel is developing and Camden will be fully participating in the latest national review into non-accidental injury in children under one.

I know that the impact of Covid started right at the end of this reporting year but I want to assure you now that the CSCP has adapted quickly. Fortunately, Camden is in a position of strength as far as safeguarding is concerned. I think it is fair to say partners saw Covid as a challenge, but also as an opportunity to work even closer to mitigate the obvious risks that the pandemic exposed. What was hard to detect was even harder when families retreated behind closed doors. It has been satisfying to witness all partners at every level from the front line to the senior management bringing all their professional expertise and commitment together to identify those high-risk concerns and then execute agreed interventions. The Partnership highlighted the potential increase risk in domestic abuse, child sexual abuse, child exploitation, online safety yet we have seen a significant reduction in front door referrals. All those risks normally associated with children's safeguarding suddenly became even more acute. The importance of tracking timely and accurate data has become more significant and has helped the Partnership to anticipate and then develop appropriate working practices to keep children safe.

Multi agency meetings at all levels have continued and in some cases on a more frequent basis than pre Covid. Audits have been maintained, although inspections have been put on hold. Learning events have continued albeit predominantly by video link from March this year and collectively this joint work provides continuous improvement for our learning and development as a Partnership as a whole.

You will read in this report that at the beginning of the year the Partnership committed itself to focus on 4 safeguarding priorities, I am pleased to report that the ambitions outlined in our Business Plan have delivered better outcomes for children.

During the past year, our multi agency audits have covered areas of adolescent mental health: older children in need of help and protection and effective safeguarding supervision. Areas for improvement have been identified, particularly in terms of how race, ethnicity and religion impact on safeguarding and how frontline workers can better interact with families. Over 20/21 the CSCP will look in detail at how equality and diversity is evidenced in children's safeguarding.

During the reporting year external inspections took place for Special Educational Needs and Disability Service, Camden Youth Offending Service, National Probation Service and The Community Rehabilitation Company. The CSCP will be taking forward the relevant learning and recommendations made in each report and of course sharing best practice as was the case with the first national award of 'Outstanding' for Camden's Youth Offending Service under the new inspection regime.

Innovation has been a consistent feature of the CSCP and this year has been no exception. There are many examples contained in this report which evidence effective partnership working, such as work of the Lighthouse project or the integrated adolescent centred approach for young people developed as part of the DfE Partners in Practice programme or the Youth Diversion Programme which seeks to offer support at a teachable moment. The fact is the work has to make a positive difference to the lives of vulnerable children and young people and my role is to ask the "so what?" question. So much of partnership work is work in progress but there is real evidence that these programmes are delivering better outcomes.

I am pleased to report that I have been joined in my scrutineer role by two Young Advisors who together provide a young person's perspective on our safeguarding work. If you look at the Partnership web site (www.CSCP.org.uk) you will see how their advice has shaped the layout to be more dynamic, interactive, and user friendly. Again, this report highlights the other areas of their important work and contribution.

The past year has been challenging and those challenges continue unabated. The CSCP is strong and you should take reassurance from the pages of this report that the CSCP strives to ensure that **'All children in Camden are safe, thriving and heard'**



Dominic Clout QPM
Independent Scrutineer of Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership



About the Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership



1.1 About the Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership

This annual report examines the progress made by the CSCP to deliver its objectives and identified priorities for 2019-20. In response to the Children and Social Work Act 2017, and publication of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, the Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) replaced the Camden Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB) on 1st July 2019. In this chapter, we outline the shared vision, values, and objectives of the partnership in delivering its business plan.

The statutory safeguarding partners

The three statutory safeguarding partners, who hold equal responsibility for safeguarding children in the area, have led the work of the Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership. The statutory safeguarding partners are Camden Council, North Central London Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Central North Borough Command Unit (BCU) of the London Metropolitan Police Service (MPS).

Our shared vision

All children and young people in Camden are safe, thriving and heard.

Our mission statement

“Working in partnership to keep all children and young people safe, thriving and heard within a community where safeguarding is a shared responsibility.”

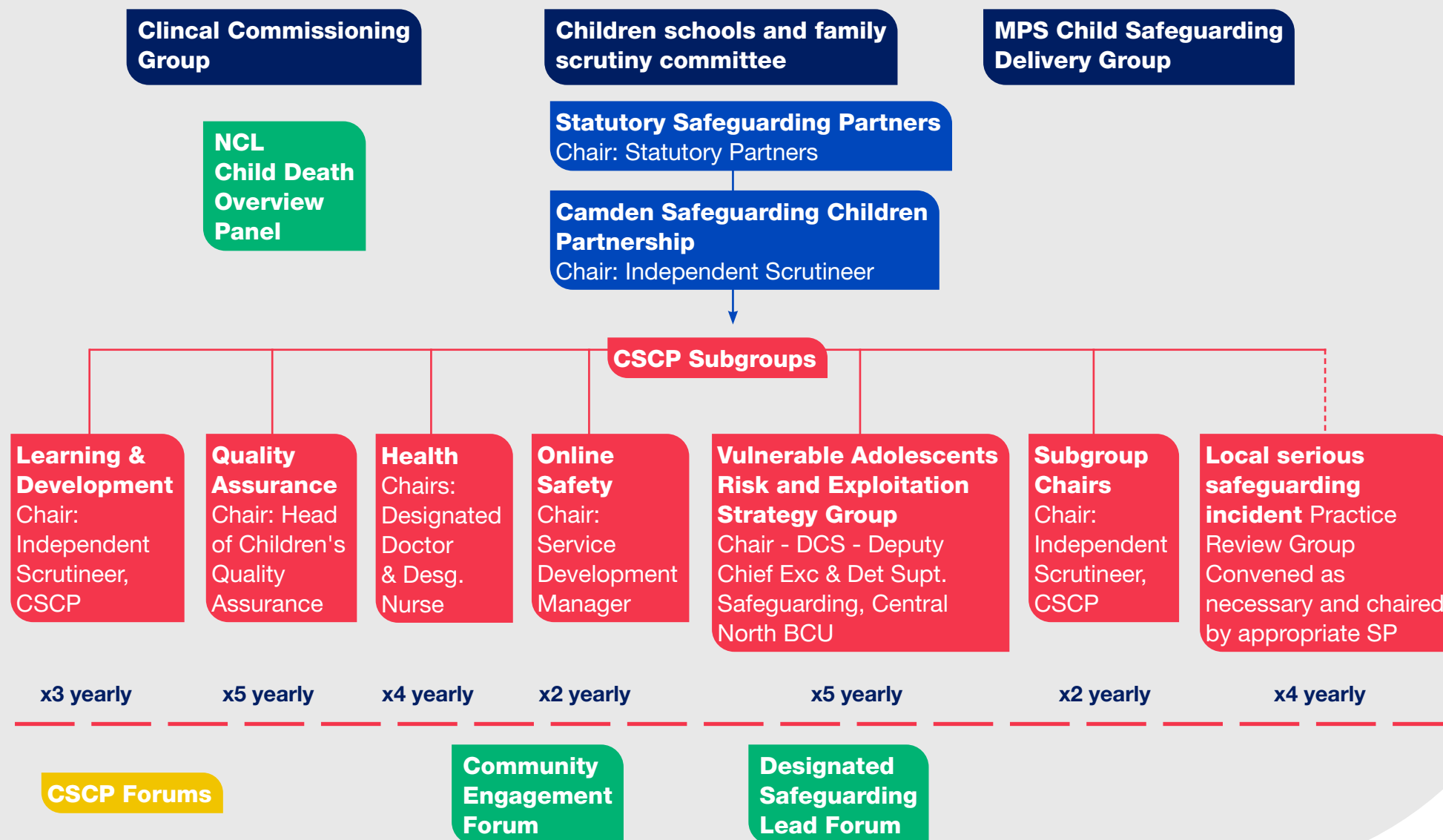
Our shared values?

- ✓ Listen and respect the voice of the child, their families and each other.
- ✓ Be courageous in making a positive difference to the lives of children and young people.
- ✓ Ensure shared responsibility and mutual challenge between partners to keep children safe.
- ✓ Involve, value and respond to our diverse local community.
- ✓ Work together in partnership to reflect, learn and continuously improve.

What we do?

- ✓ Proactively identify and respond to new and emerging safeguarding issues and develop multi-agency policies, procedures, and work streams.
- ✓ Communicate widely to persons and bodies of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so.
- ✓ Oversee, evaluate and seek assurance on the effectiveness single/ multi-agency safeguarding practice in order to drive improvement.
- ✓ Coordinate a response to serious safeguarding incidents and unexpected child deaths and dialogue with the National Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.
- ✓ Raise awareness and train the multi-agency workforce to promote a common, shared understanding of local need in order to and provide children with the help they need.
- ✓ Make recommendations in the planning of services for children in Camden that is driven by analysis of multi-agency data, intelligence and learning.

1.2 CSCP Structure Chart 2019-20



1.3 CSCP Objectives:

Objective 1:

Ensure agencies work effectively together to safeguard Camden children and to deliver the core statutory functions of the CSCP, that are quality checked through single and multi-agency audits with effective performance management.

Objective 2:

Address the challenges and risks posed by the changing face of safeguarding.

Objective 3:

Ensure preventative and early help services are provided in a joined-up manner.

Objective 4:

Continue to develop a culture of good professional judgement as reflected in our Learning and Improvement framework.

Objective 5:

Ensure effective training programmes across agencies to keep children and young people safe in Camden.

Objective 6:

Drive and challenge effective information/ intelligence sharing and systems across all agencies to ensure good communication to keep children and young people safe.

1.4 CSCP Priorities 2019-20:

The CSCP's agreed priorities for increased focus for 2019-20 are:

Priority 1: Vulnerable Adolescents

Priority 2: Youth Violence

Priority 3: Domestic Violence and Abuse

Priority 4: Neglect

CSCP partners agreed that a **whole family approach** that incorporates the **voice of the children and their families** was to be embedded into the delivery of the business plan. The 2019-20 priorities were informed by our Learning and Improvement Framework and through feedback gathered from children, families, frontline workers and partners on local issues emerging from analysis of CSCP's multi-agency data and performance information.

1.5 Achieving the CSCP objectives for 2019-20

Objective 1

- **Section 11 audits:**
Effective Safeguarding Supervision
- **CSCP multi agency audits:**
Adolescent mental health and Older children in need of help and protection
- **Monitoring single agency audits**
- **Learning and improvement framework and dataset**

Objective 2

- **Vulnerable Adolescents:**
Self-harm, mental health, child sexual abuse, youth violence and gangs, child exploitation, missing, substance misuse and online safety.
- **Domestic Abuse and Violence (DVA)**
- **Child sexual abuse**
- **Youth Violence**
- **Neglect**
- **Looked After Children**
- **Children at risk:**
Missing children, children with disabilities and SEND, child trafficking, modern slavery, radicalisation, FGM, forced marriage, honour based violence, private fostering and children held in custody overnight

Objective 3

- **Camden Single Front Door:**
MASH, First Stop Early Help/ Resilient Families
- **Engaging communities in Early Help**
- **Engaging and working with voluntary and community sector:**
to raise safeguarding awareness

Objective 4

- **Learning and Improvement Framework:**
SCRs, safeguarding practice reviews, case reviews, serious incidents, audits and learning events
- **Thresholds and safeguarding culture**
- **Shared priorities with other Boards and joint working**
- **DfE Innovation grant**

Objective 5

- **Multi-agency safeguarding training:**
Effective training across agencies to keep children and young people safe including incorporating learning identified from Learning improvement Framework and Training Needs Analysis.

Objective 6

- **Working Together Culture:**
embedded across partners to encourage communication and information sharing.
- **Health flagging system CP-IS**
- **Communication Campaign:**
to extend reach and impact of the CSCP

Key: CSCP Priorities

1.6 Involve, value and respond to our diverse community

Geographical footprint

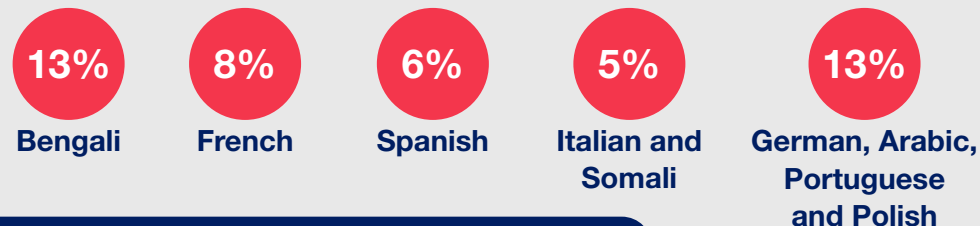
The geographical footprint for the Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership covers the London Borough of Camden local authority area. The CSCP's focus over 2019-20 has remained to; "Involve, value and respond to our diverse local community".

Comprising almost 22 square kilometres in the heart of London, **Camden is a borough of diversity, contrast and varying inequalities.** The borough juxtaposes the iconic youthful energy of Camden Town with; open spaces; business centres; wards with relative deprivation and exclusive residential districts.

Every part of the borough has areas of relative affluence alongside areas of relative poverty. In 2016 (latest data available) 29% of children in Camden live in low-income families, this ranks 4th highest in London. This compares with a London average of 19% and 17% in England & Wales. **1 in 4 Camden school aged children are eligible for free school meals.** On the average rank summary measure for local authorities, the Indices of Deprivation 2015, Camden ranks amongst the 69 most deprived districts in England.

The estimated 0-18 population in Camden is 45, 900, which signifies a rising trend (6%) over the last six years. Camden's demographic profile corresponds to a typical metropolitan city with a university presence. **18% of the population being children and young people** aged under-18 and there is a large proportion of students and younger adults, and relatively few children and older people compared to the national average. Camden's population is ethnically diverse.

In the 2011 census, 34% of Camden residents were from black or minority ethnic groups. In Camden, after English, the most commonly spoken languages are:



163 languages and dialects in total are spoken by Camden-resident children.



1.7 Connectivity with other Boards and Committees

We know that national and local studies shows that vulnerable families are best supported when there is effective joint working between adult and children facing services. In Camden, there's connectivity between the CSCP and other strategic partnership Boards, with joint membership enabling mutual challenge, support, knowledge sharing and cross-pollination of new ways of thinking and working together.



Continued strategic coordination with local boards as promoted collaborative joint working and an operational framework for Camden families:

- ✓ Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB),
- ✓ Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP),
- ✓ Camden Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (SAPB) and
- ✓ Children's Trust Partnership Board

**Camden
Safeguarding
Children
Partnership
CSCP**

Joint priorities have included:

Resilience and strengths based approach
 Domestic violence and abuse
 Neglect
 Youth/ Community safety
 Criminal and Sexual exploitation
 Positive mental health for all ages
 Improving health inequalities
 Substance misuse
 Online exploitation and abuse
 Radicalisation, extremism and community cohesion
 Abuse linked to faith and belief
 Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASHs)

**Children's
Trust
Partnership
Board
CTPB**

**Safeguarding
Adults
Partnership
Board
SAPB**

**Community
Safety Youth
Offending
Partnership
Board**

**Health and
Wellbeing
Board
HWBB**

1.8 Community Engagement

We know that sense of community responsibility is felt and expressed strongly in Camden and we recognise that this is key in ensuring that safeguarding is a shared responsibility. The borough's strategic boards are coordinated to tap into the rich community resource, in order to build resilience and support the delivery of safeguarding priorities and interventions.

Consultation with local people, has led to a better understanding of the context in which local children and families live their lives. Making sure safeguarding awareness reaches many parts of Camden's community is part of the partnerships' approach to embed a whole system community approach. This is to improve how we work together with victims and perpetrators to better safeguard and support those at risk. Through the work of our community partnership lead, the following has been achieved:

- ✓ **244 workers from community groups have been trained in children's safeguarding.**
- ✓ **26 courses delivered to community partners covering themes of child protection, neglect, domestic abuse, abuse linked to faith and belief. This has also included information sessions on the Early Help Services in Camden.**

1.8.1 Safeguarding Children in the Community: Out-of-School Settings and Supplementary Schools

- Camden's Community and Outreach programme works with out-of-school settings (OOSSs) including supplementary schools, arts and sports clubs or tuition centres attended by children in Camden. Through community outreach and networking, the service has improved understanding of the profile of local settings. There were

approx. 47 active OOSSs known in Camden in 2019-20. By working with safeguarding partners, funding arrangements for 2019-20 have had a strengthened focus on safeguarding standards. Some of the ways in which community safeguarding awareness has been improved is detailed below:

- ✓ **Communication** – Newsletter and emails advising on policy, quality assurance, events, training and sharing best practice
- ✓ **Termly Supplementary School Forums** – with usual attendance of 29 staff from 17 settings
- ✓ **Mentoring** – through the use of the NRCSE and Faith Associates voluntary accreditation system
- ✓ **Empowering parents** – through raising awareness of safeguarding issues to consider before choosing a supplementary school or tutor
- ✓ **Safeguarding training** – offer has included raising awareness of Child Protection, LADO, Radicalisation and Extremism and safer recruitment
- ✓ **Partnership** – self managed, consortium set up to improve safeguarding and attract funding
- ✓ **Youth Safety Taskforce** – Engaging OOSSs to tackle issues facing young people in the borough
- ✓ **DfE's voluntary code of practice** – Camden settings have contributed to the consultation to set clear standards for providers, and have secured DfE funding to communicate code of practice when released.

1.9 Moving forward from Safeguarding Board to Safeguarding Partnership

1.9.1 Statutory safeguarding partners

In the first year, the role of the CSCP's statutory partners has been to articulate and communicate a clear vision across the partnership where safeguarding children remains a shared responsibility. Central to the tripartite leadership has been a strong sense of shared purpose and accountability. The statutory partners have challenged the wider partnership to continue to develop the multi-agency safeguarding practice through analysis of local need and reflection of local learning and national priorities.

Thorough analysis of local needs that reflects local and national learning – An example of child-focused leadership within and across partners:

The Vulnerable Adolescents Risk and Exploitation Strategy Group is chaired and attended by the statutory partners and a broad range of local practitioners. In 2019-20, the Group reviewed local data/ intelligence, frontline multi-agency practice against The Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's report It was Hard to Escape (on Child Criminal Exploitation and Youth Violence). This enabled the partnership to test the findings against analysis of local need and safeguarding system to innovate a better response based on the experience of Camden children and families.

Camden project 'Engage' was cited in the report to offer a child-centred service at the point at which a child has been arrested. The project involves a worker being made available to meet with the child, complete an assessment with them and use it to develop a working relationship with the family, often via a family group conference. The priorities for 2020-21 include 'Vulnerable Adolescents' and 'Transitional Safeguarding'

with many of the national learning themes from the Review having been fed into the business plan and Subgroup work-plans.

1.9.2 Strong support and healthy challenge:

Over 2019-20, CSCP meetings have retained levels of commitment and continuity in membership. Strong support and healthy challenge within the multi-agency system at CSCP meetings, subgroups, audits and learning events has promoted a culture of continuous learning and an environment in which safeguarding practice is continually evaluated.

Quality Assurance (QA) Subgroup - An example of collective accountability across the statutory partners:

The Quality Assurance Subgroup Terms of Reference was refreshed to replicate the model of collective accountability of the statutory safeguarding partners. This has enabled joint ownership of the strategic priorities and collective accountability to permeate to frontline multi-agency safeguarding practice.

In March 20, the challenges brought on by Covid-19 demonstrated the strength of the partnership as fed-back to the Statutory Partners by many members of multi-agency frontline workforce, but specifically from Education colleagues. Over 2019-20, scrutiny of single agency learning has improved (as detailed in Chapter 5), along with finding a common approach in developments to practice such as in how partners work with adolescents by utilising Trauma Informed Approach.

QA Subgroup members have evidenced front-line staff improving their understanding of each other's roles, which has included using the Escalation Policy to challenge decisions about children with aim of improving outcomes.

1.9.3 Role of the independent scrutineer

The former Camden Safeguarding Children Board Chair has helped maintain continuity as the new Independent Scrutineer. A key function of the role has been to enable the three safeguarding partners to fulfil their statutory objectives, including to assess the CSCP's performance and impact. This has included seeking assurance that effective safeguarding arrangements are in place despite fiscal and organisational challenges presented to Health, Social Care, Policing and Education. It has also included challenging them to pursue mechanisms for innovation, so that the partnership's approach continues to protect children from harm and promotes improving their life chances.

1.9.4 Examples of challenge and support:

A. Examples: Assessing the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in getting a clear line of sight on single agency and multi-agency safeguarding practice:

One of the means by which the independent scrutineer tests the effectiveness of our safeguarding arrangements is by chairing the full partnership meeting. The Scrutineer works closely with the statutory safeguarding partners to encourage a culture of mutual support and healthy challenge. Some examples are detailed:

- ✓ NCL CDOP's operational arrangements for child deaths were closely reviewed by the CSCP through 2019-20. Areas of challenge included process for identifying the lead borough for learning; protocol for deaths that do not occur in acute trusts; role of the bereavement key worker; and managing pressures at specialist centres such as UCLH and GOSH where there high numbers and a wide geography of deaths.

- ✓ The named GP challenged for earlier links to be made with youth justice and FWD Substance Misuse Services, before circumstances escalated to crisis point. Following this challenge, the CSCP was informed of better joined up working and information sharing between services.
- ✓ Following a number of organisational changes, the independent scrutineer challenged partners regarding continuity of quality safeguarding arrangements. Lunch and Learn sessions between Children's Safeguarding and Social Work and Camden Police have been implemented to maintain working relationships. This is expected to be adopted with London CRC.
- ✓ Following scrutiny of data at the CSCP about agency participation at CP Case Conferences, Adult Mental Health, CRC and Probation services were asked to review the best practice model used to improve GP Participation and whether this can be replicated to troubleshoot hurdles. By carrying out a deep dive on a sample of cases, agencies have been able to pinpoint sticking points in order to identify options to improve participation.
- ✓ The question of if there was a delay in children subject to a Child Protection Plan being escalated to being Looked After was raised in external challenge during the Ofsted SIF Inspection in 2017. A multi-agency Challenge Panel was established to explore if the CP process is effective in safeguarding this cohort of children. The multi-agency [Right Balance for Families](#) project involves partners from Children's Social Work, Health, Education and Community Services to review support for children and identify a need for care earlier to improve long-term outcomes.

