



**Brent Local Safeguarding Children  
Board**

# **Closing Report**

**April 2018-September 2019**

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# 1. Chair's introduction and foreword

As the chair of the Brent Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), I am pleased to present its final report from 1 April 2018 to 30 September 2019.

This time span is 6 months longer than previous annual reports. This extension covers the interim period before the safeguarding arrangements for our children became the responsibility of the Brent Safeguarding Partners.

I mentioned in my foreword last year, the Government's decision to repeal the statutory requirement for each local authority area to have a LSCB. For Brent, the new arrangements started on 21 September 2019. Section 2.1 and 4.1 gives more information about the new structures and partnerships.

These new partnerships are demonstrated in the priority groups which focus on the three agreed priorities for the Board; neglect, domestic abuse and violence, vulnerability and exploitation. Sections 2.2 and 3.1 describes the purpose, membership and activities of each of these priority groups.

One of the achievements of the Board is developing a closer relationship with some of the borough's schools. I was pleased that the invaluable work of two of Brent's safer schools' officers was rightly recognised, upon my recommendation, by the head of safeguarding for the Metropolitan Police.

A significant piece of work in 2019 was the joint commissioning by both the LSCB and the Safeguarding Adults Board of a safeguarding survey designed and implemented by a specialist market research organisation (BMG). The questions were designed to assess both the level but more importantly, the application of safeguarding knowledge to ensure the safety and well-being of those children and adults within Brent deemed to be most at risk of harm (see section 3.2).

The survey was shared with the Board at our September meeting. I want each organisation to analyse their staff's responses to inform their safeguarding policies and procedures. This data sharing will take place over the next 3 months and then considered by the Board in the New Year.

Last year, I mentioned the Board's review of training. It is encouraging to read in section 3.3, a decrease in the number of cancelled training courses due to a lack of interest and that 433 delegates attended at least one of the 13 different topic areas. This is a substantial increase from the 295 delegates in 2017/18.

One training event of particular note was the Harlesden community barbeque organised by one of the Board's lay members in the summer. I am told that everyone found the event to be informative and enjoyed the food!

Ahead of the changes to the safeguarding arrangements previously mentioned, the report outlines the new procedures concerning serious case reviews (section 3.5). These guidelines have increased the workload of the Serious Case Review Group.

The imposition of strict deadlines for the submission of reports to the National Panel has required agencies to respond to short notice requests to attend meetings, submit documents etc. I chair these meetings and am responsible for the submissions to the National Panel. Thanks to the quality of the discussions and the breadth of knowledge and experience provided by the participants in the Review, the Panel has ratified all my decisions.

Recently, the Board has decided to commission a Serious Case Review following the fatal stabbing of a boy in August. My aim is for the Review to report its findings in the Spring. These will be progressed under the new safeguarding arrangements.

I have been the Chair of the Board for over 4 years and will continue to co-ordinate its work as the convenor of the Brent Safeguarding Children Forum for the next 6 months. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the work of the Board over the past 18 months. I must give a special mention to Wendy Proctor, the Strategic Partnership Lead for Safeguarding Children. Wendy works tirelessly on behalf of the Board and spent many hours compiling this report.

The 1707 respondents to the on line questionnaire and the 433 training delegates and the increasing involvement of many partners in the work of the Board, are demonstrations of the progress made in safeguarding Brent's children. Based upon this evidence, I believe that this interest and commitment will only improve in the year ahead. It is proof, whilst I am not complacent, that safeguarding is increasingly seen as everyone's responsibility.



**Mike Howard, Independent Chair Brent LSCB**

November 2019

## 2. Brent LSCB

Brent LSCB is a multi-agency partnership board consisting of a range of organisations that deliver safeguarding services to the borough's children.

Since 2006, Brent LSCB's role has been to co-ordinate and measure the effectiveness of these services, which are provided to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in Brent.

Brent LSCB's main functions have been to:

- develop local safeguarding children policies and procedures
- raise awareness of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done across the partnership in Brent to safeguard children
- participate in the planning of services for children in Brent
- undertaking reviews of serious cases and advise on lessons to be learned

The LSCB met eight times between April 2018 and September 2019.

The meetings were well attended by a range of senior representatives from partner organisations and lay members.

The Brent Council Lead Member for Children's Safeguarding, Early Help and Social Care also attends each board as an observer.

### 2.1. National changes

In 2017, the Government passed the Children and Social Work Act, which repealed the statutory requirement, contained in the Children Act 2004 for the establishment of a LSCB in each local authority area.

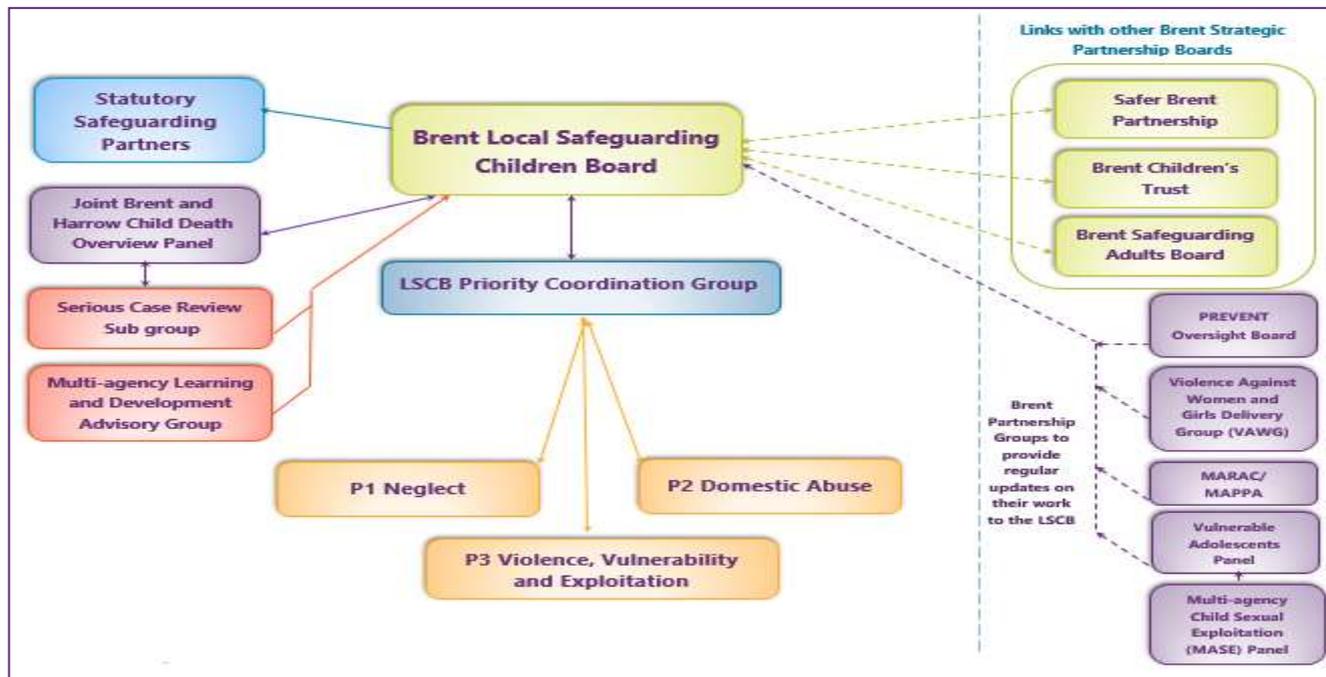
The Act defines a set of 'safeguarding partners' for each area – the local authority, the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and the Police. These three partners are jointly responsible for agreeing local arrangements to co-ordinate multi-agency work to safeguard children and ensuring their effectiveness.

Working Together to Safeguard Children is the statutory guidance, which sets out what is expected of organisations, individually and jointly, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The 2015 edition of this guidance was significantly revised in 2018 to reflect the legislative changes introduced through the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

In light of these national changes, Brent LSCB entered a transitional period during 2018-19 and continued to carry out all statutory functions, including commissioning SCRs until the point at which safeguarding partner arrangements began to operate in Brent on 21 September 2019.