B. Examples: Questioning whether the arrangements have a positive impact on the lives of children, multi-agency working and/or front-line practice.

The **Independent Scrutineer** chairs the multi-agency Learning and Development (L&D) Subgroup. This maintains governance and connectivity between the business plan – namely CSCP's learning and improvement framework determined by data, audits, learning reviews and the multi-agency training strategy. The scrutineer and the L&D Subgroup review and challenge single agency training compliance, training quality and multi-agency participation. An element of the scrutineer's role is to act as critical friend, an example of this can be seen in the support and challenge offered to (London division) Probation and CRC. Despite challenges still to overcome, both agencies are far more engaged with the CSCP, and in 2019, they presented their actions plans in response to their respective **HMIP inspections**, where they were both rated as Requires Improvement. Details of the inspection can be found in Chapter 5 – Learning and Improvement Framework.

The CSCP's Quality Assurance and Learning & Development Subgroup were assigned to monitor and support the delivery of action plans through reporting programme on single agency audits and single agency training and development.

C. Example: Testing the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements: Seek assurance in judging the effectiveness of the arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Camden.

The Scrutineer supports the statutory partners to maintain oversight and connectivity between the overarching business plan and the work of the CSCP subgroups. By chairing the CSCP Subgroups Chairs meeting, the

work-plans are scrutinised to ensure they are being progressed and linked in with the delivery of the CSCP business plan; that they are addressing current risks as understood from the dataset, reflects local and national learning, and feedback from service-users. Elements of the Learning and Improvement framework such as the dataset and audit recommendations are weaved through the subgroup work-plans to ensure they are grounded on data, recent research, intelligence and analysis.

D. Examples: Evaluating whether the arrangements enable space for reflection and learning from practice?

- ✓ The Independent Scrutineer has attended multi-agency workshops designed by multi-agency partners and co-delivered by service users. An example was the **Child Protection and Complex Medical Needs workshop** (detailed in chapter 5). This learning area was identified following safeguarding incident notifications to the national Panel following the deaths of terminally ill children on Child Protection Plans. The workshop brought together feedback and reflections from frontline workers and services users on the challenges of safeguarding children with disabilities and those with complex health care needs.
- ✓ Another example, is the [Camden Conversations](#) project, which was a unique family-led child protection enquiry which started in 2017 to break down barriers of engagement in the child protection system. Camden Conversations represents a movement towards more participation within the design and delivery of the child protection process by the people who are at the heart of it; the families. It looks at the complex relationships between social workers and families. Employing a participatory approach, it looks at how **peer advocacy** can change the way child protection conferences are held. It reviews language used, how feedback is gathered and how support is offered to empower families before, during and after the child protection process.



✓ The Camden Model of Social Work

CSCP is kept abreast of [Camden Model of Social Work](#) which is defined by a shared set of values and principles informed by the experiences of children and parents, which are then reflected in Camden's safeguarding and social work systems; ways of working and team structures. As part of Practice Week, a whole service event for frontline social work practitioners was held in early 2020. The afternoon had a family-led agenda which was co-designed and hosted by young people receiving services from Camden Safeguarding. The event was well attended by workers with high levels of energy and participation. Feedback from service users and staff is used develop approach for 2020-21.

1.9.5 Reflecting on and promoting diversity and racial equality in our safeguarding practice

Aspects of identity including race, ethnicity and religion were identified areas of improvement from our multi-agency audits. Chapter 5 details the work that commenced in 2019-20 to explore how identity strongly influences the difficulties children and families face and the way in which workers interact and engage with them. Over 2020-21 and beyond, more work will take place to redesign services in order to bring about wider systemic change to ensure our safeguarding practice is truly inclusive.

1.9.6 Young Advisors: Strengthening the quality of our scrutiny

New to 2019-20 is our Young Advisors, who support the independent scrutineer to keep in touch with the local young people's perspective. As a way of an induction to the work of the CSCP, the Young Advisors helped us co-design our new website layout so that the look and feel was current. They also helped us test its usability.

As part of Camden Council's annual Takeover Challenge, the Young Advisors took over the CSCP's new @CamdenSCP Twitter account to build our following and reach in the community. They urged questions from our largely professional following. Some examples of discussions prompted by takeover day include:



“Wish adults knew that we're not all the same! So when they put services together for us, they need to make them adaptable to fit our needs and our family set-up.”

We found that these projects helped them to gain good grounding on the breadth of the CSCP's work, in order to then support its scrutiny function.

Our Young Advisors have a dual role in Camden, they are also YOS peer advocates who support frontline work with many hard to engage young people. In our first year, we have found that dual role enriched their understanding of our safeguarding priorities, especially those relating to vulnerable adolescents and transitional safeguarding. The Young Advisors have challenged our understanding of how risks are perceived by young people which has helped the CSCP maintain its central focus on the experience of children and families.

The Young Advisors were consulted on the Health relationship behaviour questionnaire (HRBQ) ahead of circulation to secondary schools. Feedback was largely positive, they expressed they thought the language, structure and range of questions were pitched right for the audience. They told us that questions relating to the community you live in was very relevant when analysing the response to the HRBQ.

As part of the **planning for Transitional Safeguarding Conference** (formerly scheduled for April 2020), the Young Advisors told us about things that worried them and the challenges they faced. They talked to the independent scrutineer about anxiety of leaving education; pressure to succeed; financial difficulties; mental health, housing stability, changes

to personal relationships; and changes to health and social care support. Their candid views are detailed:

Financial difficulties

If the young person is unemployed and they do not have enough money to cover their expenses, they could **fall into debt** and this could result in serious difficulties. **Peer pressure** could also feed into financial difficulties and young people could end up in situations where they are unable to afford their expenses due to **bad decisions**.

Mental Health

We think there can be more resistance to understand and acknowledge **mental health** especially within young people. Mental health issues could develop pressures with **home life, anxiety that is generated from exams, social pressure and peer pressure from colleagues and friends**. There are many factors that may trigger poor mental health such as drug and substance misuse, bereavement, long-term or short-term illnesses and trauma.

Financial difficulties

Homelessness and poor housing is also a big factor that worries young people as it is something that a lot of young people face due to difficult circumstances. Some of these circumstances include young people in hostels or temporary accommodations, homeless young people living in the streets or dangerous situations and young people living in overcrowded inappropriate living conditions. Housing stability is very important - as a young person is developing from an adolescent into an adult, there is more **pressure to secure good living conditions in order to be independent**.



Employment

Employment is a big worry to young people as they approach the age of financial responsibility, there is more pressure to sort out their life. Someone that is unemployed could also deal with financial struggle and they may fall into debt due to not being able to pay for costs. This could have a **domino effect** on their life and could result in **bad habits** being taken up like unhealthy gambling and drug and substance misuse to get away from the stress. Not being in employment could also effect the young person psychologically as they could feel a **sense of worthlessness** and failure and this could lead to mental health issues.

Safety

Depending on where you live in the borough - some of us don't feel safe walking down their road alone in the dark and this has an impact on our life. **Youth violence impacts society** a lot especially if young people have peers that are impacting negatively on the community. For some young people, safety can be compromised if their environment is not familiar to them.

Relationships

Maintaining positive relationships with peers, parents and colleagues is a big worry to young people. From personal experience growing up, **social isolation** is a common feeling for most of us. Having a **strong social network** is important, as it gives us a sense of belonging. There is always a worry as your growing older of losing friends or loved ones through physical loss or relationship breakdowns. As you progress in your career or studies, it is important to have someone to talk to and not everyone young person is lucky enough to have that.

Pressure to be successful

Having the stress of watching peers go onto successful paths and not knowing where to start or how to reach life goals can hugely stressful. Financial worries and time restriction to making important life decisions; Do I have enough tools and life skills to be successful? **Some of us, due to our family backgrounds, only get the one chance to get it right.**

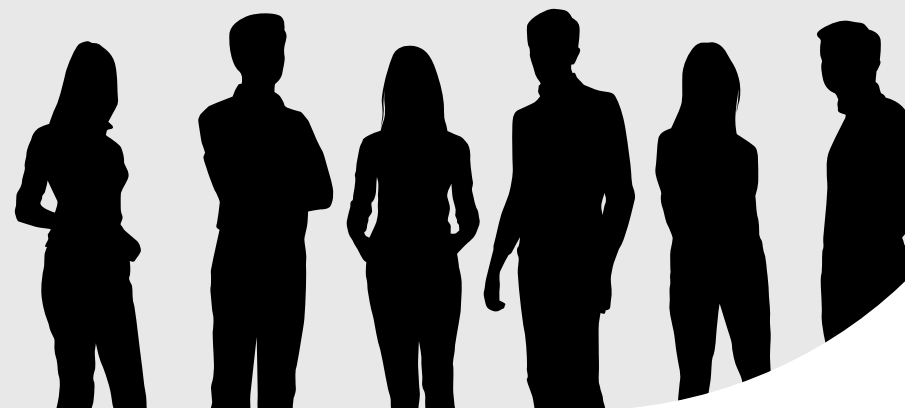
Our CSCP Young Advisors shared their thoughts on the recommendations from our themed multi-agency audits 2019-20, which were on:

- ✓ **Adolescent Mental Health**
- ✓ **Older children in need of help and protection**

Based on their interests, knowledge, skills and life experience, they chose to review the following areas:

- ✓ **How front line services work with young people and their families in relation identity, race and ethnicity?**
- ✓ **What helps service users to engage with frontline workers from statutory and community agencies?**

The review will be completed and published on our website in autumn 2020.



1.10 Maintaining dialogue with regional and national partners

The three statutory partners have continued to be part of the Pan-London and national dialogue in order to develop and improve outcomes for vulnerable children. Examples include London SCP's Safeguarding Adolescents Task and Finish Group and Safeguarding Practice Review Panel report It was hard to escape - Safeguarding children at risk from criminal exploitation.

1.10.1 DfE Partners in practice

Camden is also a member of the DfE Partners in Practice (PiP) programme, which brings together the best practitioners and leaders in children's social care to improve systems. As a Partner in Practice, Camden local authority has continued to drive innovation, sector-led improvement in practice, and support the DfE to develop national policy. As part of the Partners in Practice programme Camden have the opportunity to undertake an internal improvement programme. As part of this, Camden Children's Safeguarding and Social Work has developed an [integrated adolescent centred approach for young people](#) aged 14 to 18 who are affected by multiple risks. It is designed to improve outcomes for adolescents and recognises that risks become different and often complex for this group, but is part of a whole system approach. It is detailed in the chapter on vulnerable adolescents.

1.10.2 Safeguarding Practice Review Panel

Please refer to chapter 5 for our work with the Safeguarding Practice Review Panel on serious incident notifications and implementing learning from national reviews.

1.10.3 Early impact of Covid-19

In February and March 2020, with regard to emerging global trends, the CSCP began to think about the potential safeguarding impact of Covid-19. The CSCP members recognised that seeking safeguarding assurance during the pandemic would be a priority for 2020-21. The statutory partners began to meet weekly to coordinate the continuity of vital safeguarding work and develop new approaches to working with children, young people, and their families during the early weeks of hard lockdown.

1.10.4 COVID-19 Heightened safeguarding areas of risk

It was clear that domestic violence and mental health will be amongst areas that pose elevated safeguarding risks for children and young people. In light of this, a COVID-19 risk register and dataset was formulated to seek assurance that risk was being identified and the multi-agency safeguarding response in Camden remained robust. Heightened safeguarding areas of risks identified included:

- Reduced visibility of vulnerable children due to nursery/ school closures and social distancing measures.
- Increased incidents of domestic abuse and violence in the household.
- Heightened risk of abuse and neglect due to increased pressures placed on vulnerable families.
- Heightened risks to vulnerable adolescents including risk of sexual and criminal exploitation.
- Risk of anxiety, stress or to mental health and self-harm, posed by isolation, worries about family members, school, work, and by exposure to worsening news reports.
- Online safety and increased time spent online and on social media unsupervised.

Partners began to discuss and share the developing safeguarding risk-profile at Pan-London and national level. The work also included thinking holistically about supporting families facing hardship and additional difficulty brought about by the pandemic. The CSCP ensured that there was connectivity between Camden Council's COVID related Communication and the CSCP's Covid-19 web and social



media campaigns to ensure the latest Government advice as well as details of any changes to local safeguarding and support services was promptly updated. Planning also took place to convert all multi-agency safeguarding training to virtual training sessions, with priority given to heightened areas of risk and improving community safeguarding awareness.

In response to the pandemic, Children's Safeguarding **Young Inspectors Programme** began filming about the experience of lockdown for young people. In partnership with the Youth Council and Youth Offending Service (YOS), the first Shout Out event (of two) took place aimed at encouraging young people to give their views on the current pandemic and share with

others what life has been like for them. The second event planned for the summer will ask young people to discuss their hopes and plans for recovery as 'lockdown' eases.

1.10.5 CSCP Communication Strategy

A key area of work for the CSCP is the effective delivery of information to professionals working with children and young people, parents/carers and the public. We understand that communication and information needs to be presented to individuals at appropriate stages and in an accessible format.

The CSCP recognises that promoting the safeguarding and welfare of children and young people relies upon communities being able to recognise and respond to vulnerable children, build resilience and keep children safe. By ensuring that there's connectivity between the CSCP and Camden Council's Communication strategy, we have been able to achieve consistent messaging to partner and community organisations. This was particularly the case in the early days of Covid-19 (February-March 2020), where our web and social media campaigns were synchronised with Camden Council's to ensure the latest Government advice as well as details of any changes to local safeguarding and support services was promptly updated and accessible to local multi-agency professionals. As many local statutory services re-configured delivery in response to government guidelines, we ensured that this was reflected in our safeguarding pages.

The CSCP Young Advisors helped us co-design our new website layout so that the look and feel was current. They also helped us test its usability and accessibility. Over 2019-20, the CSCP launched its twitter account @CamdenSCP which has reached 240 followers.

We have raised its visual public profile in order to improve accessibility to safeguarding services, and raise awareness about key issues to promote the safety and wellbeing of children in Camden. The CSCP webpage received on average 800 hits per month in 2019-20 from multi-agency professionals. During 2019-20 [@CamdenSCP](#) received over 20,000 twitter impressions.

Here are some visuals of articles that were most popular:



Another useful communication platform is our training database which holds contact details of 2000 local multi-agency professional who have agreed to receive safeguarding updates from the CSCP. This method is selectively used in order to not dilute its impact but has been effective in reaching a wider audience as we began to work more remotely in March 2020 and beyond. Over 2019-20, the CSCP sought to reduce its paper footprint, by promoting and facilitating the use of technology across the partnership to share information quickly, safely, securely. Through e-bulletins and our community e-newsletter, we have increased awareness of our work, with local organisations often submitting articles or details of initiatives for our newsletters. Our website remains a useful repository for our policies, guidance and leaflets. We are developing Google Search Engine Optimisation technology to ensure that searches for documents on website are easily accessible.

1.10.6 Making vulnerable children visible

The lived experience and voice of children and their families is central to the CSCP's shared vision, ambition and approach to multi-agency safeguarding. The views and engagement of children influence practice developments. In addition to our CSCP Young Advisors, below are some examples of how agencies seek to ensure that children's voices are heard and their lived experiences understood:

Children in Care Council / Young Inspection/ Shout out Programme

Continue to engage children and young people in scrutinising the local safeguarding system as experienced by them: 99% of children have participated in all of their looked after reviews during the financial year.

Local lay members

Have the opportunity to represent the voice of Camden children and families. They attend partnership meetings and get involved in scrutiny and assurance functions such as our Section 11 and multi-agency audits. They offer challenge in order to improve how safeguarding is experienced by local children and families.

Child Protection Medicals

Camden/ NCL Health Trusts provided assurance that the views of children and young people is actively sought in the decisions that impact them. This includes seeing the child alone; finding out if the child understands that they are at a child protection medical; embedding new recording metrics when a child is not brought and eliciting the child's views on how to strengthen their voice in CP medicals.

Resilient Families Programme

Focussing on whole family and community resilience, the programme streamlines access to early help services. The Resilient Families Programme (RFP) model helps professionals make sense of their physical and emotional world. In voice of the child meetings, the family worker 'mentalises' the child to put themselves in their shoes and adopts the stance of the child in the room to ensure their thoughts and feelings are represented and vocalised.

Health related behaviour questionnaire

Public Health have funded a Health related behaviour questionnaire for 2019-20 which will be completed by all primary and secondary school pupils. The questionnaire covers 7 areas including online safety, bullying, sex and relationships.

Short Breaks Panel

Children and families are invited to provide their views at the Short Breaks Panel. They are encouraged the use of Advocacy and Family Group Conferences.

2

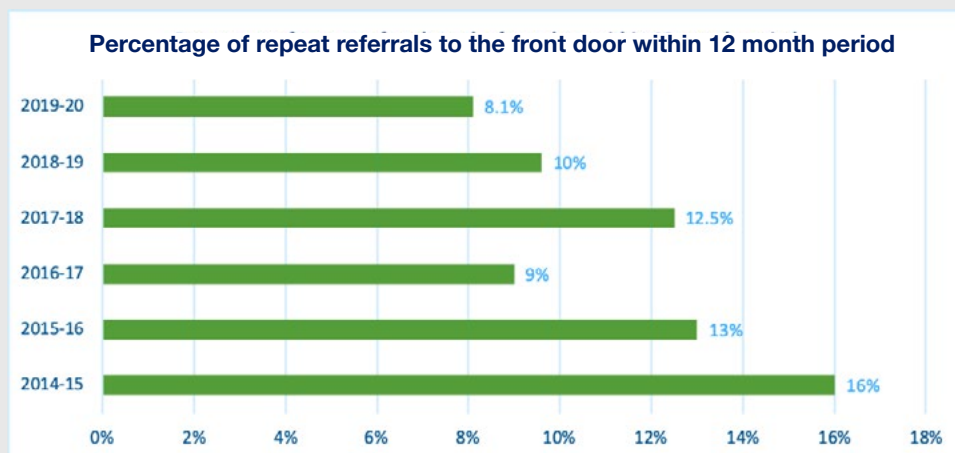
Camden's single front door



2.1 Ensure preventative and early help services are joined-up

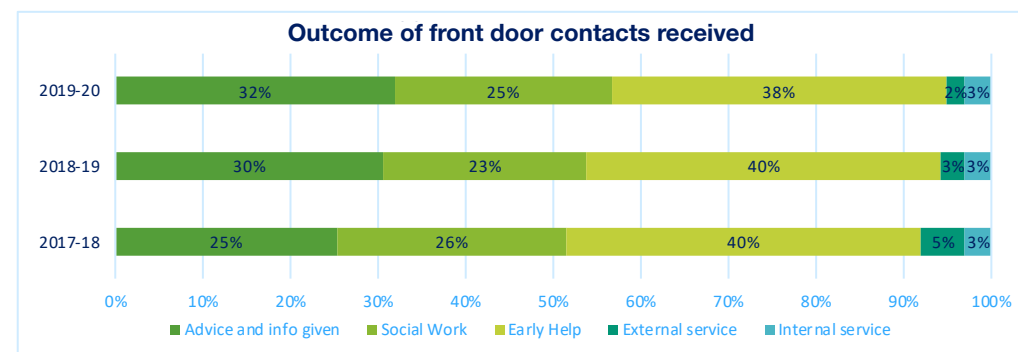
Key to safeguarding assurance is knowing that the thresholds for the partnership are right and children at risk of significant harm are identified. Camden's Children and Families Contact Service includes First Stop Early Help and the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). Through scrutiny of front door performance data, CSCP partners actively monitor if the right help is provided at the right time.

The CSCP continues to robustly monitor the percentage of repeat referrals to MASH within a 12 month period. Due to the increased scrutiny implemented as a result of a spike in 2017-18, a decrease has been sustained over the previous two years and only 8.1% of cases were re-referred (within 12 months of the case being closed in 2019-20). See below chart for figures:



Early help provision and the low re-referral rate are positive and partners have assured us that there is regular checking of the processes at the front door to ensure we are getting it right. Frontline professionals are able to challenge professional decisions if they are concerned about a case by applying the CSCP's [escalation policy](#).

To gain assurance that the front door is effective, data is monitored by Partners through regular sharing of the multi-agency dataset. The table provides a breakdown of the total number of contacts received to the front door and the outcome of the contact:



Assurance that the right decision was being made at the right time was evidenced through the reporting that over 4 out of 5 cases (84%) closed by the Early Help Team following intervention, have remained free from further Early Help or social work involvement for at least one year after closure.

2.2 Early Help Offer

Camden has an Early Help service that provides an offer of preventative and early services. The service includes the delivery of a variety of community-based multi-agency interventions designed to support child development, strengthen parenting skills and improve outcomes and life chances for children at the earliest opportunity.

To increase professionals knowledge of the range of early help services available in Camden, the Early Help Services continue to deliver a half-day training session (Understanding Early Help in Camden) for multi-agency professionals. This session provides clarity on where early help sits on the threshold of need and its difference to safeguarding.

2.3 Camden's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

The Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership remains assured that good engagement from partners continues to result in timely information sharing, consistent application of thresholds and appropriate, proportionate responses for children and families needing help or support.

The Camden MASH received 1,475 referrals from 6,259 front door contacts in 2019-20 compared to 1,394 referrals and 6,223 contacts in 2018-19. 77.2% of contacts to the front door in 2019-20 had a blue or green 'RAG' rating.

The chart below shows that 91% of MASH records completed were categorised Red, which is an indicator that appropriate referrals are being progressed to MASH. 82.5% of these lead to the provision of children's social care (CIN) service. The appropriate application of thresholds is further evidenced through very small number (less than 1%) of blue referrals. There has also been a significant improvement in levels of green referrals from 13% in 2016-17 to only 3.5% in 2019-20.

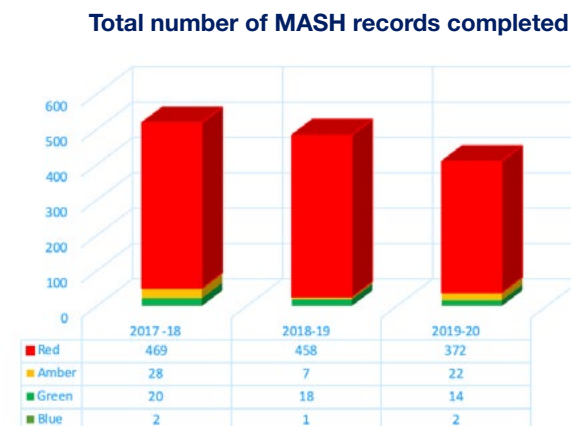
Blue: These cases are passed on to the relevant agency for universal services.

Green: These cases will be referred to the First Stop Early Help team to identify a suitable early help service within three working days.

Amber: These cases will be passed to the relevant social work team in CSSW within three working days. If the child is at risk of significant harm but not in imminent danger the case will be dealt with within 24 hours.

Red: These cases will be dealt by the MASH team within four hours.

The chart indicates the top 10 presenting issues at contact at the front door. The category 'other' is often selected when the presenting issues are complex and may touch a number of safeguarding risks:

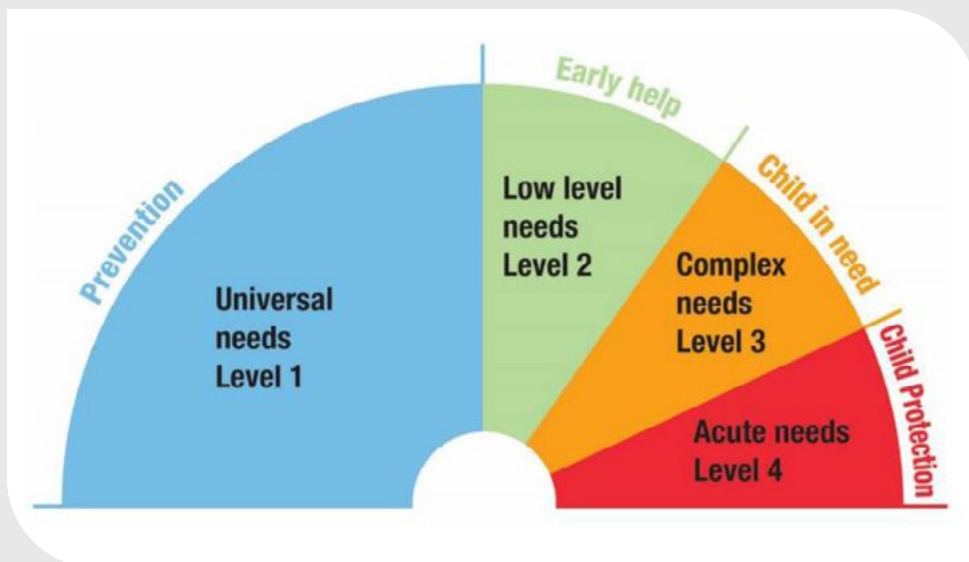


| Presenting issue | Contacts | % |
|--------------------------|----------|-------|
| 1.Domestic abuse | 1132 | 19.1% |
| 2.Other presenting issue | 838 | 14.2% |
| 3.Mental health (parent) | 633 | 10.7% |
| 4.Parenting issue | 507 | 8.6% |
| 5.Housing | 489 | 8.3% |
| 6.Physical abuse | 431 | 7.3% |
| 7.Family in acute stress | 395 | 6.7% |
| 8.Mental health (child) | 323 | 5.5% |
| 9.Drugs (child) | 288 | 4.9% |
| 10.Neglect | 265 | 4.5% |

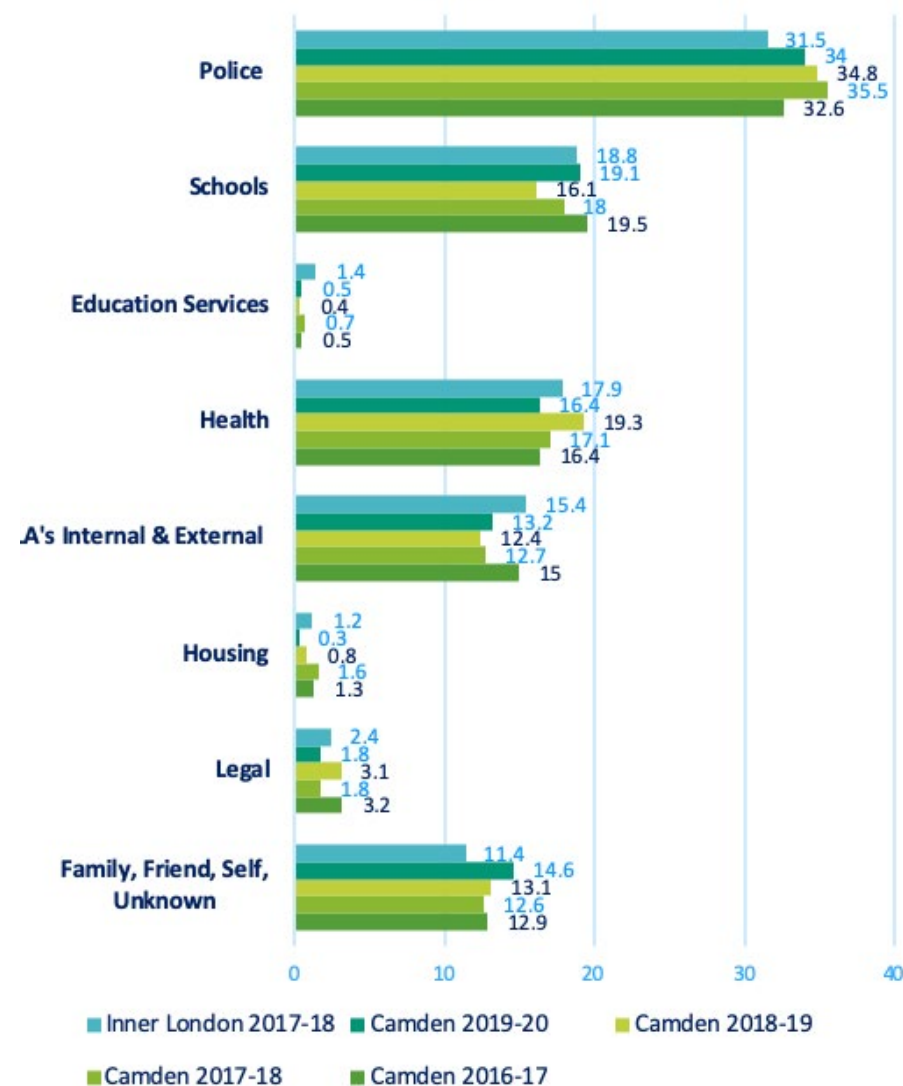
The chart opposite provides a breakdown of referrals to the Children & Families Contact Service by agency:

The **agency which has made the most referrals** over the previous four years (since the start of the MASH) is the police with 501 referrals in 2019-20. The second largest referrer is schools followed by health services. This distribution of referrals has been consistent with that of previous years. Trends in Camden remain consistent with inner London referral numbers to MASH.

An indicator that safeguarding awareness continues to extend beyond professionals working with Camden families, to those in the local community, can be reflected in the increase in numbers of referrals to MASH from 'Family, Friend, Self, Unknown' category. This reached 14.6% in 2019-20 which is an increase from the previous year (13.1%) and inner London average (11.4%).



% referrals by agencies to MASH



3

Our priorities: Address the challenges and risks posed by the changing face of safeguarding



3.1 Priority: Vulnerable Adolescents

3.1.1 Vulnerable Adolescents – Risk and Exploitation Strategy Group

Safeguarding adolescents is a continued priority for the CSCP which led to the development of a multi-agency strategy in 2019-20. The Strategy details the multi-agency approach to tackle the risks faced by vulnerable adolescents, who are increasingly understood to be susceptible to abuse and exploitation. It also outlines the partnership's response to address risks through thinking about the context in which many Camden young people live their lives and the complex and overlapping factors that can contribute to their increased vulnerability. The aims of the Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy links with Camden Council's 2025 goal to protect the most vulnerable in our society; reduce levels of crime and support children to grow up feeling safe; with access to services that enables them to develop all their capabilities.

The CSCP's Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy Group maintains the strategic coordinated oversight of the partnership's response. The work of the group is across three key areas of exploitation which is mirrored in the Strategy. They include:

- harmful sexual behaviour and child sexual exploitation (CSE);
- youth violence, child criminal exploitation (CCE) including trafficking/modern slavery;
- and radicalisation and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.

Prevent, identify, support, disrupt and enforce/prosecute make up the framework, which underpins the multi-agency strategic action plan.

3.1.2 Integrated adolescent centred approach

As part of our Partners in Practice programme, Camden Children's Safeguarding and Social Work has developed an [integrated adolescent centred approach for young people](#) aged 14 to 18 who are affected by multiple risks. It is designed to improve outcomes for adolescents and recognises that risks become different and often complex for this group, as part of a whole system approach.

The integrated approach encourages the development of skills and shared understanding across social care, youth offending, education and health services to provide effective and efficient support for all children and young people in contact with our services. It works on the principals of strong and consistent relationships (using both peers and professionals) and applying evidence-based interventions to achieve change.



It works on the principals of strong and consistent relationships (using both peers and professionals) and applying evidence-based interventions to achieve change.

As part of the Partners in Practice programme, Children's Safeguarding pledged to innovate a new model of support for adolescents who are subject to multiple risks such as CSE, radicalisation, gang involvement and county lines and come into contact with services such as youth offending and social work.

3.1.3 Transitional safeguarding

In 2020, we have focussed on transitional safeguarding, as an emerging approach that challenges established models of safeguarding to think beyond the binary notions of childhood and adulthood. Transitional safeguarding acknowledges the complexities of safeguarding adolescents. It is based on emerging research that if services effectively meet the needs of adolescents, it may avoid later interventions, including those within the criminal justice system, acute health services and specialist drug and alcohol treatments. The transitional safeguarding cohort can have a high-risk profile, with entrenched issues. Learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) has found that in many cases vulnerable young adults have often slipped through the net with no statutory involvement during adolescence.



The CSCP and Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (SAPB) were jointly planning to hold a multi-agency transitional safeguarding conference in April 2020 that focussed on how we can support Safeguarding vulnerable adolescents fluidly across developmental stages to prepare them for their adult lives. The conference will now take place as a digital event in autumn 2020 in light of the implications of COVID-19. Planning for the conference in 2019-20 has involved hearing from local

young people, families and professionals - to provide a call for change to think about what a redesign of the safeguarding system would need to look like to help better support vulnerable adolescents as they transition into adulthood.

3.1.4 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

In 2019-20, a review of safeguarding panels was undertaken. As a result, the Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation panel (MASE) was broadened to Multi-Agency Child Exploitation panel (MACE) to include those at risk of criminal exploitation. 100% of the young people discussed at MACE have a bespoke safety plan.

The table below provides the figures of the total number of CSE assessments completed in Camden from 2014-15 to 2019-20. Although there has been a significant reduction in CSE risk assessments compared to previous years, assurance was provided that the reduction reflects case of CCE are now differentiated from CSE and that the focus for CSE remains consistent. Partners have fed-back that close working across agencies has continued, and emerging intelligence is evaluated, and targeted interventions taken to engage with the young people.

Total number of CSE risk assessments completed in Camden



3.1.5 CSE Awareness day March 2020

The CSCP continues to support CSE Awareness Day which takes place in March. Unfortunately the week of activity planned for 16th March 2020, was impacted due to Government guidance in light of COVID-19. Although, MPS's Central North Borough Command Unit (BCU) ran operation Makesafe prior to guidance being given. This operation raised awareness of CSE with local hotels. Police cadets and officers attempted to book hotel rooms offering only cash and no ID in order to explore the response by the hotel staff. Following this operation de-briefs were provided to the settings and key areas for development were identified to ensure that local settings are aware of CSE. Barnardos also supported this operation by providing training to the night-time economy sector around child exploitation.

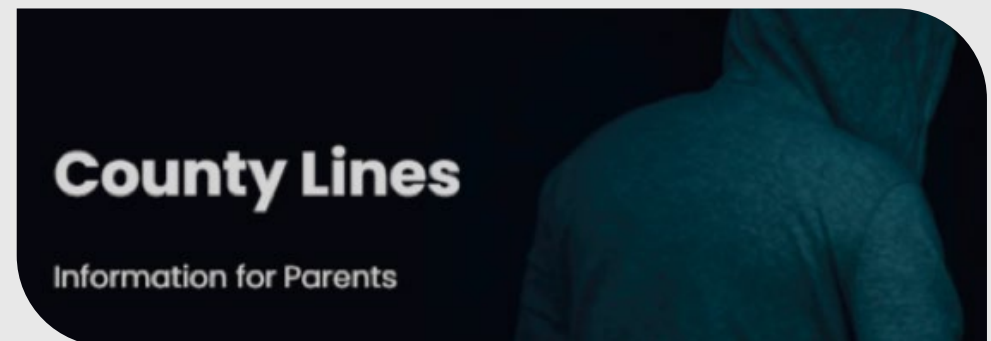
3.1.6 Sexual health services for young people

London Borough of Camden is home to two sexual health clinics that provide free and confidential health services for young people under 25 years of age. Another clinic is based in the London Borough of Islington which makes up the CAMISH Network. To ensure that safeguarding remains a priority within sexual health settings, updates on safeguarding referrals made from the service are reported at the Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy Group. In order to identify concerns, services utilise specific risk assessments for each young person attending with the aim to identify additional vulnerabilities. Camden commissioners during quarterly contract monitoring meetings also regularly monitor this data.

CAMISH network continues to raise awareness of the services available to promote positive sexual health for young people across the multi-agency partnership and is embedded within the community to allow easy access for young people. CAMISH provide a range of free training opportunities available to the CSCP and with partners in Camden Learning, has developed training for schools on healthy and unhealthy relationships.

3.1.7 Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and Modern Slavery

Young people face a number of challenges to their safety and wellbeing today and safeguarding is broader than within the family environment. Children can be drawn into exploitative situations, where they can be both victims and perpetrators of serious harm which can have severe consequences for them and for their families, friends and communities.



In order to respond to this, in July 2019, a new CCE workflow was developed through the Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy Group. This includes introducing the CCE risk assessment tool which will support practitioners to identify those young people at risk of CCE. If the case reaches a certain threshold through the risk assessment, a multi-agency CCE response meeting will be organised to discuss the case further and explore safety planning. In order to strengthen the partnership's understanding of CCE, the CSCP and The Children's Society have developed a multi-agency course on exploitation and contextual safeguarding. This will be included in the 2020-21 training programme, and will explore both criminal and sexual exploitation.

Since reforming MACE to include young people at risk of all types of exploitation, there has been 75 CCE risk assessments completed in Camden, which is higher than the number of risk assessments completed for CSE.

In March 2020, the National Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, published their first report which focused on criminal exploitation of young people -‘It was hard to escape’. The review built on learning from national serious incident notifications, rapid reviews, practice reviews and serious case reviews and provided a contemporary overview of serious child



safeguarding issues that are complex and of national importance. The review aimed to identify what might be done differently by practitioners to improve approaches to protecting children who find themselves threatened with violence and serious harm by criminal gangs.

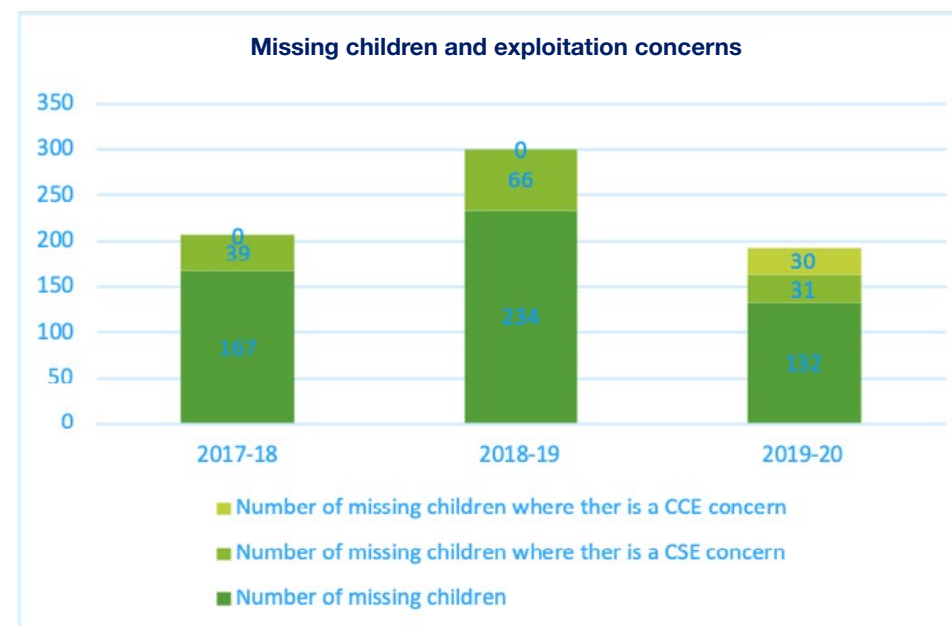
Key findings and recommendations from the review were shared with the CSCP’s Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy Group which led to the implementation of a task a finish group to take forward work strands over 2020-21. The Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy Group has tasked Community Safety with implementing Nightwatch in Camden. This is a free service that liaises with venues and settings in regards to the night- time economy and risks to young people. The service aims to

interact with businesses/ services in regards to making them aware of the identifying factors of exploitation. The service will provide settings with the relevant contact information for agencies/ professionals to discuss concerns.

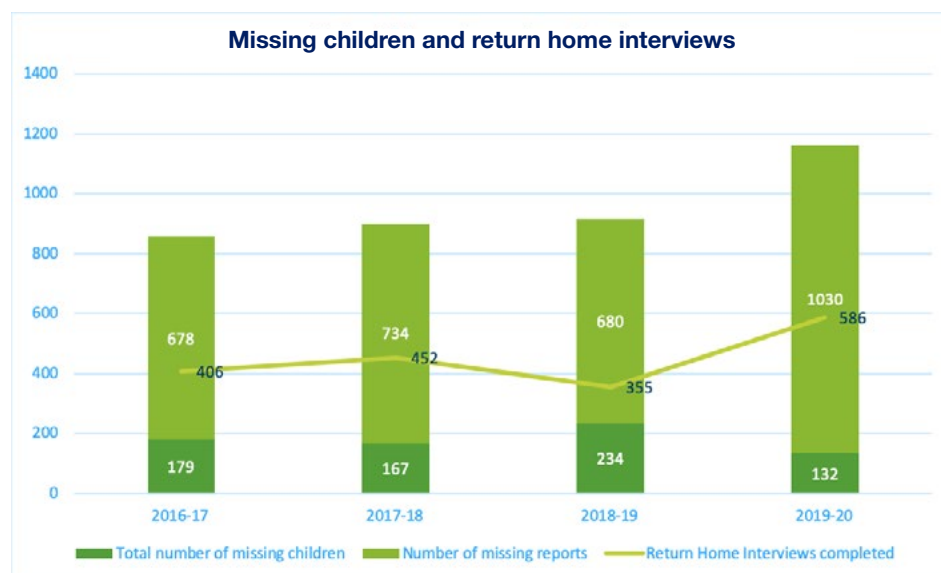
3.1.8 Missing Children

132 children and young people were missing at a point in 2019-20. This is a slight decrease from 152 in 2018-19. The table provides a breakdown of previous years. Although 132 children were missing at a point, there was a total of 1,030 missing reports therefore a small cohort of children continue to go missing on more than one occasion.

The risks for a young person reported missing are heightened. The chart also provides details of the number of children reported missing who were also at risk of exploitation.



The Children Society continue to offer independent Return Home Interviews (RHIs) for all children who are reported missing and often, the interview will account for a number of missing episodes. The purpose of the interview is to attempt to reduce the chance of future missing episodes and mitigate the risks these children and their families become exposed to. Following a successful return home interview, 68% of cases show a reduction in missing/absent episodes in 2019-20.



3.1.9 Online Safety

Online safety cross-cuts many or all of the safeguarding risks/abuse experienced by adolescents and is embedded within the work-strands.

The CSCP's Online Safety Subgroup continues to ensure that online safety resources are up to date and shared with all schools across Camden. Leads from the Camden City Learning Centre, (an award winning ICT centre which supports all schools in Camden with the

Computing Curriculum), attend the Online Safety Subgroup and provide regular updates on Online Safety training school compliance and online safety emerging issues and trends experienced at Camden schools.

Limited online issues are raised with the Local Authority Online Safety Officer, therefore, it is clear that schools are well equipped to respond to online safety concerns.



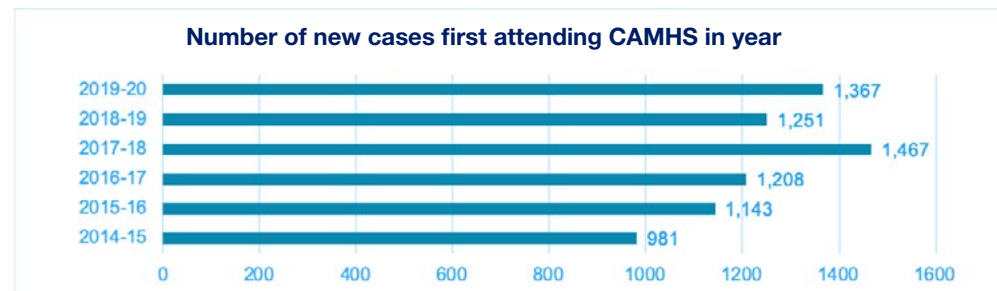
Camden is engaged with Cyber Choices, which is a programme that engages with children at risk of committing cyber offences. Cyber criminals are becoming younger and the aim of this project is to interject before the young people become criminalised and encourage young people to use their computer skills effectively. Over 2019-20 six young people were referred to the programme and received an intervention this included attending a Cyber Choices intervention workshop which involved gaining a better understanding of the Computer Misuse Act and signposting to online resources.

3.1.10 Child and Adolescent Mental Health

The CSCP has embedded recommendations over 2019-20 from the adolescent mental health multi-agency audit completed in 2018-19. This has included:

- CAMHS developing training on adolescent mental health and self-harm for multi-agency professionals. This was attended by 32 professionals and will be repeated over 2020-21.
- Updating the multi-agency audit template to include greater emphasis on the voice of the child and how this is documented and recorded by agencies.
- Development of an Early Help Engagement Policy which clarifies process to follow when working with a 16 year old.
- Development of a multi-agency adolescent mental health protocol, which clarifies the role of each agency working with these cases. This will be available in Autumn 2020.
- Delivering a multi-agency child sexual abuse conference to explore the local and national picture and how professionals can be trauma informed when working with child sexual abuse cases. The event was attended by 77 multi-agency professionals.
- Development of Camden Learning Mental Health Support for Schools guidance which includes details on training, resources, workshops. iMHARS, sharing good practice, peer education and Camden mental health learning hub.
- CAMHS reviewed thirty cases that have moved from CAMHS to adult mental health services to explore the transition pathway and are also members of the Pathways to Adulthood steering group.