## 2.2. Brent LSCB structure April 2018 – September 2019

In early 2018, Brent LSCB agreed to develop an updated structure during the transitional period, which aimed to build upon existing strengths and improve engagement with a broader range of individuals and organisations.



The updated structure included a number of changes including:

- **the replacement of the Chairs' group with a priority coordination group**  
This group aimed to quality assure, challenge, support and inform the work of the three priority groups to ensure they maintain the right focus and undertake the right activity.
- **enhancing the role of the LSCB lay members**  
Building on the contextual safeguarding approach, the Lay Members' role was enhanced and they will be encouraged to participate in the themed priority groups and have meetings with the LSCB chair to feed in community perspectives and issues.
- **the replacement of the existing sub groups with three themed groups focussing on strengthening the multi-agency response to the agreed priority areas of:**
  1. Neglect
  2. Domestic Abuse (as it affects children and young people)
  3. Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation

These groups were set up to focus on themed activities incorporating a contextual safeguarding approach and met on a bi-monthly basis.

Co-chairing arrangements were set up for each priority group that included (where possible) a representative from one of the statutory safeguarding partner organisations (Brent Council, Brent CCG, and Police). The co-chairs share the provision of support, challenge, guidance and leadership of each priority group.

The priority groups identify areas whereby partner organisations could support and challenge each other on the effectiveness of practice. It is not within the scope of the groups to review practice in regards to working with families, as this is the responsibility of each individual organisation. A summary of the priority groups' activity from September 2018 is noted in section 3.1.

## Neglect Priority Group

The purpose of this strategic group is to identify and develop ways to enhance the multi-agency identification and response to tackling neglect in Brent.

The group is co-chaired by Nigel Chapman, Operational Director Children and Young People Brent Council and Dr Ketana Halai, Clinical Director Brent CCG.

The Board agreed at the June 2018 meeting that this priority group would develop and co-ordinate a strategic response to the LSCB Tackling Neglect Strategy 2018-2020 giving consideration to:

- the findings of national inspections of neglect (borough specific and thematic)
- the Brent Thresholds Guidance
- reviewing the lessons identified in the LSCB neglect audit completed in 2017
- redesigning the multi-agency learning and development programme for neglect

## Domestic Abuse Priority Group

The purpose of this strategic group is to identify and develop ways to enhance the multi-agency identification and response to tackling Domestic Abuse as it affects children and young people in Brent.

The group was originally co-chaired by Sophie Allen, head teacher of Stonebridge Primary School and a Detective Chief Inspector (DCI) from Brent Police. Due to significant structural changes within the Metropolitan Police, the Brent Council Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance took on the co-chairing role alongside Sophie Allen.

The Board agreed at the June 2018 meeting that this priority group would develop and co-ordinate a strategy for reducing the harm caused to children through domestic abuse giving consideration to:

- the work of the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG delivery group)
- the work of the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
- the findings of the Brent Council Domestic Abuse Outcome Based Review (OBR)
- the application and effectiveness of Operation Encompass in Brent
- the relevance of the current LSCB learning offer for domestic abuse
- findings and recommendations from recent national Serious Case Reviews
- the responsibility and activity of all partners in recognising and responding to domestic abuse

## Violence Vulnerability and Exploitation Group

The purpose of this strategic group is to identify and develop ways to enhance the multi-agency identification and response to tackling Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation as it affects children and young people in Brent.

Sophie Esenwa, Brent LSCB Lay Member and Senior CPS Prosecutor and Janet Barr, ex Detective Inspector (DI) and Head of Safeguarding QPR FC have agreed to be the co-chairs of this group. However, due to operational commitments for both Sophie and Janet, it has been necessary for Mike Howard to be involved in the chairing arrangements at recent meetings.