2019-20 saw a 9% increase in the total number of new cases referred to CAMHS. Trend analysis over the last six years shows the steady increase in demand for CAMHS:



Mental Health Trailblazer in Camden schools



Mental Health Trailblazer

Over 2019-20 the Mental Health Trailblazer in Camden schools has been progressed. This includes establishing new Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) to develop models of early intervention on mild to moderate mental health issues, as well as providing help to staff within a school and college setting. Types of intervention include:

- Individual work: self- help for anxiety, low mood and behaviour problems
- Group work: anxiety, transitions and exam stress
- Workshops / Coffee mornings on selected topics

The model of support is a newly established service which extends the original CAMHS offer of clinicians based within schools.

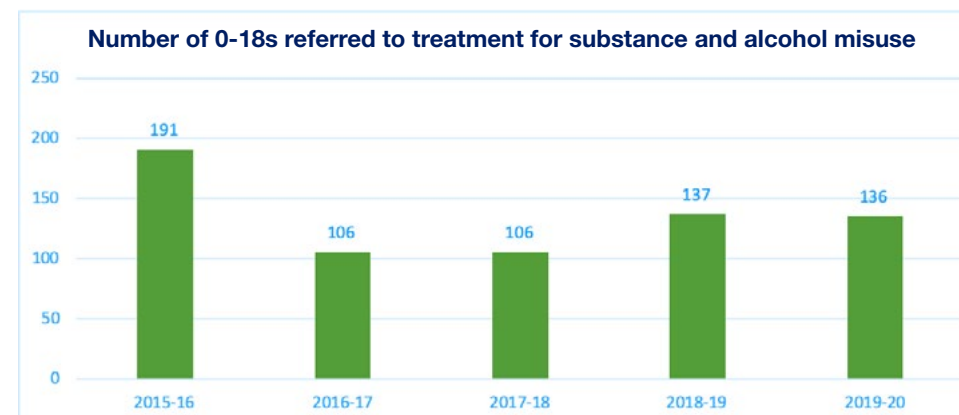
The Four-Week-Wait time pilot aims to reduce the time children and young people are waiting after being referred to CAMHS services. A Clinical Intake Team has been established for this pilot and functions as the single referral point for CAMHS. The team has been successfully giving families' advice at the earliest opportunity and speeding up the allocation decision for treatment. Before the Trailblazer implementation, 68% of referrals were contacted within 4 weeks in 2018-19. The latest figure in 2019-20 shows that 82% of referrals are now contacted within 4 weeks. It was identified that developing a central point of access which CAMHS team integrates the referral intake with Early Help and social services will be crucial to reduce waiting time. The Integrated Front Door project was set up to accomplish this aim over 2020-21.

3.1.11 Substance Misuse

In Camden, the FWD Substance Misuse Service falls under the integrated multi-agency Early Help service. The FWD team offers preventative, targeted, and treatment services to raise awareness, increase knowledge and reduce harm caused by substance misuse.

The CSCP is assured that the service works proactive with partners, including Camden schools to enable swift action to be taken to reduce risk and understand children's experiences. A substance misuse lesson-plan was developed by Camden Learning and FWD, and delivered as part of the PSHE curriculum. Safer Schools Officers support the delivery of this programme within lessons, assemblies and workshops to provide a 'police, legality and criminal consequences' perspective. The relationship between the use and sale of illegal drugs and serious youth violence and knife crime is also incorporated in engagement with students, school staff and parents.

The FWD Substance Misuse Service have designed a bespoke training session for multi-agency professionals on adolescent substance misuse, which is delivered on behalf of the CSCP. The session aims to support professionals to feel more confident in identifying substance misuse with young people and talking to young people confidently about their use.



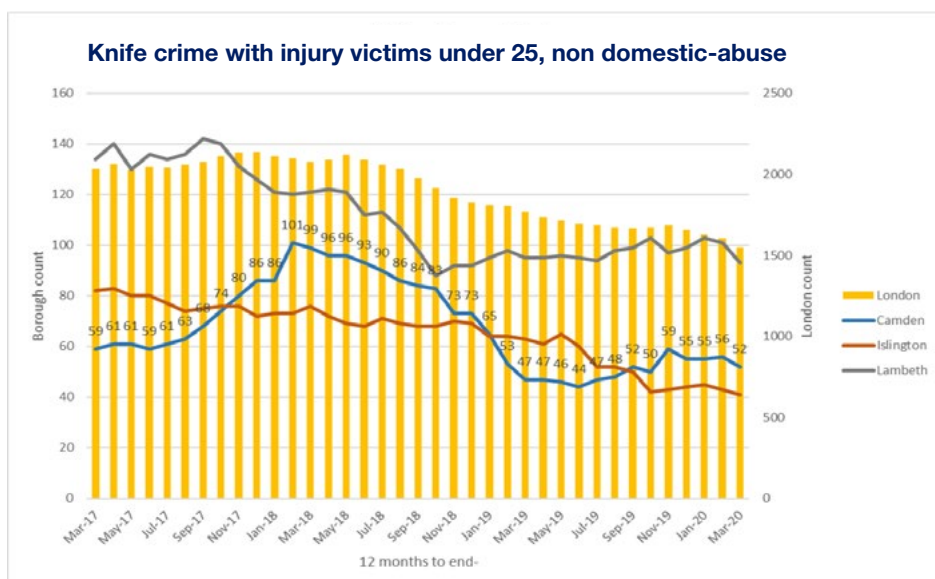
Following increased scrutiny in 2017, to explore whether the decline in children and young people reported to FWD was consistent with what agencies are seeing and dealing with, there has been an increase in referrals for 2018-19 which has been sustained in 2019-20. 136 children and young people were referred to the service because of substance misuse issues.

To receive additional assurance in 2019, a presentation on Camden's multi-agency approach to tackling children and young people substance misuse was delivered to the Partnership. It was recognised that a low level of young females are accessing substance misuse services nationally and therefore to address this, pathways have been embedded within local community groups to effectively reach this cohort.

As part of this presentation, Police partners also updated on the work taking place in the community to prevent the sale and use of illegal drugs.

3.2 Priority: Youth Violence

Since establishing the Youth Safety Taskforce in 2018, in response to the spike in serious youth violence offences, significant work has taken place with partners and the community. This has contributed to the steady reduction in the number of victims of knife crime with injury aged under 25.



In order to tackle youth violence in the borough a range of programmes have been commissioned to be delivered to Camden young people.

Examples of programmes partners are involved in which are monitored through the Vulnerable Adolescents Action Plan include:

- ✓ **Detached youth work team** running sessions around knife crime and masculinity in Secondary Schools and the “Choices Programme”, a knife crime awareness scheme for schools, has been rolled out with secondary schools.
- ✓ **Growing Against Violence** continued to be delivered in schools over

2019-20 with 5,435 young people receiving preventative education. The Integrated Youth Support Service have also commissioned the play “Breaking the Chains” for a secondary schools, which will be delivered during the next academic year. Feedback received from young people and their families suggests that housing is often a reason as to why families cannot move away from the risks of youth violence. As part of the Youth Safety Taskforce a potential Housing Reciprocal offer is being explored for relocating families at risk as a development from the Constructive Resettlement Programme.

- ✓ **Red Thread** is now fully established at the UCLH. This service provides a Youth Worker to the Trust who can support young people who are victims of youth violence at the earliest opportunity. The UCLH is also exploring implementing an Adolescent Hub Clinic in order to provide support to young people in the discharge process.
- ✓ **Camden project ‘Engage’** was cited in The Safeguarding Practice Review Panel’s report It was Hard to Escape (on Child Criminal Exploitation and Youth Violence) to offer a child-centred service at the point at which a child has been arrested. The project involves a worker being made available to meet with the child, complete an assessment with them and use it to develop a working relationship with the family, often via a family group conference.
- ✓ **Youth Diversion Programme** aims to engage with young people at a ‘teachable’ moment whilst they are held in Police custody by offering a mentor. The mentor engages with the child in order to complete a CCE risk assessment, elicits their views and agree a plan for next steps. The mentor will then work closely with the child and will review outcome measures after 6 months. This is a voluntary programme and successfully, 97% of children have consented to engagement with the programme and Early Help Services. Over 2019-20, the project engaged with 15 Camden children in police custody, directly worked with 24 Camden children following their arrest and facilitated the work being undertaken by the

established network for a further 173 children. As part of this programme, 162 parents and carers engaged and 23 family plans were completed. Further analysis and comparison will be completed to help understand if engagement at ‘teachable moments’ supports a greater uptake of early help services. The project has promoted new partnerships and ways of working including co-location of mentors with Kings Cross Construction to provide a direct link to a range of ETE and apprenticeship provisions for children at risk of offending.

✓ **CCfL project: pattern of offending behaviour**

CCfL, Camden’s Pupil Referral Unit ran a Camden Alternative Provision pilot, which is now in the second year. The aim of this pilot is:

- To offer young people an alternative to mainstream school if they are not engaging in the curriculum or progressing in their learning in order to achieve qualifications at the end of KS4.
- To offer young people additional vocational pathways at KS4 which allow them to study a subject which motivates them and increases their engagement in their learning.
- To reduce permanent exclusions at KS4 by offering an alternative educational pathway before the point of exclusion.
- To centralise alternative provision referrals in Camden, in order to improve the monitoring of student progress and welfare in Alternative Provision Placements.
- To improve the quality assurance process to ensure that all providers are meeting the required standards.

In light of this pilot, the following outcomes were achieved:

- ✓ **83% remained in their initial placement**
- ✓ **71% overall attendance – which is above average for a PRU**
- ✓ **94% achieved accreditation**
- ✓ **83% progressed onto a post 16 placement**

The CSCP continues to monitor this area through presentations at the whole Partnership meeting. Following, the Timpson Review of School Exclusion (2019), Camden secondary Headteachers have agreed to fund a borough-wide approach on the exclusion of year 10 pupils. Partners effectively aim to support these very complex cases and work together to ensure children stay engaged in education. Further details are in Chapter 4.

- ✓ **Youth Safety Week 2020** – Camden partners arranged a series of events to mark Youth Safety Week in 2020 which included combined events, performances and workshops. The aim was to provide support to the borough’s young people and their families and to raise awareness of what is being done locally to help keep Camden’s young people safe. A number of preventative talks and workshops were delivered in Camden schools to provide young people with the skills and knowledge of the risks to adolescents.

A Real Talk debate was also organised for 15 to 21 year olds from Camden to express and challenge views or misconceptions on issues important to them in a safe environment.

Following this, young people from across Camden pitched their ideas on how to improve youth safety during the annual Shout Out debate. The event, organised by Camden Youth Council and Camden’s Youth MP, was attended by youth clubs and projects from across the borough, as well as local secondary school students.

It's extremely important for us to ensure that young people are involved in projects dedicated to youth safety because they are the ones who this work is designed for. Young people, their opinions and their insights are essential in informing successful practices, because often they provide a way of thinking that the adults in the room may not share. Our annual Shout Out event is one of the ways in which young people from across the borough can channel their views to the local council, as well as gauge an awareness of the community actions taken that will have an impact on them.

Asma Maloumi, Deputy Youth MP for Camden

Children held in custody

The CSCP has an established protocol for children and young people held in police stations, which clarifies the legal framework and local procedures to follow. Breaches of the Concordat Act are shared with the CSCP in order to cross-check with the local authority's overnight emergency duty service, to ensure that contact has been made and appropriate accommodation explored.



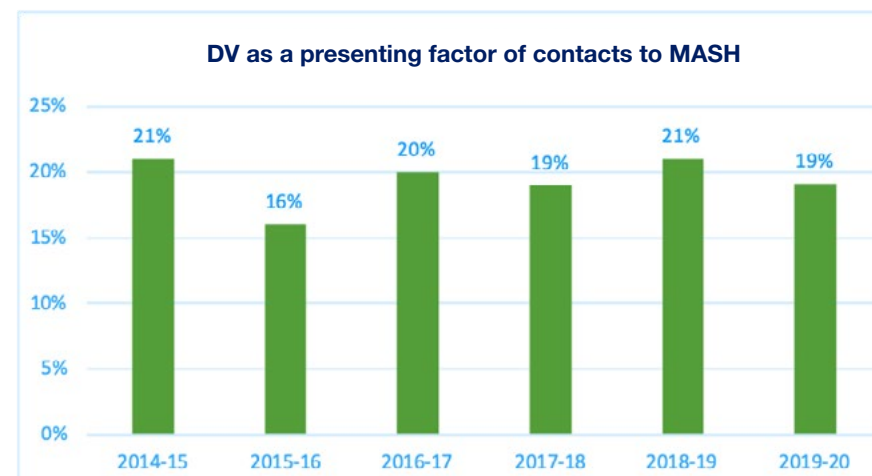
Over 2019-20, there were 32 breaches of the Concordat involving Camden children, 13 of the breaches took place in a Camden custody facility. 19 out of borough children were held in custody overnight in a Camden custody facility. It was pleasing to note that contact was made in all of these

cases where time allowed, with one of the main reason for children being held in custody overnight is time constraints and availability of secure accommodation.

As detailed above, Camden has a range of support and prevention programmes available, including Project 10/10, Youth Diversion Programme and New Horizons which work directly with gang members and young people who are in custody and those who are being released from prison. In 2020-21, a dedicated team to support high risk cases between the ages of 18-25 years will be established within the Integrated Youth Support Service.

3.3 Priority: Domestic Violence and Abuse

Domestic violence and abuse (DVA) continues to be a presenting factor in 1 out of 5 (19%) contacts to MASH. Over 2019-20, 165 domestic violence cases were discussed at MARAC where there is a child in the household. This has led to DVA being a priority for the CSCP over the previous four years.



Camden Safety Net received 2,299 referrals in 2019-20, 1.8% of this cohort related to clients who were aged between 16-18 years. Over 2019-20, CSCP has monitored the multi-agency work taking place to deliver support to victims, and help for perpetrators change their behaviour. Key areas of work are detailed below.

3.3.1 Caring Dads Programme

Camden continued to commission the Caring Dads Programme jointly with London Borough of Islington over 2019-20. The programme is designed to help fathers improve relationships with their children and end controlling, abusive and/ or neglectful behaviours but is not suitable for high risk perpetrators. The Caring Dads programme focuses on helping fathers to have more positive and child centred approaches to parenting and touches on changing unhealthy, hurtful, abusive and neglectful behaviours. The focus is therefore the child and father relationship as the motivation for change. Two fathers successfully completed the programme in 2019-20. Camden would like to reach a wider audience and therefore in early 2020-21, will be focusing on raising awareness and identifying suitable fathers to participate and complete the programme.

3.3.2 Counselling for survivors of Domestic Violence and Abuse

In 2019-20 a total of 116 successful referrals were made to the counselling service for survivors of Domestic Violence and Abuse, many often living in household with children. The primary focus of the service is to address the devastating and often long-term emotional and psychological impact of domestic abuse, sexual violence and ultimately to prevent domestic violence homicides. Bespoke safety plans are shared with the counselling service as part of the referral process allowing counsellors to focus solely on addressing psychological and emotional aspects of domestic and sexual violence. Counsellors are also trained in completing DASH risk checklists, and whilst counselling, are monitoring changes by working in partnership with IDSVA's to manage any change in circumstances and increased risks evidenced. Sessions are tailored to clients need and are adapted to ensure safety is paramount. This service will continue to support and provide counselling services over 2020-21. Camden Safety Net IDSVA's co-delivered the CSCP's DVA training to ensure new approaches are shared with the multi-agency workforce.

3.3.3 Embrace

Embrace is a safe space that provides a support group for mothers who have experienced domestic abuse perpetrated by an adult child. During 2019-20 Embrace received a total of 11 successful referrals. Embrace, is unique as there are very few resources available for this particular cohort of vulnerable women which addresses adult child to parent violence of all ages.

3.3.4 Systems thinking review

Camden local authority 2025 ambition is to ensure; "Every family experiencing DVA is supported to build on their strengths, helped to build their capacity to lead a good life and not just protected from risk". To realise this vision, a systems thinking review was commenced. The review has shown that services are good at ensuring survivors of DVA are safe and respond to reports of domestic violence and prevent escalation. They ensure victims are moved to safety, are supported and work across agencies to protect the victim and, their children. CSCP's QA Subgroup has been involved with the review and was informed on how case mapping work has helped to develop a deeper understanding of the various services and how they respond. The review focused on the following significant areas:

1. Corporate approach to DVA
2. Housing policy including housing allocations and eviction.
3. Employment opportunities and support for families experiencing DVA.
4. Working with perpetrators of DVA.

In March 2020 the Systems Review was paused to enable to focus on the response to the COVID 19 pandemic due to the anticipated heightened risk of domestic abuse during this period.

3.3.5 Health Pathways Consortium

In 2018-19, Camden were successfully awarded to become a Health Pathfinders site which concentrates on working with Mental Health services providing frontline services to victims who present at mental health services both as in patients and those who attend day services. The project finished in early 2020 however there is a partnership ambition to continue the work and build on its success which include:

- An increase in the number of survivors accessing support from Camden Safety Net which were referred from mental health teams, where there were previously no referrals
- An increase in referrals from Early Intervention Service and iCope
- Increase in referrals from teams where co-location presence is less frequent and now, where a co-location is beginning to be established.
- Identifying teams where co-locations and partnership working could be developed

Co-locations across 6 community mental health teams has enabled services to support many more survivors collaboratively and provide a more holistic response. IDSVA's have also been made available for clinical safeguarding discussions to be able to help identify risk concerns and contribute to the safety plan for the survivor and family.

3.3.6 Operation Encompass

Operation Encompass is an MPS initiative to enhance communication between the police and schools where a child is at risk from domestic abuse. The purpose of the information sharing is to ensure schools have more information to support safeguarding of children. By knowing that the child has had this experience, the school is in a better position to understand and be supportive of the child's needs and possible behaviours. The initiative was rolled out in Camden in 2019-20 and supported by the MASH.

3.3.7 Domestic abuse and situational violence workshop

The CSCP and Camden Safety Net organised a workshop for 74 multi-agency professionals in November 2019. The workshop was set up to debate, develop and design to strengthen practice in this area. A range of speakers presented at the event to provide the local and national picture, interventions and information on how multi-agency professionals work together to improve outcomes for families experiencing domestic abuse were shared. 100% agreed that they had some knowledge on how situational violence can present for frontline practitioners following the workshop. Bringing multi-agency professionals together to discuss this issue enabled the opportunity for each agency to understand challenges experienced by other agencies and build pathways to work together collaboratively.

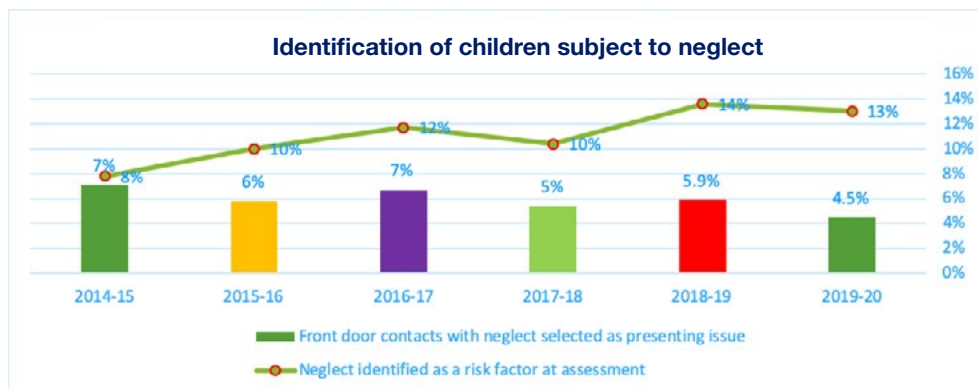
Knowing and understanding the typologies helped to put things into perspective. Situational couples violence was a real eye opener and thought provoking'

3.4 Priority: Neglect

Over 2019-20 children experiencing neglect continued to be a priority for the CSCP, this involved the Quality Assurance Subgroup reviewing the Joint inspectorate report: Growing up neglected. The report presents issues which are already known to services such as; delay in identifying neglect in adolescent cases and meaningful relationships between professionals and young people. Projects such as the Innovation Project and Integrated Adolescent Approach have been established to link up the work-streams to better the support this cohort of children.

4.5% of contacts to the front door identified neglect presenting as an issue. This reflects a fairly stable trend seen in Camden over recent years. 13% of the cases at point of assessment have neglect

identified as a risk factor, which has been similar to previous years. In 2019-20, the rate of children becoming the subject of a CPP for neglect (rate per 10,000 of the CYP population - ONS mid 2017 under 18 pop = 49,275) was 19, a slight reduction from 22 the previous year.



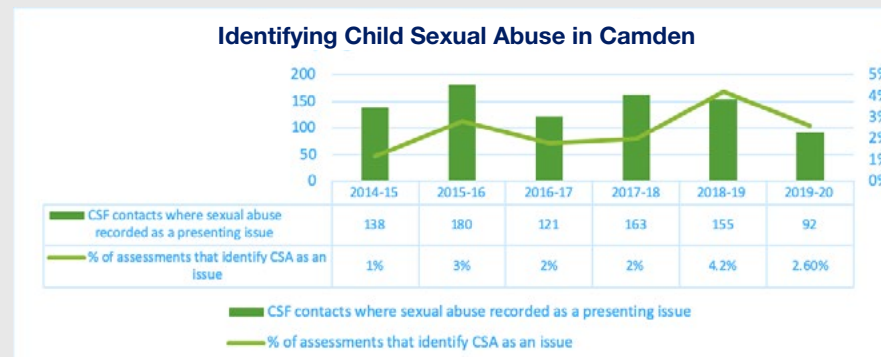
Over 2019-20, recommendations from the 2018-19 multi-agency audit on Neglect and the impact of the GCP tool was embedded, this includes:

- Amending the CSSW assessment form to include greater emphasis of the role of fathers or males within in family home.
- Single agency audits completed by all Health Trusts on children not brought to medical appointments to ensure there is a robust follow up process in place.
- All CP plans to have set timescales and avoid using terminology such as 'ongoing' and include dates for when each action will be reviewed, with an emphasis on using plain English.

Camden local authority also continues to encourage the utilisation of the Graded Care Profile Tool, with three Independent Reviewing Officers having accreditation to deliver training to multi-agency professionals.

3.5 Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)

The table below shows the trend of identifying child sexual abuse over 2019-20:



Over 2019-20, 92 CSF contacts were received by MASH which record CSA as a presenting issue this is a decline from 155 in 2018-19. This decline has therefore impacted the number of assessments that identify child sexual abuse as an issue from 4.2% in 2018-19 to 2.6% in 2019-20. The total number of children subject to CP plans due to concerns around sexual abuse is 1 (rate per 10,000 of the children and young people population) which is similar to figures in 2017-18.

3.5.1 The Lighthouse

'A place of hope and support for children and young people that have experienced sexual abuse'

The Lighthouse opened in Camden in October 2018 to deliver medical, advocacy, social care, police, and therapeutic support to children and young people who have been victims of sexual abuse. The service was set up in response to the challenges raised by the Children's Commissioner in 2017.

Since a year of the service opening, it has been successful in supporting children and their parents to deal with CSA, rapidly enabling access to CAMHS and therapy services. There is no delay between services in the Lighthouse which enables access when the child is ready to engage. Feedback from young people attending the service emphasises the positive impact this service has in enabling young people to feel comfortable to disclose and discuss their abuse and find ways to move forward.

The Lighthouse reporting for its first year of operation showed the following referrals/ victims under the age of 18 compared to the other referring boroughs.



Partners found it assuring that 73% of as sexual offences in the borough of children and young people were referred to the Lighthouse, which is significantly higher than other than other North London borough. However the gap between under 18 victims of sexual abuse and those referred to the Lighthouse remains an area requiring further work.

The age and gender profile of those referred to the Lighthouse is depicted below. The CSCP felt that it was positive that the under 11 cohort had the highest number of referrals in terms of the identification of the abuse and support offered. More than three-quarters of the referrals were relating to girls.

the lighthouse **NHS** Enabling identification and referrals

Figure 13 Lighthouse referrals compared with victims reporting child sexual abuse to the police in North Central London

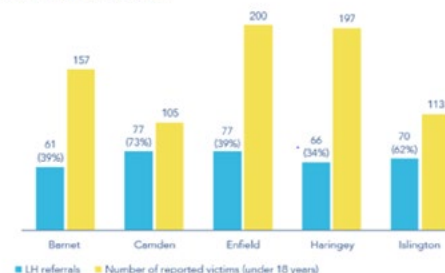


Table 1

| Borough | Barnet | Camden | Enfield | Haringey | Islington |
|--|--------|--------|---------|----------|-----------|
| CYP referred as a % of recorded sexual offences in the borough | 39% | 73% | 39% | 34% | 62% |

University College London
Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

NSPCC

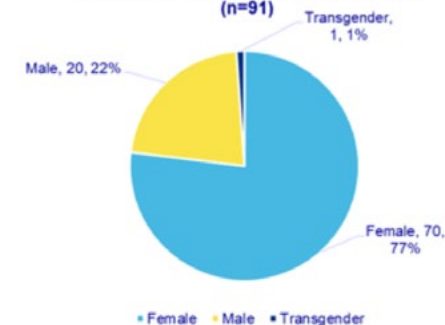
Partners:
MorganStanley

The Tavistock and Portman
NHS Foundation Trust

Camden Referrals: Oct 2018 to Dec 2019 (n=91)



Camden Referrals: Oct 2018 to Dec 2019 (n=91)



In September 2019, the CSCP organised a multi-agency conference focusing on child sexual abuse. It built on learning from the previous conference held in 2017, which was carried out in response to the research from the Children's Commissioner. 77 professionals from a range of organisations across Camden attended and 100% of delegates agreed that the conference will make a difference to their work. At the conference, the multi-agency team at the Lighthouse, described how they are addressing the recommendations from the Children's Commissioner:



Addressing Children's Commissioner challenge?

| Recommendations | Lighthouse response |
|---|--|
| Strategy for the prevention of child sexual abuse | Home Office CSA strategy in development Child House Toolkit |
| Whole school approach to child protection | Offer training to schools as part of support |
| All professionals work together more effectively to identify abuse. | 100 strategy meetings and 41 consultations in Yr1 across the STP |
| Coordinate support for children and families | The Lighthouse is a one stop shop |
| Achieving Best Evidence interviews undertaken with an intermediary or child psychologist, | Psychology led ABEs in the 'talking room' Or support police/social work interviewer Enable RIs to be available |
| The Barnahus model should be piloted in England, | The Lighthouse |
| Review the process of inter-agency investigation and role of the police and children's social workers | Piloting police liaison officer and social care liaison officer |
| CYP with harmful sexual behaviour receive proportionate and timely intervention | Joint assessments with NCATS and Respond |

University College London
Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

NSPCC

Partnership
Morgan Stanley

The Tavistock and Portman
NHS Foundation Trust

Over 2020-21, the CSCP, will maintain oversight on progress made.

The conference reviewed national and local data to identify trends and had robust discussion relating to some of the challenges faced when working with cases that feature CSA.

The importance of applying trauma informed practice in areas of work was raised at the conference with 97% of delegates agreeing that they are now more confident to apply a trauma informed approach.

'Very poignant talk and had high impact on me. Helped me think about how to have the conversations needed to assess CSA and also what my role as a professional could be.'



Suggested areas of improvement raised at the conference will be taken forward by the CSCP's Quality Assurance Subgroup over 2020-21. This includes the development of an overarching Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Strategy which is being led by Camden's knowledgeable Designated Doctor and publishing the CSA spot the signs leaflet which was developed alongside the Lighthouse.

It is pleasing to report that the Lighthouse is well engaged with the Partnership and has contributed to multi-agency CSA training, specifically around starting conversations with young people about sexual abuse. A consultation service has also been established for professionals who have concerns but no evidence of the abuse, professionals have fed-back that they have found this resource helpful to minimise future risk. Over 2020-21, sessions on consent will be provided by The Lighthouse to Camden school pupils.

3.6 Preventing Radicalisation and Extremism

Regular updates are provided to the CSCP to provide assurance that Camden is committed to tackling the threat of extremism and intolerance. The number of cases known to children's social care due to concerns relating to radicalisation and extremism remains low and 2019-20 saw a further decline. The CSCP has continued to maintain strategic links with Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (SAPB) and Community Safety Partnership Board (CSPB) to ensure that proactive multi-agency interventions are undertaken to ensure risk reduction despite low numbers coming to the attention of children's services.

In Camden, Prevent has developed a robust strategy to continue to promote cohesion in all aspects of the work-stream. CSCP is informed that Channel Panel is embedded, which confirms the commitment of partners and formalises the procedures for case management and the roles of each partner. Through Home Office funding, Camden has recruited a Prevent Education Officer to support schools and voluntary sector professionals to work with families to identify risks of radicalisation both online and offline.

3.6.1 Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP)

Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent has been developed into bespoke sessions for each organisation and delivered 33 times over 2019-20 reaching 545 participants. Organisations where delivery has taken place include mainstream Education from Early Years to Sixth Form, independent schools and other out of school settings. The prevent co-ordinator has also delivered bespoke sessions on behalf of the CSCP to a multi-agency audience. Additional to this, training also continues to be delivered by partner agencies and all Health Trusts provide good compliancy for Prevent and WRAP Training which is reported to the CCG and NHS England. Schools and organisations working with children and

young people have been provided with advice and guidance on policy and resources in relation to radicalisation and extremism. The main focus has been on grooming both on and offline.

3.6.2 Workshops taking place in Camden schools

The CSCP was offered assurance of workshops delivered to schools by the Prevent Education Officer, in order to build young people's resilience to radicalisation. The topics were specifically chosen to reduce Camden's vulnerabilities:

- ✓ **BRAVE** (Building Resilience against Violence and Extremism) is a programme designed for schools which provides young people with the skills to avoid advances which may groom them into gangs, extremism or violent crime. This successful programme was delivered to a number of schools and youth centres in Camden to **1035 young people**.
- ✓ **Equaliteach – Think!** was also delivered in Camden primary schools to **858 students**. The programme gives young people the opportunity to explore stereotypes and understand the negative and divisive impact that comes from using them.
- ✓ **Just Enough** - Hate and Radicalisation, is a workshop which gives young people an understanding of different responses to situations. Workshops were delivered to Primary Schools to approximately **130 students** who will be shortly transitioning to secondary school.
- ✓ **Solutions not Sides** was delivered to Camden Secondary Schools and colleges reaching **340 young people**. The programme aims to support the understanding of conflict and engagement in resolution.

The impact of the work taking place has been measured through the responses of young people and follow up with teachers and professionals. All received largely positive feedback. Many schools identified more work needing to be done in this area or more young people requiring this type of intervention.

4

Working together to safeguard Camden children

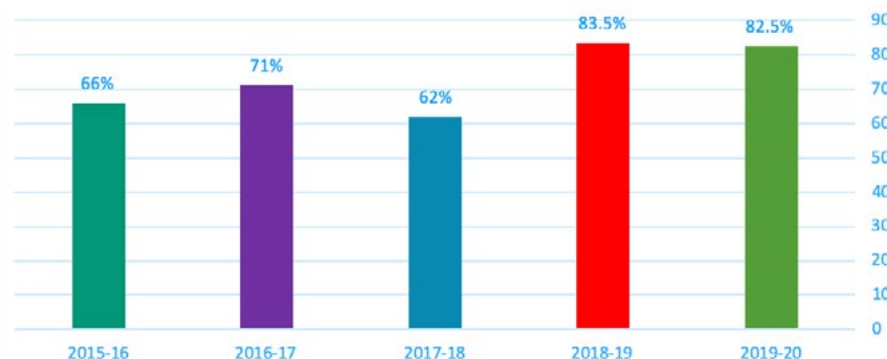
to deliver the core statutory functions



4.1 Children in Need (CIN)

Over 2019-20, 281 referrals of CIN per 10,000 population aged under 18 were received. 82.5% of these referrals led to the provision of social care (as defined by the child becoming a child in need). Breakdown of previous years below and shows a stable picture for the previous two years:

Percentage of referrals leading to the provision of a social care service (CIN)



4.1.1 DfE Innovation Programme: Targeted Support Innovation Programme for 10-13 year old Children in Need

It was noted that there has been an increasing proportion of children coming into local authority care as teenagers. Therefore, Camden began testing a preventative multi-agency approach for 10-13 year old children as part of the Right Balance for Families project. The programme has provided intensive support for children in need and ensures professionals can work alongside families and young people to provide crucial support during the transition to secondary school. The model explores options of support with the family by attending Family Group Conferences to identify what support the family needs and agree family goals. There is also availability for family mentoring to support families encountering difficulties.

4.1.2 Family Group Conference Service

Over 2019-20, a total of 203 referrals were made to Family Group Conference (FGC) service, and of these, 200 conferences went ahead. This is an 8.5% decrease from the previous year, however still evidences that FGCs are being utilised on a frequent basis.

4.2 Child Protection (CP)

It is statutory duty under the Children Act 1989 to provide services for children in order to safeguard and promote their welfare and to carry out an assessment to decide on services and interventions where the following thresholds are met:

- **A child in need assessment under section 17 of the Act** will be carried out for children whom it is thought are unlikely to meet a reasonable standard of health and development.
- **A child protection enquiry under section 47 of the Act** will be carried out where there is reasonable cause to believe that a child is suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm.

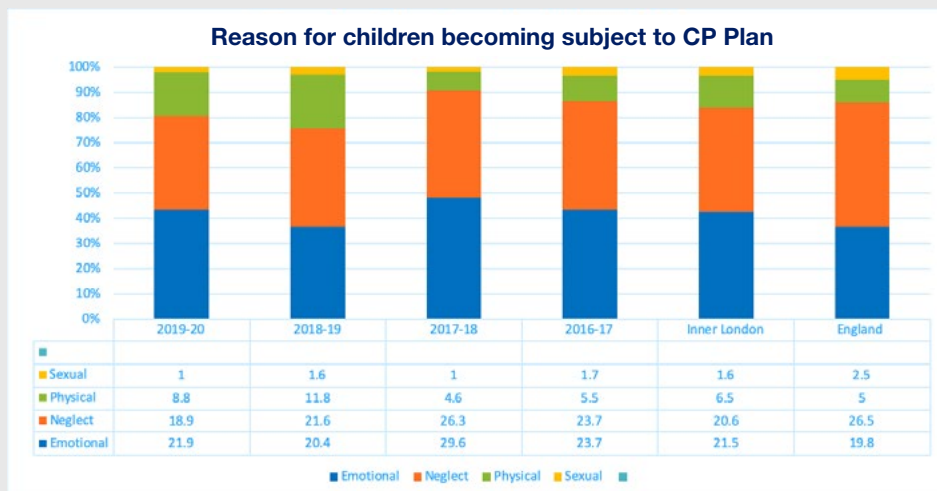
The table provides a breakdown of children subject to Child Protection Plans in Camden over the years:

Children subject to Child Protection Plans 2014-19



There was a progressive increase in the total number of children who are subject to a CP plan in Camden over 2014-2019 but in 2019-20, the numbers have stabilised, with the rate of children subject to a CP plan (per 10,000 children) declining from 63 to 51.3. This is slightly higher than the inner London (36.1) and national (43.7) average for 2018-19.

The chart provides an overview of the factors which contributed to children becoming subject of a CP plan for physical, emotional, sexual abuse and neglect. 2018-19 saw an increase in the number of children becoming subject of a CP plan for physical abuse which was sustained over 2019-20. This is in line with the targeted work being undertaken with cases involving domestic violence and abuse, whereby if this is a feature cases are automatically flagged for concerns around physical abuse.

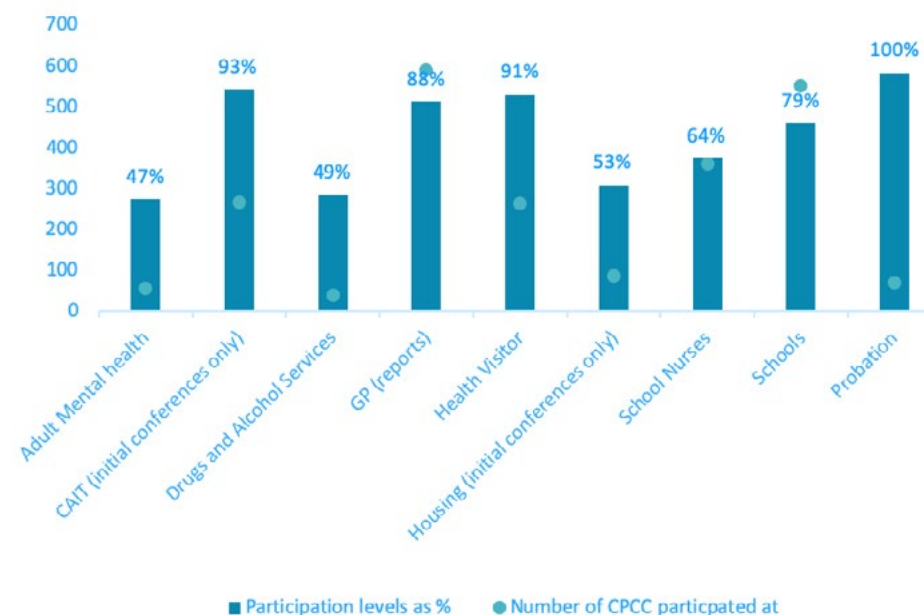


Partners are actively engaged in child protection case conferences which is demonstrated by the high levels of participation at CP conferences. The chart below provides an overview of participation over 2019-20:

Over 2019-20, following increased scrutiny by the CSCP, the participation levels for Probation has improved to 100% of reports being submitted

although, attendance is still low at 14%. Camden has one of the highest rate for GP participation across the country with GP reports being provided to 88% of CP conferences over 2019-20.

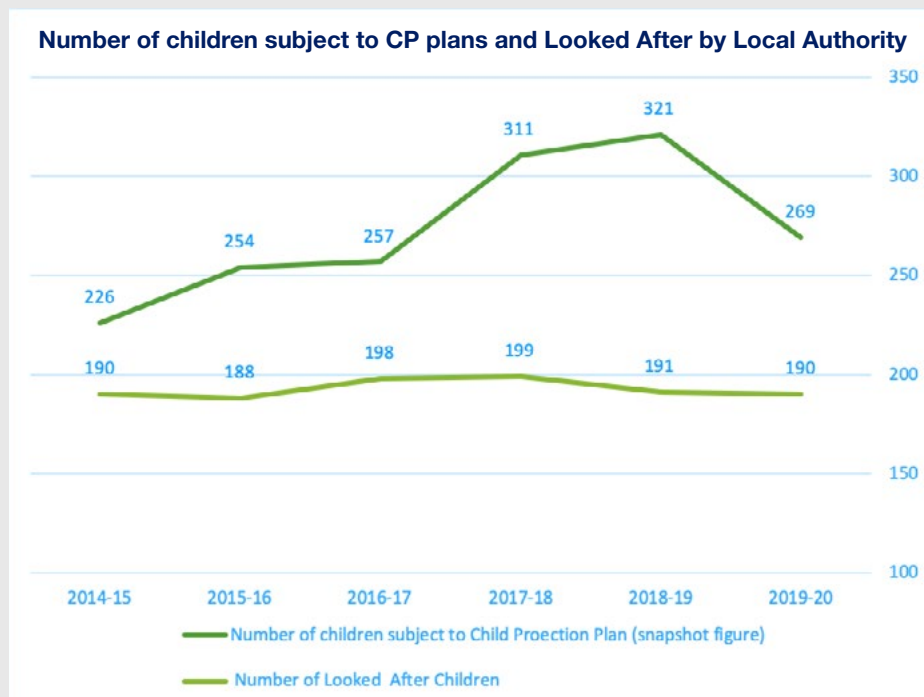
Child Protection Case Conference Participation 2019-20



In order to improve participation levels across all agencies the CSCP is developing a CP conference training aid for multi-agency professionals. The video will aim to aid professionals to understand the meeting and feel confident to participate and share their views. Feedback from Camden Conversations project will be used to develop this video, and an additional one for families participating in Child Protection Case Conferences.

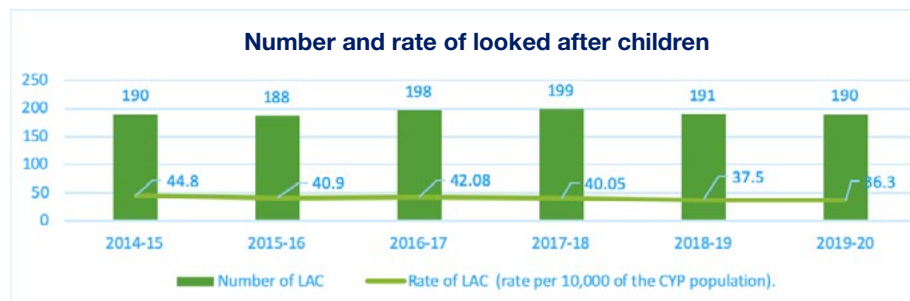
4.3 Looked after children

2019-20 continued to see a slight decline in the total number of looked after children from 191 to 190. The chart below which provides the total number of looked after children and children subject to CP Plans over the previous years:

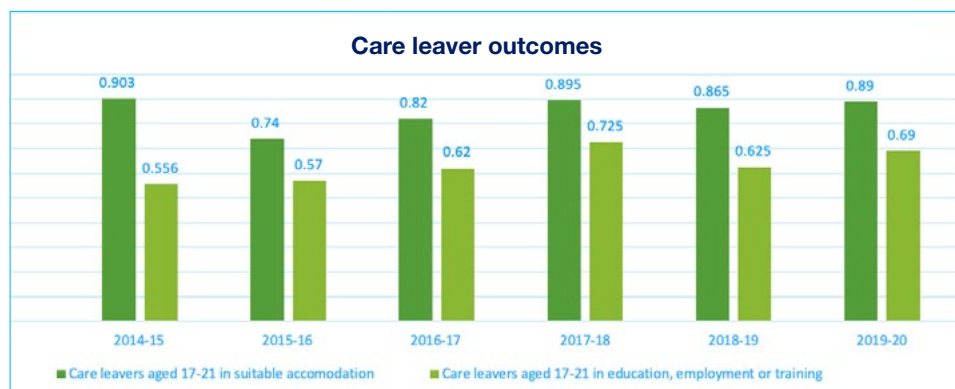


There has been a drop in the rate of Looked after children per 10,000 population from 38 in 2018-19 to 36.3 in 2019-20. 86.5% of Looked after children were successfully placed within 20 miles of their home address to retain stability and established relationships, this is higher than the local and national average.

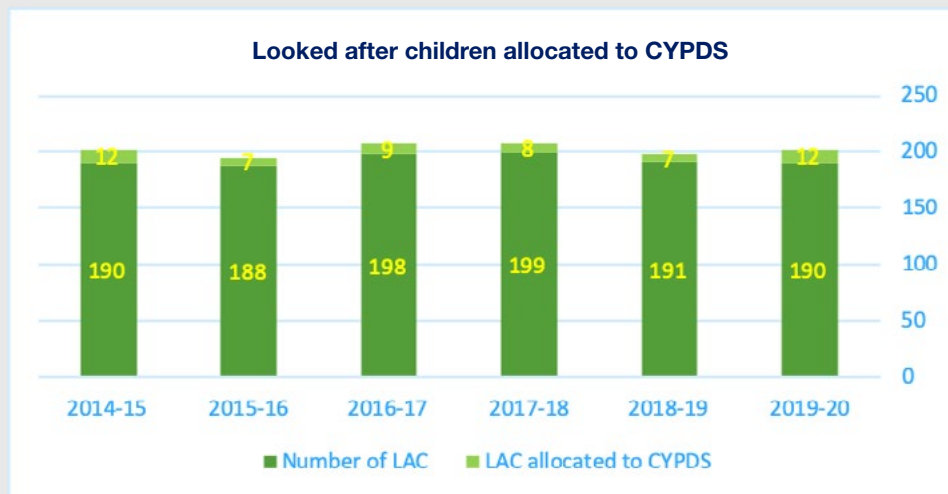
Health partners work closely with this vulnerable cohort to ensure that the health and well-being of remains paramount. This is evidenced by 90% of the looked after children cohort receiving an annual health assessment and 85.5% receiving a dental check and health assessment.



There has been an increase in the number of care leavers aged 17-21 in Education Employment or Training over 2019-20, from 62.5% in 2018-19 to 68%. This increase has also been seen in the total number of care leavers being provided with suitable accommodation from 86% in 2018-19 to 87% in 2019-20.



The number of looked after children also allocated to the Children and Young People Disability Service (CYPDS) has increased from 7 in 2018-19 to 12 in 2019-20. As overall numbers of looked after children have slightly reduced, this demonstrates that a larger percentage of the looked after children are allocated to Children and Young People Disability Service (CYPDS). Breakdown of previous provided in the chart.

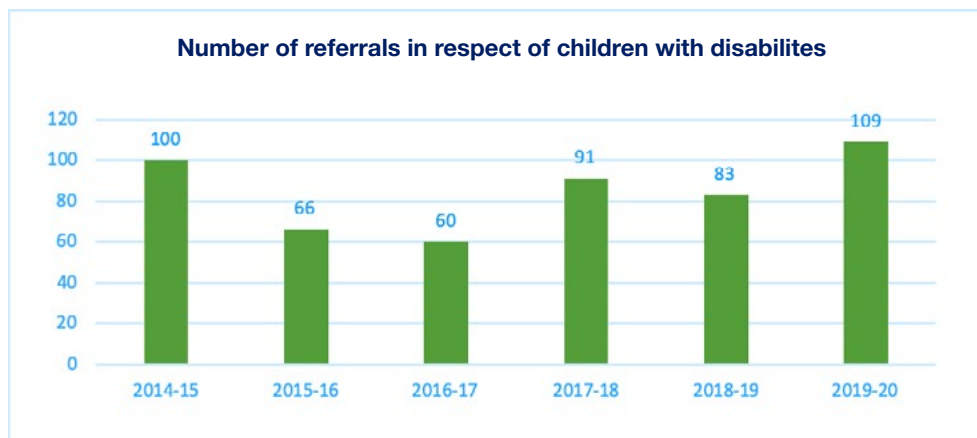


4.4 Safeguarding Children and Young People with Disabilities and SEND

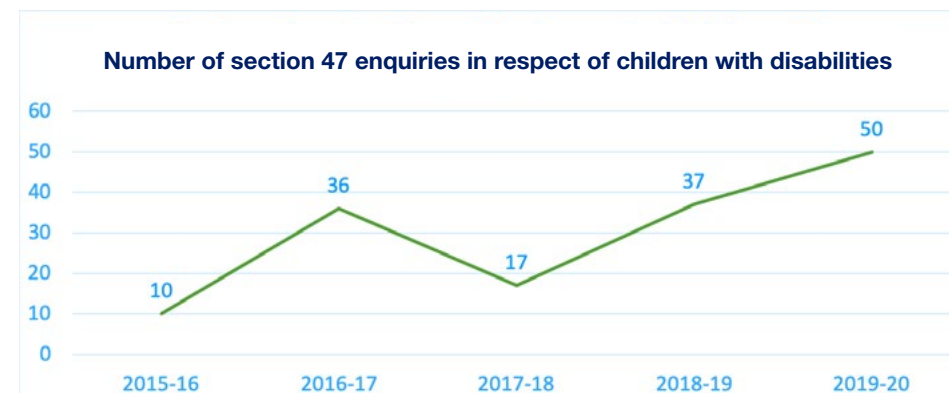
In January 2020, Camden had 1,440 children and young people subject to Educational Health and Care (EHC) Plans and 461 if these pupils were being supported under a CIN, CP or LAC plan. 129 children and young people of this cohort are receiving a service from the Children and young people disability service (CYPDS).

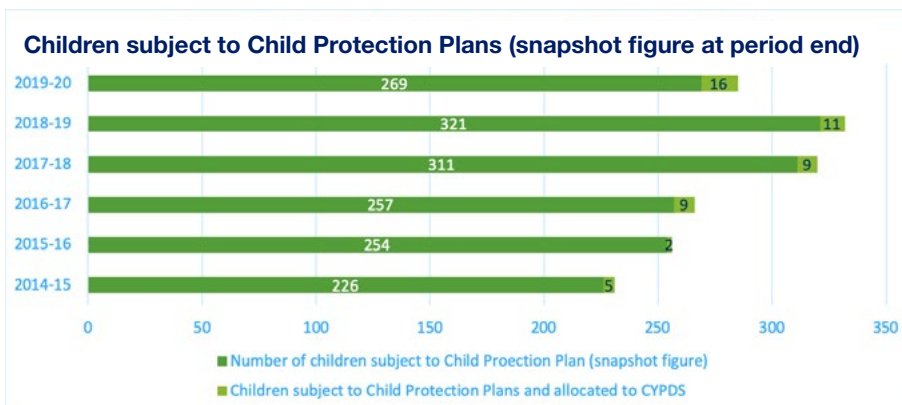
There were 109 referrals to MASH in relation to children and young people with disabilities in 2019-20 which is an increase from 83 the previous year.

92 children subject to a CIN plan are also recorded as having a disability, this is a reduction from 111 in 2018-19.



Partners have emphasised the importance of safeguarding this vulnerable cohort through extensive awareness raising, training and briefings. In light of this, there has been an increase in the number of Section 47 enquiries in respect of children with disabilities. This demonstrates professionals increased curiosity and understanding of the risks faced to this cohort. There are 16 children subject to CP plans who are also allocated to CYPDS.





Safeguarding children with disabilities remains a priority for the CSCP. Regular updates on progress made by the Children and Young People Disability Service (CYPDS) is provided to partners with assurance received during January's CSCP meeting in how the multi-agency partnership support children and young people with SEND and disabilities.

- The Safeguarding Disabled Children Task and Finish Group was established in over 2017-19 and following this, an implementation plan was produced which is regularly monitored to ensure that actions are being progressed.
- The Section 11 audit in 2018 sought assurance that safeguarding standards are met by providers and commissioners of services for children with disabilities. The audit importantly looked at whether the increased vulnerability of children and young people with disabilities with providers and commissioners.
- The CSCP delivers multi-agency CSCP training to raise awareness of the additional vulnerabilities of children with disabilities and has a comprehensive multi-agency data set which alerts concerning trends or improving performance.

- All CSCP reports ask partners to offer us evidence on how they consider the additional vulnerabilities of children and young people with disabilities.
- In 2018, the multi-agency case audits examined how need is identified, especially when children have communication difficulties to ensure support is provided in a timely way to improve outcomes. Recommendations from this audit are overseen by the Quality Assurance Subgroup.

There is shared approach when working with children and young people with disabilities due to the additional complexities of these cases. In order to achieve this the following has been established across the Partnership to improve outcomes for this cohort:

- Camden Integrated Children's Service (CICS) is a partnership between CYPDS and four local NHS providers, working together in a formal alliance. MOSAIC service forms part of the CICS.
- Safety assured by single operational leadership, single front door single electronic community health record and professional leadership.
- MOSAIC and CYPDS co-location facilitates partnership, reflective supervision and shared governance.
- Regular safeguarding supervision for Health Visitors and School Nurses is provided by Named Nurse which includes MOSAIC Specialist Health Visiting.
- NHS staff prioritise contribution to CP conferences and is a shared commitment across services.
- A policy has been aligned across services to ensure that the process for when a child is not brought to a medical appointment, is robustly embedded into practice.

4.5 Safeguarding children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

External scrutiny has been provided to this cohort through the SEND Inspection in March 2019. Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a joint inspection of the local area of Camden to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the disability and special educational needs reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014. This is detailed in Chapter 5 – Learning and Improvement Framework.

The CSCP were offered assurance on the wealth of resources available to support children and their families give their views on services delivered. Children and families are also invited to participate at the Short Breaks Panel and provide their views. The service also encourages the use of Advocacy and Family Group Conferences to explore wider family and network support. Two Camden schools are part of the Autism Trust and can provide training to all schools in the area on supporting this vulnerable cohort.



The autism passport is now utilised by Police service so that Officers can be made aware that the child has special needs or disability in order to tailor the approach. A deep-dive will be completed through the Quality Assurance Subgroup as Police noted an increase in cases involving

children with SEND. The final report and findings will be shared at a future Quality Assurance Subgroup meeting.

Professional knowledge about autism is being broadened as it is featuring in many areas of work. The Chanel Panel were trained in autism awareness due to these heightened risks of radicalisation.

4.5.1 Safeguarding children with complex medical needs workshop



The complexities of supporting this vulnerable cohort was explored by the multi-agency partnership in January 2020. An event was organised to collectively explore the challenges experienced when working with children with complex medical needs and how to support and empower professionals to manage these cases. The event led to the development of an action plan focusing in on training, raising awareness of advocacy within CYPDS, children and family engagement events and review of the pathway as part of the Transitional Safeguarding conference planned for autumn 2020. (See Learning & Improvement Framework chapter for more information).

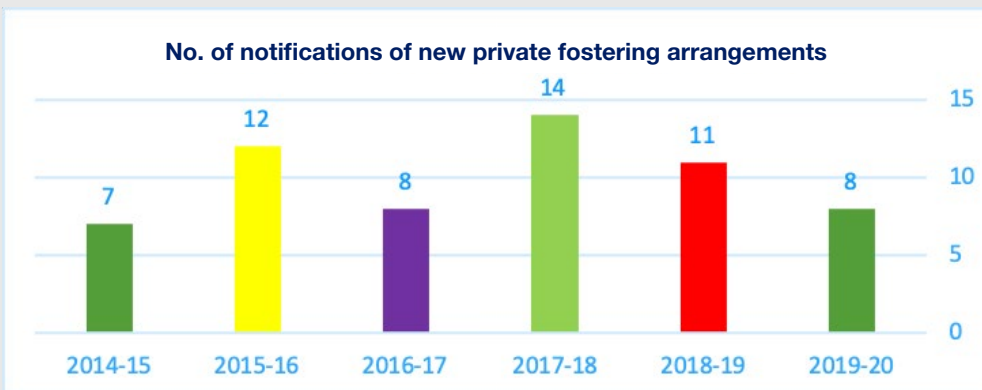
Parents of children with complex medical needs (Special Parents Forum) participated in the event and provided their views on the challenges they experience, how the professional network can better support them and provided details on approaches which have been found particularly helpful. The parents displayed a slide to highlight the crowded level of intervention received by CYPDS and their families. They called for ways to explore streamlining how services engage with families.



4.6 Private Fostering

Private Fostering continues to be highlighted with partners to raise the importance of identification as it believed to be largely underreported. Private Fostering is also a regular theme highlighted on the CSCP website. In 2019-20, a new Private Fostering Briefing for multi-agency professionals was introduced, designed by the Private Fostering Lead to raise awareness amongst all multi-agency professionals due to the low numbers reported.

Some delegates reported that they had not received training in this area and were not confident in identifying these circumstances. Following the briefing 100% reported that they are now better able to identify and respond to safeguarding concerns. Delegates at the session reported sustained good level of knowledge 6-8 weeks after the course with comments including 'I feel more confident in exploring issues relating to private fostering and on our responsibility to address and report these arrangements.'



An update on Private Fostering initiatives was provided to the Quality Assurance Subgroup in May 2020. Since this update, a number of services have arranged for Private Fostering briefing to be presented at their team meetings.

Despite the number of awareness raising initiatives taking place, numbers in this area remain low. This will be a continued area of scrutiny for the CSCP over 2020-21 to ensure all staff are aware of private fostering arrangements.

4.7 Out of school education settings

4.7.1 Supplementary Schools

Since appointing a dedicated supplementary schools officer in 2017-18, increased engagement with Camden's supplementary schools has been established. Multi-agency partners continue to attend the Supplementary Schools Forum to make links to the work of the CSCP, to raise awareness of CSCP multi-agency training opportunities and update on safeguarding standards. The more robust partnership approach undertaken is detailed in chapter 1.

4.7.2 Children not in education

The CSCP continuously monitors the rate of absences and exclusions from Camden schools and has maintained persistent focus on the multiple and overlapping risks to children who are not in full time mainstream education. Camden also have a Scrutiny Panel who are enquiring into exclusions.

Established methods are in place in order to reduce school exclusions and schools work together to meet the needs of this vulnerable group. This includes the Fair Access Panel which looks at placing pupils who have been excluded from school at an alternative school or to move those at risk of exclusion prior to actually being excluded, integration bases and the CRIB project. Since 2019, the Fair Access Panel has also considered primary aged students which has reduced primary aged exclusions to 0 following 5 primary exclusions in 2018.

Currently, the highest reason for a young person to be excluded relates to persistent disruptive behaviour followed by physical assault against a pupil. A workshop has been organised with the community regarding the issue of exclusions. The workshop will share communication about this issue so that community members are aware of process and services available to support families. Families are also invited to share their view with school Governors and can be supported by the Advocacy service if required. The work is monitored at the Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy Group and the main CSCP meeting.



4.7.3 Elected Home Education

Regular updates continue to be provided to the CSCP in regards to children who are home educated. In 2018, the CSCP provided input into the elective home education call for evidence consultation. In Camden, 231 children of statutory school age were being home educated at the end of July 2020 compared to 241 in 2018-19 which is a decrease of 4.1%. The Elected Home Education coordinators work closely with multi-agency professionals to offer additional support, guidance and home visits to ensure the safety of the children.

4.8 Abuse linked to faith and belief

The CSCP continues to raise awareness of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and participates in the FGM Summer Campaign. This includes a resource pack being sent to all schools in Camden highlighting the mandatory responsibility to report cases of FGM, training opportunities and an FGM statement in the Camden Magazine. MPS colleagues also contribute to the campaign by raising awareness within the community at key travel locations. Although children identified as being at risk of harm due to faith and belief remains low in Camden, identifying those at risk continues to be a focus for multi-agency professionals.

In light of COVID-19 and the travel restrictions implemented as a result, the FGM Campaign in 2020 will take place in the autumn term.

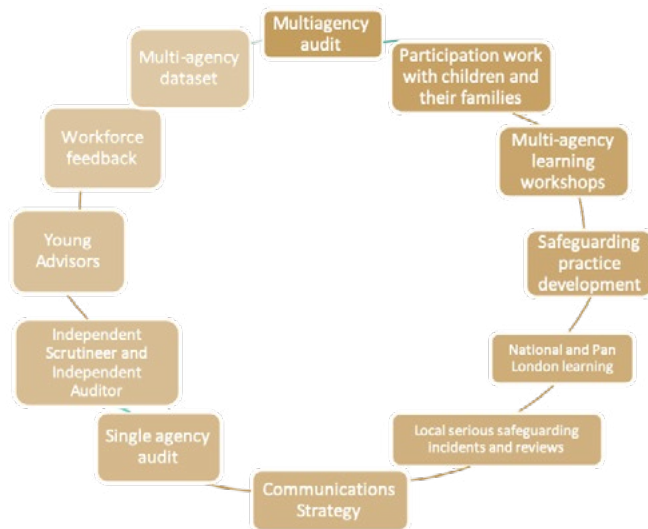
5

CSCP learning and improvement framework



Continue to develop a culture of good professional judgement as reflected in our Learning and Improvement framework

This chapter is a review of the key strands of Camden's **Learning and Improvement** framework that enables us to understand the health of our multi-agency safeguarding system. Throughout the report, there is analysis on the quality of practice across all agencies over 2019-20, using the components of our system for quality assurance. This includes safeguarding management information, staff and service user feedback, audits, serious incidents and practice reviews, and interagency training – as outlined in the diagram below:



The CSCP's Learning and Improvement activity highlights strengths and pinpoints areas requiring improvement and how the partnership is addressing them; in order to continue to improve services and outcomes for children.

5.1 Learning from multi-agency data

Key to safeguarding assurance is knowing the thresholds for the partnership are right and children at risk of significant harm are identified. Implementing the learning from analysis of local/ Pan London multi-agency data is described throughout the annual report and detailed in chapter 3. CSCP members regularly scrutinise multi-agency safeguarding data as part of broader programmed discussions and targeted meetings. The following are examples of areas of sustained scrutiny. They are broadly divided into two categories; a) they are strong indicators that demonstrate the health of the multi-agency safeguarding system and; b) can provide false assurance to the partnership due to underreporting. Hence, the CSCP is vigilant to the performance of:

- ✓ Multi-agency referrals to the front door and repeat referral rates
- ✓ Child Sexual Abuse referrals
- ✓ Multi-agency participation at Child Protection Case Conferences
- ✓ Rate of Looked After Children and Children on Child Protection Plans
- ✓ MPS data of offences involving children including on those held in custody
- ✓ School fixed term and permanent exclusion rates
- ✓ Children educated at home and in out of school education settings
- ✓ Children going missing and related risk of exploitation including CCE, CSE
- ✓ Private Fostering levels and actions taken to raise awareness
- ✓ Abuse linked to faith and belief

Through qualitative analysis and deep-dives, the CSCP has been able to enquire further, challenge, and develop action plans to make improvements.

5.1.1 Safeguarding performance data: Summary of strengths and good practice

- ✓ Due to the increased scrutiny implemented as a result of a spike in 2017-18, a decrease has been sustained over the previous two years. In 2019-20, only 8.1% of cases were re-referred within 12 months of the case being closed, this is lower than London (18.1), national averages (22.6)¹.
- ✓ 90% of children's social work assessments have been completed within 45 days compared to London average of 81% and national average of 83%.
- ✓ 10% of looked after children had 3 or more placement moves in the previous 12 months in 2019-20. This is in line with national (10%) and inner London (10%) averages.
- ✓ Only 9.5% of children were subject to a CP plan for over 2 years in 2019-20.
- ✓ 100% of looked after children under 5 (who have been looked after for at least a year), have had up to date development checks. This has been sustained over the last 2 years, following challenge in 2017.
- ✓ 2019-20 saw a 68% reduction in missing/absent episodes after successful return home interview in previous quarter.
- ✓ A reduction of risk was achieved in 86% of cases in young people receiving intervention and support for Child Criminal Exploitation in 2019-20.
- ✓ Over 2/3 of Camden's looked after children aged 19, 20 and 21 years old are in education, employment or training.

¹ All national and London averages are only available for 2018/19

5.2 Learning from multi-agency themed audits

The CSCP has an annual programme of multi-agency and section 11 safeguarding audits as set out in the CSCP business plan. This is overseen by the Statutory Safeguarding Partners and managed through the Quality Assurance Subgroup. The CSCP is assured that findings from audits and identified areas of improvement are escalated within the partner agency for action and monitored by the relevant subgroup (as detailed below).

5.2.1. Multi-agency audit: Adolescent mental health

The CSCP (known as the CSCB at the time of commissioning the report) completed an audit of adolescents receiving mental health services. The Quality Assurance Subgroup selected the topic of 'adolescent mental health' because it had been noted that adolescents with mental health concerns were being referred to, or presenting more commonly for help from a number of member agency services. It was agreed that the audit would focus mainly on older adolescents in order to better understand the effectiveness of arrangements for the transition to adult services for this group of young people. Findings from this audit and the recommendations made are detailed further in the [CSCB Annual Report 2018-19](#).

Recommendations have been embedded into frontline practice over 2020-21 which includes the development of a new protocol on multi-agency working in regards to cases involving adolescent mental health. The CAMHS service will also be tracking the young people in this audit sample who are currently aged 16 for the next 24 months to explore how effectively, responsibility for the care of their mental health needs is transferred to adult services (when that is believed to be the appropriate course of action). Findings from this project will be shared with the Quality Assurance Subgroup in 2021.

5.2.2 Multi-agency audit: Older children in need of help and protection

This audit focused on the way in which agencies worked together to meet the needs of adolescents (all aged 15 or over) with a variety of safeguarding and welfare needs. For this audit, the Quality Assurance Subgroup selected the theme of ‘services for older children in need of help and protection including contextual safeguarding’ noting that it had been an area of significant recent development in understanding and practice. Professionals are expected to be aware of, and responsive to safeguarding risks arising from the child’s environment as well as from within families.

Agencies audited records of involvement in each case over at least the last 12 months, all using the same multi-agency template. The audit findings are extremely positive about the response to adolescents where there are safeguarding concerns. The audit findings suggest that agencies are treating them as a priority and that assessment plans and services were making a positive impact or at least, when young people are being exploited, containing and managing risks. The audit found that where this was not the case, it was usually due to the great difficulty in engaging young people, but that professionals persisted in demonstrating that even if there was no immediate benefit, they were getting along with the young person, if necessary for the long term. This shows the value of professionals staying involved in the lives of young people; even if they do not feel that they are achieving short term objectives.

Multi-agency discussion of the findings focused on three areas: arrangements to safeguard children and risk of exploitation, and the attention that is being paid to race, ethnicity, religion and other cultural factors in work with children and their families (across all types of adolescent safeguarding cases).

There are some particular difficulties dealing with exploitation cases. Professionals recognised and recorded the symptoms of exploitation.

However, the assessment of causes and risk factors is difficult because young people often do not disclose the full extent and nature of the exploitation they are experiencing, and sometimes do not perceive it as exploitation. Family attitudes and responses are shaped by aspects of religion and culture, which can make it more difficult for the family to adjust and respond positively to children who are often putting themselves at risk.

The audit showed that interventions to support exploited young people is complicated by many factors. Young people’s choices may be constrained and they will not often willingly engage with interventions, sometimes because they are pressured not to.

The audit found that the principles that should inform service provision are: persisting in attempts to offer a service, and flexibility in approach but also show that in the short term this may not have an obvious positive impact, other than to contain or manage some of the risk.

Exploitation cases involve a large number of professionals and agencies, which creates the challenge of maintaining a shared knowledge and approach across the network while avoiding duplication of activity. One audit highlighted the risk of offering too many appointments, whilst another pointed to the value for the child of having two workers with distinct roles collaborating closely. Sometimes the network needs to stay in one place sharing information and making the best-judged interventions while recognising that not every risk can be predicted or prevented.

In light of the recommendations raised as a result of this audit, the following has been taken forward by the partnership:

- ✓ An audit will be completed in autumn 2020 to provide assurance that school nurses are fully engaged in work with adolescents where there are safeguarding concerns and liaise regularly with secondary school designated safeguarding leads.

- ✓ To highlight the Family Group Conference service to ensure that care plans for children in cases of criminal or sexual exploitation have always considered a referral for a family group conference at an early point. If this is not considered the reasons should be recorded.
- ✓ Focused work to take place across the partnership to promote how individual agencies take account of the child and family's specific characteristics including race, ethnicity and religion in assessment and service delivery.

5.2.3 Developments in safeguarding practice: Promoting diversity and racial equality

Aspects of identity including race, ethnicity and religion were identified as areas of improvement from our multi-agency audits. In the 2018-19 multi-agency audit, cases featured families in which cultural factors were an important aspect of the risk to the child. Agencies have taken a number of initiatives in order to help professionals consider culture, race, ethnicity and religion, in particular making these considerations more central to supervision and providing forums for reflection in a number of agencies. Although still often understated in the case records, it was clear that these factors were brought to the foreground more in the cases reviewed.

In 2019-20, the Quality Assurance Subgroup began exploring how identity can strongly influence the difficulties children and families face and the way in which workers can interact and engage with them. Over 2020-21, the CSCP will look in detail how equality and diversity values are practiced within children's safeguarding in order to ensure appropriate emphasis is placed on identity and racial equality. Over 2020-21 and beyond, more work will take place to redesign services that take into account the identity of the partnership's multi-agency workforce and our local service users. This is in order to bring about wider systemic change to ensure our safeguarding practice is truly inclusive.

5.3 Learning from single agency audits

In order to seek assurance that safeguarding is effective across all agencies in Camden, the Quality Assurance Subgroup have scheduled in regular single agency learning updates. Each agency provides an overview of the established auditing process and updates on recent audits, learning and changes within the system to improve services for children. Section 1.8 of the annual report describes the CSCP's governance and assurance mechanisms, which enables multi-agency learning and improvement.

5.3.1 Learning from external challenge: Youth Offending Service (YOS) Inspection 2020

'The partnership works cohesively to provide children with access to the right services and to keep others safe.'

In 2020 Camden's YOS was rated as **Outstanding** by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation, the first London borough to be rated this under the new inspection system. The inspection reviewed three areas and set standards that are based on established models and frameworks.

Key findings about the organisational delivery of the YOS were as follows:

- ✓ The YOS has effective, collaborative leadership and the resources to deliver successfully its ambitious programme of work.
- ✓ The YOS uses an intelligent approach to understanding data and information, making sure this is analysed carefully and presented in a format and language that can be easily understood.
- ✓ Leaders and practitioners respond energetically to issues and feedback, using an evidence-based approach to find and implement creative solutions.

- ✓ The YOS has high expectations for the standard of work it delivers; practitioners are skilled, knowledgeable and supported to meet these.
- ✓ The YOS values the families and children with whom it works and involves them in decisions that affect its strategy and day-to-day work.
- ✓ Children have timely access to an excellent range of mainstream and specialist services and interventions, created in partnership with colleagues and other providers to meet identified need.
- ✓ The YOS demonstrates well its strategic commitment to focus equally on desistance, safety and wellbeing and the need to keep others safe.
- ✓ There are effective systems in place to evaluate strategic initiatives and understand and address deficits in practice.

It was noted that the strong partnership with the police, children's social care services and health has enabled the YOS to implement innovative initiatives, some with other London boroughs, to help address priority concerns. These include tackling the disproportionate percentage of children of black and minority ethnic heritage entering the criminal justice system, and the need to provide enhanced resettlement support to children at risk of perpetrating, or who have committed serious violent offences. Effective resourcing enables YOS workers to access early help and family interventions; education, training and employment; substance misuse, mental and sexual health and specialist disability services; and speech and language therapists in a timely way.

A number of court disposals were scrutinised as part of the inspection to examine the quality of assessment, planning, and implementation and delivery of services. More than 80% of cases reviewed met all the requirements. Out of court disposals were also reviewed under this framework and the work in this area was rated as 'Good'. Although the YOS take a fully inclusive approach with partners, colleagues, families and children to make sure the appropriate disposal was delivered and implemented effectively, there is further work to be taken forward in relation to safety planning for victims and contingency planning.

5.3.2 SEND Inspection 2019

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission inspected services for children and young people with disabilities and special educational needs in 2019. The joint inspection of the local area of Camden was to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the disability and special educational needs reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.

As part of the inspection, inspectors spoke with children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), parents and carers, the local authority and CCG officers. They visited a range of providers and spoke to leaders, staff and governors about how they are implementing the reforms. Inspectors looked at a range of information about the performance of the local area, including the local area's self-evaluation, and reviewed performance data and evidence about the local offer and joint commissioning.

Strengths highlighted within the inspection includes:

- Leaders ensure agencies work well together and share information to ensure that children and young people with SEND attend school regularly.
- Educational psychologists are deployed effectively into different services that support children and young people with SEND. Their engagement with other colleagues in the Looked After Children's Service and the YOS improves the support children and young people receive.
- School nurses and the education welfare service advise parents and providers to improve the attendance of children who are frequently absent through illness or medical needs.
- Positive experiences of transitions. The number of young people with SEND who are not in education, employment or training is closely monitored and is reducing. Young people are well prepared to make the transition from primary to secondary school and into adulthood.

- Fair Access Panel ensures that young people get a school place as quickly as possible so that continuity in their support is maintained. Early intervention services make sure that those waiting for child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) receive appropriate support and are not left unchecked.
- Health professionals ensure that those children and young people who are waiting for interventions from CAMHS teams are not left unchecked. Due to the longer waiting times in some services, the practitioners ensure that those at high risk are prioritised and contacted at least monthly to track any deterioration in mental health.
- There is strong emphasis on training all professionals and carers supporting children and young people with SEND.

Camden continues to improve service delivery and outcomes for children and their families based on identified areas of development from inspections, feedback and audits. The SEND inspection noted the following areas of development:

- Improve the timeliness of completing EHC annual reviews
- Provide increased support for children in their transition to adulthood
- Improve identification of social care needs for those who require support to address their vulnerabilities
- Increase the number of young people with SEND in employment or training
- Improve the local offer website to raise awareness of social opportunities for children aged 12 – 16 years
- Robustly monitor those pupils with EHCPs who are not in a school setting

Areas of development will be taken forward by the relevant service and will be closely monitored by the CSCP. This will ensure that services are set up in a way that enables children and young people with SEND to be well supported and achieve positive outcomes.

5.3.3 National Probation Service (NPS) Inspection – January 2019

The London division of the NPS's senior leaders have a strategic focus on quality and performance. Leaders and managers are accessible and responsive to feedback and new ideas. They have taken action to address the recommendations in our last London division of the NPS report (autumn 2017).

The National Probation Service (NPS) was subject to an inspection in January 2019 and the final report was published in May 2019. Three domains were inspected: organisational delivery, case supervision and sector specific court work and victim work. The inspectors assessed a number of cases across London including court reports, victim contact cases, and had interviews and focus groups with all grades of staff and those known to services. Overall, the London division of the NPS is rated as **requires improvement**. The inspection highlighted the following strengths:

- ✓ **Overall, risk management plans were sufficiently robust. They included appropriate and proportionate actions to take if individuals breached their licence or order conditions.**
- ✓ **A multi-agency approach to the work was planned for, including links with children services where appropriate.**
- ✓ **Strategic links with other agencies are good in many areas.**
- ✓ **There is an established system for the completion of safeguarding checks with quick turnaround by Police colleagues.**

The NPS received a number of recommendations following the inspection that will be taken forward and prioritised. It was raised that in some cases NPS staff were not making appropriate checks and referrals to children's services and did not

always exhibit sufficient professional curiosity. The data collected in regards to Child Sexual Offenders was also raised as an area that requires strengthening. In order to address this, the following has been established:

- ✓ **New Public Protection Service Delivery Board**
- ✓ **Four-monthly risk assessments to take place**
- ✓ **Bi-annual audits using the NPS Assessment Quality Assurance Tool and New London Improving Practice and Developing case audit process**
- ✓ **A review process for Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangement (MAPPA) Level 1 cases**
- ✓ **Increased Active Risk Management System completions being monitored**
- ✓ **NPS London Vulnerabilities Plan will be refreshed, to focus on an uplift in safeguarding children and domestic abuse practice**
- ✓ **Locally the NPS will ensure the effective use of MASH SPOC in addition to holding local workshops regarding the escalation process**
- ✓ **Divisional Quarterly themes will be identified relating to safeguarding which will include training**
- ✓ **Hold quality mornings to focus on checks and referrals**

In order to seek assurances that the work undertaken to address the recommendations has been achieved effectively, the NPS is subject to a yearly inspection and will provide feedback to the Partnership in relation to the outcomes and safety of children.

5.3.4 Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) – April 2019

‘We found that the CRC and its partners were working conscientiously to provide meaningful services and build healthy relationships.’

The Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) were subject to an HMIP inspection in April 2019, the final report published in August 2019. The overall rating was **Requires Improvement**. The inspection highlighted the following strengths:

- ✓ **Senior leaders provide strong leadership that promotes the delivery of high-quality services.**
- ✓ **They keep those under probation supervision at the heart of their strategic decision-making and operational delivery.**
- ✓ **Staff receive regular supervision and good access to in-service learning opportunities.**
- ✓ **Engagement with those under probation supervision is purposeful.**
- ✓ **The organisation has a good understanding of its performance and what it needs to achieve to improve the quality of the services it is delivering.**

CRC have formally accepted HMIP’s recommendations and agreed an action plan to address the recommendations in the report. The recommendations mainly focus on the management of offenders to ensure that potential victims are kept safe and ensuring that management oversight is consistent and effective in supporting responsible officers to manage public protection and safeguarding concerns. In light of the recommendations, the following actions have been progressed:

- ✓ **A new training programme to support a consistent understanding across the CRC of quality case management.**

- ✓ Implement and embed an integrated case management and risk and needs assessment tool to enable action planning objectives to be developed which are directly linked to the service user's risk and needs including safeguarding.
- ✓ Regular Accountability Meetings to monitor performance around Safeguarding through assessments and the quality of the assessments.
- ✓ Implementing monthly assurance audits focused on quality indicators of safeguarding, risk management, recording and interventions.
- ✓ Review and launch supervision framework for all roles with the expectation that all employees have monthly supervision including a focus around Safeguarding via Case Discussions.
- ✓ Launch an updated Safeguarding Performance Report.
- ✓ Continue to build and develop our local relationships with Camden Children Services by setting up team briefings for Early Help and MASH and monitoring CRC engagement in Child Protection Conferences.

An area of good practice was shared in relation to the established lunch sessions with Children Safeguarding and Social Work and Police. Adapting a similar model with the CRC will be explored over 2020-21.

5.3.5 Audits undertaken by health services in Camden

Routine updates are also provided at the Health Subgroup on audits undertaken across Health settings to ensure safeguarding procedures are robust.

a) Did not attend and was not brought:

Non-engagement with health services can be an early indicator of child neglect. A regular audit completed by all Trusts in Camden focuses on the response when a child is not brought to a medical appointment or did not attend. This is to explore whether all missed appointments are followed up with the family and to ensure that the child is seen by a health professional. Feedback from these audits are routinely shared at the Health Subgroup and changes are made to practice accordingly. All Trusts have reviewed their cancellation policies in light of the findings from these audits.

Did not wait:

A Did not wait audit was completed by the Royal Free Hospital's A&E department for children who present in A&E and leave before they are seen. Following this, a pro-forma has been developed which features a rag rating system. Any cases marked amber or red are discussed with the Paediatric Consultant. The pro-forma will be used to evidence that cases have been appropriately followed up and safeguarding concerns are explored.

b) Quality of safeguarding reports

CNWL have completed an audit to determine the quality of safeguarding reports submitted to Child Protection Case Conferences, covering all health visiting and school nursing teams within Camden. In the majority of cases, there was evidence of conference reports being provided and attendance at the conference by the

relevant professional. Although it was noted that the reports could be submitted earlier to allow details to be shared with parents and children, if appropriate in advance of the conference. The importance of this will be emphasised with Health Visitors and School Nurses and re-audited in the future to explore improvements.

c) Mental Capacity Act:

Mental Capacity Act baseline audit to assess compliance was undertaken by Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH). This was to assess the current implementation of key principles of the Mental Capacity Act (2005) and NICE guidance on decision-making and mental capacity. The Mental Capacity Act applies to everyone aged 16 years of age and above.

Age specific consent forms were introduced at GOSH in 2015. The background to this change was evidence from a Trust wide clinical audit that identified that the consent forms did not provide clear guidance or direct staff to document consent correctly for patients aged 16-17 years and over 18 years. It was positive to note that in the majority of cases, the correct forms were used. The electronic system will be updated to allow forms to be accessed online rather than in a paper format.

It was noted that improvements could be made in evidencing whether mental capacity was explored robustly and links to how this may impact the clients decision making. Therefore, briefings and increased training has been established with teams to highlight and raise awareness of this.

5.3.6 School Safeguarding Compliance Audit

In 2019-20, Camden Learning completed a school safeguarding compliance audit on behalf of the CSCP with all Camden schools; maintained and private. The audit consisted of 35 questions, self-assessed against the 8 standards highlighted in the 'Statutory Guidance on Making Arrangements to Safeguard & Promote the Welfare of Children' under Section 11 Children Act 2004.

It was pleasing to note that 100% of schools reported compliance to 24 out of 35 questions and a small number of schools reported non-compliance to one or more questions but provided evidence as to how the standard will be achieved going forward. The audit provided assurance that schools have effective safeguarding training in place, systems in place to ensure safeguarding training compliance for Designated Safeguarding Leads, established Safeguarding and CP policies, clear procedures to ensure that volunteers involved in regulated and non-regulated activities understand the school's safeguarding policy and their role within it, and safer recruitment procedures are in place.

The Designated Teachers Forum was noted as an area of good practice and support for the Designated Safeguarding Leads. Even if professionals cannot physically attend the forum, key information is circulated to all schools.

Schools have provided positive feedback about this audit and have described it as a useful exercise. In light of this audit, the following is to be taken forward by schools:

- A reminder to schools to keep training up to date (DSL and Safer recruitment) and for new or updated policies to be invoked
- Prevent Education Manager to contact specific schools regarding Prevent Duty

- Raise safeguarding knowledge and responsibilities with Governors in respect to Prevent, training opportunities and expectations for reporting safeguarding concerns
- Emphasise the importance of effective record keeping with schools

This audit is not a standalone exercise to seek assurance regarding safeguarding. It is one method of seeking assurance, the service also seeks assurance through a number of ways including:

- Whole school safeguarding reviews
- Follow up investigations regarding complaints to Ofsted
- Close liaison with LADO
- Evidence of compliance from Camden Professional Partners reports
- Ofsted preparation, including safeguarding checks and Governing Body support
- Half-termly 'Schools Requiring Additional Support' meetings
- Annual School Standards Meetings
- Camden Learning representation on CSCP groups
- Camden Learning Safeguarding Training Governors
- London Diocese reviews and sharing of information as appropriate
- Attendance of some schools at termly DSL network meetings

5.4 Section 11 audit: Effective safeguarding supervision

The CSCP's Quality Assurance Subgroup identified safeguarding supervision as an area requiring further exploration. As a result, this was a theme identified for the Section 11 audit for 2019.

CSCP partners developed a bespoke Section 11 tool for the purpose of this audit. The tool was based on five strands: senior leadership, organisational arrangements, quality of supervision, learning culture and multi-agency working.

19 services from a range of multi-agency organisations were requested by the CSCP to complete the Section 11 audit on effective safeguarding supervision. A multi-agency Section 11 Panel was also established to review the audit responses. 100% of initial Section 11 audit responses were returned by agency leads within the set timeframe.

Each individual Section 11 audit response was scrutinised by a member of the Section 11 Panel. Part of this process included the reviewer requesting the service to provide additional clarity or information on key points prior to the moderation meeting.

All audit responses which were deemed sufficient by the Panel were 'ratified at stage 1' and were highlighted as robust and clearly evidenced a well-established process for supervision. This feedback was shared with the service including highlighting areas requiring further attention.

A number of services were asked to provide additional information in their audit response including bespoke examples of safeguarding supervision processes for their service. All services provided the requested information, which was then moderated by the Section 11 Panel. 100% of the outstanding audit responses were ratified at stage 2.

A small number of services were asked to attend a Challenge Panel with the multi-agency Section 11 Panel in order to explore the response further and provide assurance on identified areas. As a result of attending the Panel, all audits were ratified. Although the need for safeguarding supervision in schools to be considered by the Partnership was raised.

The Section 11 Panel also highlighted the importance of all services implementing a standalone supervision policy, this was taken forward by all agencies who previously did not have this already established. As a result of this Section 11 audit, the following has been taken forward:

- The CSCP has commissioned multi-agency training on effective safeguarding supervision for autumn 2020.
- A reflective space for Designated Safeguarding Leads, facilitated by Early Help and Camden Learning is being organised for autumn 2020.
- Regular managing allegations about members of staff briefings have been set up to raise awareness of the LADO across all organisations in Camden.
- All agencies fed back on areas highlighted by the Section 11 Panel as areas requiring further focus at the Quality Assurance Subgroup in February 2020 to ensure that feedback and recommendations have been embedded into practice.

We recognise that the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic presents new safeguarding challenges for all those working or volunteering with children, and that social distancing has put some children at a greater risk of abuse and neglect as there are not as many opportunities for adults to spot the signs and help. In light of this, safeguarding within sports and leisure settings has been identified for the next Section 11 audit for 2020-21.

5.5 Safeguarding practice reviews and serious incidents

Learning from safeguarding practice reviews, formally known as serious case reviews, both local and national, shapes the work programme of the CSCP. In 2016-18, the CSCP completed two serious case reviews, and assurances have been provided that all recommendations have been taken forward and embedded into frontline practice.

Over 2019-20 the CSCP submitted seven serious incident notifications. Themes highlighted from the notifications include safeguarding children with complex medical needs, Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Infancy (SUDI) and youth violence.

5.5.1 Safeguarding children with complex medical needs

In January 2020, the CSCP organised a case learning event that focused on safeguarding children with complex medical needs. 54 multi-agency professionals and a small number of parents of children with complex medical needs attended this event. The events objectives included:

- 1. To improve outcomes for children with complex medical needs and their families through better multi-agency working**
- 2. To understand the challenges experienced when working with children with complex medical needs**
- 3. To support and empower professionals to manage safeguarding cases involving children with complex medical needs**

100% of delegates agreed that the workshop met the identified aims and objectives, and that the event enabled further knowledge on this area of work to be gained. Multi-agency professionals presented a case from their agency perspective, which allowed multi-agency practitioners to provide their views and respond to the challenges raised.

‘The event helped me to reflect on the huge complexities that many families are living with and the real difficulties when parents, children and professionals have different views and learning how this can be managed.’



As a result of the multi-agency exercise undertaken as part of the event, the following actions have been taken forward to improve professional understanding and outcomes for children:

- ✓ **The event will take place annually. A theme for the 2021 workshop will focus on the needs of BAME children and families and how this is understood by professionals.**
- ✓ **As part of the Transitions Conference planned for October 2020, pathways for 16-25 year olds transitioning from children’s services to adult services will be explored.**
- ✓ **Preparation for adulthood half-day event will take place in November 2020 and will involve views for children, families, professionals and providers about their experiences and how improvements to service delivery can be made.**
- ✓ **Use of the advocacy service has been highlighted to all practitioners within CYPDs in order to support parents of this cohort.**
- ✓ **Training needs will be considered by the Learning & Development Subgroup on; Mental Capacity Act with a focus on children and addressing the needs of BAME children and families.**
- ✓ **Improving the ways in which medical information and professional network is shared with other professionals. This will be explored by the Health Subgroup in autumn 2020.**

5.5.2 Sudden unexpected death in infancy (SUDI)

A proportion of serious incident notifications submitted involved children who have sadly died as a result of Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI). Multi-agency professionals proactively work together in order to attempt to reduce the number of children who unfortunately pass away due to preventative circumstances such as co-sleeping.

Over 2020-21, the CSCP will work with Public Health Camden and Islington to alert parents to the heightened risks which can contribute to SUDI. This will include increased risks associated with low birth rate, room temperature, smoking and sleeping out of usual environment with the baby. By producing local materials, this will enable Camden’s multi-agency workforce to provide a consistent message to Camden families about associated risks.

Vulnerable parents and the first 1,001 days will be a focus for multi-agency audits in 2020-21.

In 2019, Camden’s Designated Nurse and Integrated Early Years’ Service completed a review of antenatal children centre referrals. Assurances were received that registration from the Heath Visiting Service is robust but raised that antenatal registration has not met the target amount. Further work will take place over 2020-21 with midwifery colleagues in order to increase the numbers of families being registered at Camden Children Centres.

5.5.3 Youth violence and criminal exploitation

In light of a serious incident taking place in Camden, the CSCP will undertake a local YOS Extended Learning Review over 2020-21. It has been acknowledged that the initial characteristics and themes of this case are in line with the findings of the National Safeguarding Practice Review Panel report on child criminal exploitation and youth

violence. As such, this sadly adds to the impetus of work needed to protect the children who find themselves threatened with violence and serious harm. The CSCP Vulnerable Adolescent Strategy Group, co-chaired by the DCS and Police Superintendent, has reflected on the findings of the report against our multi-agency local strategy and practice. The Vulnerable Adolescent – Risk and Exploitation Strategy Group and the Quality Assurance Subgroup have been tasked to test the current local response, strategy and 5 Pillar Action Plan (Prevent, Identify, Support, Disrupts & Enforce/ Prosecute). The YOS Extended Learning Review will reference the strategy and the Action Plan. Please refer to sections 1.9 and 3.2 for examples of work-strands taken forward.

5.5.4 Out of borough reviews

The CSCP continues to reflect on national / Pan London learning and take forward any areas of good practice and suggested areas of improvements. CSCP partners has been involved in a number of out of borough local safeguarding practice reviews and have shared appropriate information to allow opportunity for reflections and service improvements.

5.6 Child Death Overview Panel Report 2019-20

New Statutory operational guidance around child deaths was published in October 2018 and put into place as per the national guidance on 29th September 2019. The rationale for the new model was based on numerous factors including:

- To improve the experience of bereaved families and professionals;
- To ensure information would be systematically captured to enable local learning; and

- Through the National Child Mortality Database, to inform changes in policy and practice.

The key changes aimed to improve the impact of child death reviews have been:

- To transfer oversight of child death reviews from the Department for Education to the Department of Health and Social Care, with local authorities and CCG's responsible for the local child death review system. This followed the Wood Review and in recognition of the fact that fewer than 5% of child deaths include safeguarding concerns.
- Each child death review footprint to cover a minimum number of 60 deaths per year to be included under a North Central London (NCL) wide Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) that includes the London Boroughs of Barnet, Enfield, Haringey, Camden and Islington with a focus on thematic learning. This is in contrast to covering the number of deaths per borough, previously through the Camden Child Death Overview Panel. Furthermore, the deaths may be discussed in the NCL CDOP even if the child was not resident in the area, but if it is considered most of the learning would be had in that area. The responsibility for ensuring that the death is discussed in a CDOP is the responsibility of the CDOP where that child is resident.
- Allocation of a Key Worker for each bereaved family to improve the bereavement process. Locally, partners at Great Ormond Street Hospital are coordinating this.
- Child death review meeting for every child - now coordinated by the Acute Trusts.
- Where deaths are not thought to be caused primarily by natural causes, a Joint Agency Repose will occur which is similar to current rapid response meetings, followed by a child death review meeting involving the same partner.

The NCL CDOP Transformation steering group has been leading on the CDOP development process and a new NCL CDOP group has formed that includes representatives from Camden including Public Health and the designated nurse for safeguarding. Camden representatives will continue to report findings to the CSCP. The first NCL CDOP meeting was held in November 2019. Future meetings will be held quarterly, each based around a theme and there will be one meeting a year that focuses on neonatal deaths. The NCL CDOP will be accountable to the NCL CCG and the five local authorities. Locally, a child death review pathway has been agreed with the acute trusts and wider partners and discussions have been held with the local coroner. In addition, Camden has embedded e-CDOP over 2020 to assist with data capture, sharing, and linking with the new National Child Mortality Database and perinatal mortality review tool.

Since September, all deaths have been referred to the NCL CDOP, with an NCL CDOP report being produced annually. The last Camden annual CDOP report was for April 2018- March 2019, with an updated report for the child deaths that occurred between April and September 2019 including reported Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Infancy (SUDI). The findings and learning from these SUDI deaths were discussed as part of a thematic focus at the NCL CDOP meeting in March 2020.

5.7 Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Report 2019-20

The management of what to do if there are concerns about an adult who works with children is outlined in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2018) and the London Child Protection Procedures. The procedures should be applied when there are concerns, or it is alleged, that an adult who works with children, either as an employee or in a voluntary capacity, has:

- Behaved in a way that may have harmed a child;
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against a child;
- Behaved towards a child in a way that indicates they are unsuitable to work with children.

75 referrals were made to the LADO regarding allegations or concerns about the behaviour of adults who work with children. There has been a significant decrease in referrals to the LADO service in 2019/20 compared to previous years and the CSCP has requested for further analysis of the case profiles. This has been programmed to be fed-back to the Quality Assurance Subgroup in 2020-21.

LADO referrals in the last 5 years:

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| 2015 /16 | 120 |
| 2016/17 | 139 |
| 2017/18 | 136 |
| 2018/19 | 103 |
| 2019/20 | 75 |

In addition to the above, the LADO frequently gives advice where there are concerns about possible LADO issues. Many such cases, after discussion, are found to not reach the LADO threshold. Since September

2018, we have been collecting data on the consultations taking place regarding potential LADOs. 81 consultations took place during 2019-20, which has reduced the number of referrals that process to a LADO referral and investigation. The combined number is in line with the previous year's referrals. The amended guidance in the New Working Together has been helpful in evaluating thresholds at the point of referral to the LADO regarding whether the referral is a concern or an allegation. The guidance also clarifies what constitutes a proportionate response and options for the way forward.

As would be expected, the majority of referrals relate to adults who work directly with children. Adults who work directly with children are more likely to have allegations or concerns raised about their behaviour. Concerns are raised by the children themselves, or their parents.

The nature of the concerns

The nature of the concerns for many cases may be more than one category as detailed below:

- Physical abuse and/or chastisement were the concerns in 29 cases.
- In 22 of the referrals received, the concerns was about the behaviour in the person's private life.
- Concerns in 15 cases related to possible sexual abuse/sexual harassment.
- The concern in one case related to neglect.
- The concerns in 10 cases related to emotional abuse.
- The concerns related to foster carers are reported separately.

Outcomes

Almost all LADO referrals were discussed in a telephone strategy discussion with the CAIT to consider whether the referral was an allegation of abuse, a complaint or concerns about professional standards. Case outcomes are summarised below. Where the numbers are small and cases are identifiable, they have not been included in this public report.

- In 26 cases, there was no evidence of abuse.
- 18 cases were found to be complaints or concerns about professional standards and therefore not an allegation of abuse. The employer in discussion with the LADO therefore managed these cases.
- 8 cases were found to be in relation to restraint of a child/ child presenting challenging behaviour. The use of restraint was found to have been used proportionately because the children were at risk of harming themselves, other children or members of staff. Restraint training was always explored and staff involved in these cases had all been trained.
- 22 alleged perpetrators were suspended during the investigation.
- There were 12 disciplinary proceedings, three of which resulted in criminal prosecution.
- 22 cases are still ongoing.

6

Training and development



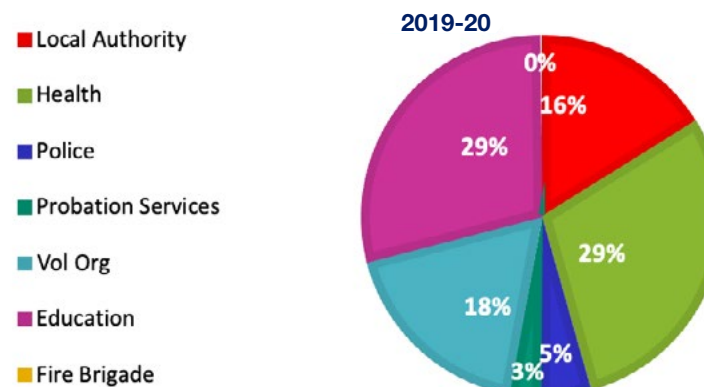
The CSCP has a statutory responsibility for ensuring the provision of a comprehensive and high quality programme of learning and development opportunities for all staff who work in services that contribute to the safety and welfare of children. This responsibility includes seeking assurance on single agency training.

The Learning & Development Subgroup is responsible for ensuring that safeguarding training needs in Camden are identified and that an effective training programme is delivered. This is developed through the Training Needs Analysis that is regularly reviewed by the Subgroup. The group has an overview of emerging safeguarding issues, both locally and nationally, and discusses and reviews new research findings, legislation, national guidance, consultations, and initiatives to ensure these are reflected in the CSCP training programme.

The CSCP also organises workshops throughout the year to ensure frontline professionals are up to date on emerging issues and themes. Workshops also allow the opportunity for multi-agency professionals to gain a better understanding of the challenges faced by services and plan ways of overcoming them as a multi-agency group.

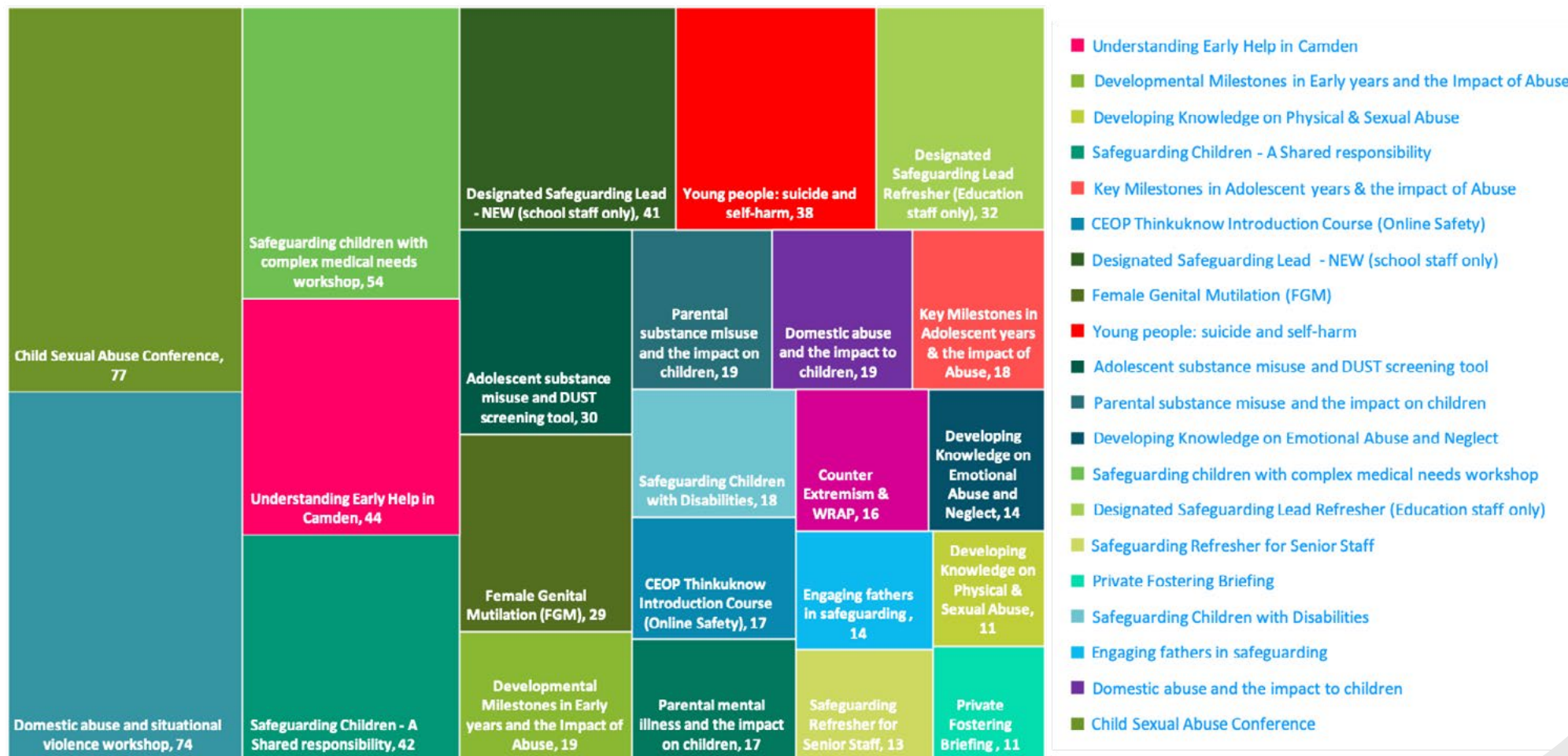
The CSCP provided **26 training sessions and 3 workshops** over 2019-20, training **670 multi-agency professionals**. A breakdown of agency attendance is provided below:

Agency attendance AT CSCP multi-agency training



The chart below provides an overview of the range of courses commissioned and delivered on behalf of the CSCP and the number of attendees per course. Multi-agency partners are able to suggest new training courses if there is a need across the partnership. This will be explored and agreed by the Learning & Development Subgroup, which consists of training leads across the multi-agency partnership.

CSCP multi-agency training attendance 2019-20



The CSCP has adopted the evaluation model designed by the London Safeguarding Board to ensure that evaluations are consistent with those of other London boroughs. Feedback is used to shape the future delivery of training sessions to ensure each session is effective and provides up to date information. Some of the comments provided by delegates include:

This was excellent training provided by an experienced trainer who knew her area extremely well. The impact of the training was also increased by the wide range of professionals who were in the room who were able to offer a wealth of experience from different viewpoints. I will highly recommend to colleagues.



I feel that the workshop enhanced the skills and ability already in place to ensure that we all have a deeper understanding of the welfare and needs of children especially those who may be at risk and those who are already suffering.



There were new guidance and legislation which I wasn't fully confident on before the training however I now feel I am able to include theses in our policies and have the confidence to share and explain what they mean.



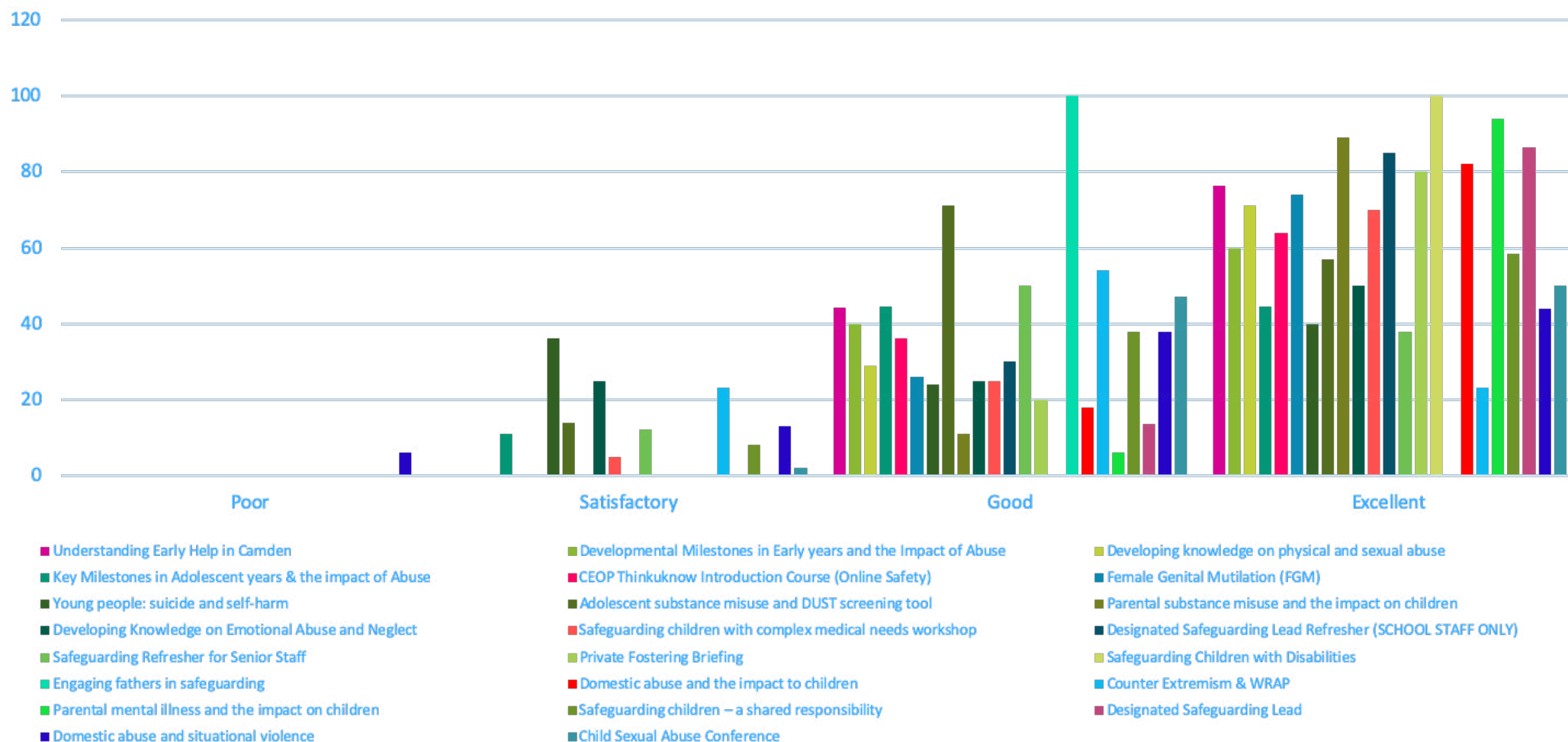
This training definitely improved my confidence of recognising any safeguarding issues and I will be more competent in responding to them efficiently.



CSCP training courses are regularly rated good or excellent, evidencing that safeguarding training delivered to multi-agency professionals is delivered at a high standard and reflects on local and national learning. When a course is rated 'satisfactory' or 'poor', the Learning & Development Subgroup reviews delegate feedback to suggest improvements to the trainer in order to consider and implement in future training being delivered. Breakdown of course ratings over 2019-20 is provided on the next page:

The CSCP's Learning and Development Subgroup is also responsible for ensuring that all agencies are providing regular and good quality single agency training. Each year, CSCP partners are asked to complete a pro-forma to provide details and figures of compliance for their single agency safeguarding training. The CSCP Independent Scrutineer then reviews and provides a challenge for partners to respond to. This ensures that high quality safeguarding training is available across the multi-agency partnership. The group can then identify any gaps in training provision and ensure support or additional courses are commissioned as a result.

Overall CSCP course rating 2019-20



7

CSCP Financial Arrangements



- Partners have maintained the same levels of financial commitment over 2019-20 irrespective of fiscal challenges faced across the spectrum of agencies. This has meant that the CSCP budget has remained fairly stable over the last five years. The budget for 2019-20 was £184,461.
- The majority of the CSCP budget continues to be derived from Camden local authority, which in 2019/20 contributed £144,943, with Camden CCG contributing £33,450, and MOPAC contributing £5,000. Other contributions were from NPS, CRC and CAFCASS.
- Breakdown of partner financial contribution and expenditure can be seen below.

Partners have contributed resources through their commitment in time to CSCP meetings, audits, learning reviews and through the co-design and delivery of CSCP training.

| Description | £ Expenditure | Comment |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Staff costs | £123,484 | |
| Consultant costs | £16,170 | Fees for Independent Scrutineer and independent multi-agency auditor. |
| Training | £24,493 | Multi-agency training expenditure including training and website development. |
| Other Supplies/ Services | £21,796 | Provisions for conferences, training, new website development maintenance, mobile, hardware and software purchases. |
| Total expenditure | £185,943 | |
| Full budget | £184,461 | |
| Contributions | | |
| MOPAC | £5,000 | |
| Camden Local Authority | £144,943 | |
| Camden CCG | £33,450 | |
| Various | £2,550 | £1,000 from National Probation Service £1,000 from CRC £550 from CAFCASS |



CSCP Membership 2019-20

Deputy Chief Executive, (DCS) Executive Director of Supporting People, Camden Council

Executive Director of Borough Partnerships North Central London CCG

Chief Superintendent, Commander, Central North (BCU) Borough Command Unit, MPS

Independent Scrutineer of CSCP

Cabinet Member for Best Start in Life, Camden Council

Director, Children's Safeguarding and Social Work, Supporting People, Camden Council

Detective Superintendent, Central North Borough Command Unit (BCU), MPS

Director, Camden Learning

Director, Early Intervention and Prevention, Supporting People, Camden Council

Head of Integrated Youth Support Service, Supporting People, Camden Council

Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children, North Central London CCG

Named GP for Safeguarding, North Central London CCG

Designated Doctor for Safeguarding Children, North Central London CCG

Head of Community Safety Services, Supporting Communities, Camden Council

Chief Nurse, Great Ormond Street Hospital, NHS Foundation Trust

Medical Director, Specialist Hospitals Board, University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Named Doctor, University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Detective Superintendent, Central North (BCU), MPS

Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Associate Medical Director, Tavistock & Portman

Director of Nursing, Central North West London NHS Foundation Trust

Executive Director of Nursing & Quality, Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust

Assistant Director, Camden & Islington Public Health

Head Teacher, Fleet Primary School

Designated Safeguarding Lead, Westminster Kingsway College

Head Teacher, William Ellis Secondary School

Head Teacher, Acland Burghley Secondary School

Co-Chair of Designated Safeguarding Lead Forum, Service Manager, CSSW Policy, Training & Staff Development, Supporting People, Camden Council

Interim Head of Service, Camden and Islington LDU, National Probation Service (London)

Contracts & Partnerships Lead – North Area, Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)

Assistant Director, Assistant Director Care & Support, Origin Housing

Young Advisors x3

Local Lay Member x2

Station Commander, British Transport Police

Senior Commissioning Officer, Supporting People, Camden Council

Risk Reduction Manager, Supporting Communities, Camden Council

Head of Tenancy Services, Supporting Communities, Camden Council

Service Manager, NSPCC

Service Manager, CAFCASS

Development Officer, Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP)

Business Manager, Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP)

| | | | |
|--------------|--|---------------|--|
| BME | Black and Minority Ethnic groups | IRO | Independent Reviewing Officer |
| CAF | Common Assessment Framework | LA | Local Authority |
| CAIT | Child Abuse Investigation Team | LAC | Looked After Children |
| CAMHS | Child and Adolescence Mental Health Service | LADO | Local Authority Designated Officer |
| CCG | Clinical Commissioning Group | LBC | London Borough of Camden |
| CDOP | Child Death Overview Panel | LGBTQ | Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or questioning |
| ciCC | Children in Care Council | LSCB | Local Safeguarding Children Board |
| CIN | Child in Need | MAPPA | Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements |
| CNWL | Central North West London (children provider services) | MARAC | Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference |
| CP | Child Protection | MASE | Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation Meeting |
| CP-IS | Child Protection Information Sharing | MASH | Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub |
| CRC | London Community Rehabilitation Company | MISPER | Missing Persons |
| CSA | Child Sexual Abuse | MOPAC | Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime |
| CSSW | Children Services and Social Work | MPS | Metropolitan Police Service |
| CSCB | Camden Safeguarding Children Board | NEET | Not in Education, Employment or Training |
| CSE | Child Sexual Exploitation | NSPCC | National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children |
| CSN | Camden Safety Net | NPS | National Probation Service |
| CTPB | Children's Trust Partnership Board | NRM | National Referral Mechanism |
| CYPDS | Children and Young People Disability Service | SAPB | Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board |
| DA | Domestic Abuse | SCR | Serious Case Review |
| DCS | Director Children Services | SEN | Special Educational Needs |
| DVA | Domestic Violence and Abuse | SENCO | Special Educational Needs Coordinator |
| FGC | Family Group Conference | SEND | Special Educational Needs and Disabilities |
| FGM | Female Genital Mutilation | SILP | Significant Incident Learning Process |
| GOSH | Great Ormond Street Hospital | SRE | Sex and Relationship Education |
| HMIP | Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation | YI | Young Inspectors |
| HWBB | Health and Wellbeing Board | YOS | Youth Offending Service |
| IDSVA | Independent Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocate | WRAP | Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent |
| IEYS | Integrated Early Years' Service | | |