The Board agreed at the June 2018 meeting that this priority group would review and assess the application of existing policies and procedures and governance arrangements aimed at reducing the harm caused to children through Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation giving consideration to:

- the themes and patterns identified by the Vulnerable Adolescents and MASE panels
- the work of the Safer Brent Partnership and other community safety initiatives
- the findings of the Brent Councils Outcome Based Reviews into children on the edge of care and gangs (OBR)
- the findings of the LSCB Child Sexual Exploitation audit (completed in May 2018)
- links with the Community Safety Analyst's work on identifying risk through data

## Collaboration with other strategic partnerships

The LSCB Independent Chair meets regularly with a range of senior individuals across the partnership to consider and review the strategic approach to specific local or national safeguarding issues.

The LSCB recognises that there is potential cross over in some areas of work and priorities of the Strategic Boards in Brent. As a result, the LSCB Independent Chair remains a standing member **Brent Children's Trust** and **Safer Brent Partnership**.

The Board's annual report is shared with the **Brent Council's Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee** and **Brent Children's Trust**. This gives an opportunity for other strategic partnerships to consider the work of the Board and contribute to shaping the priorities identified to ensure they are in line with local safeguarding issues. This closing report will be shared with the Safeguarding Partners and will act as a handover report from the LSCB to the new Safeguarding Executive and Forum.

Brent LSCB continued to collaborate with Harrow LSCB and progressed the development of a joint Child Death Overview Panel, which began meeting in the summer of 2019. This arrangement has since been replaced with new North West London Child Death arrangements, which began operating on 26 September 2019.

Brent collaborated with Brent Children's Trust and Safeguarding Adults Board to organised a workshop to explore Transitional Safeguarding in Brent (please see section 3.6 for further information).

The Chair of Brent LSCB alongside the Safer Brent Partnership and the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) commissioned a task and finish group to understand the needs of victims of modern slavery and trafficking (please see section 3.6 for further information).

### **Brent LSCB and Brent Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)**

Over the last 18 months Brent LSCB and SAB have developed much closer links and initiated several joint pieces of work including;

- Safeguarding Survey (Section 11 Audit) (please see section 3.2 for further information)
- Safeguarding for Housing workshop - Annual Safeguarding Adults Board Conference (please see section 3.3 for further information)
- Joint multi-agency safeguarding learning and development offer (please see section 3.3 for further information)
- The development of a joint 'safeguarding in Brent' website (please see section 4.1 for further information)

## 2.3. Support arrangements

Brent LSCB is one of a number of partnership boards, which are co-ordinated and supported by Brent Council's Strategic Partnerships team.

The team consists of a Strategic Partnerships Manager, two Strategic Partnerships Leads, a Strategic Partnerships Learning and Development Co-ordinator and a Strategic Partnerships and Engagement Officer. The Strategic Partnerships Lead for Safeguarding Children is responsible for supporting both Brent LSCB and Brent Children's Trust.

## 2.4. LSCB finance and resources

All LSCB member organisations have an obligation to provide the Board with resources to enable it to carry out its functions. These contributions can include money, staff time (representation at the Board and sub groups) or ‘in kind’.

### Income and expenditure (18 months)

#### April 2018 to March 2019 (12 months)

From April 2018 to March 2019, the LSCB received a total amount of £64,550 in direct financial contributions from partner organisations (see Fig 1).

Brent Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) provide the largest direct financial contribution to the LSCB arrangements (see Fig 1).

All London LSCBs, regardless of size, continue to receive the same level of financial contribution from the Metropolitan Police, CAFCASS and Probation Services.

From April 2018 to March 2019, the LSCB spent a total amount of £52,262.50 (see Fig 2).

**Fig 1**

Brent LSCB income from April 2018 to March 2019	
Partner Organisation	Amount (£)
Brent CCG	45,900
London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust	11,000
MOPAC/Met Police	5,000
London Fire Brigade	500
National Probation Service	1,600
CAFCASS	550
<b>Total LSCB income</b>	<b>64,550.00</b>

**Fig 2**

Brent LSCB expenditure from April 2018 to March 2019		
Expense		Amount (£)
Independent Chair costs		36,050
Learning and Development	Online multi-agency learning & development management system (Learning Pool)	15,250
	Venue and resource costs	375
Board Meeting costs (refreshments)		587.50
<b>Total LSCB expenditure</b>		<b>52,262.50</b>

#### Additional contributions

Brent Council no longer contributes directly to the LSCB income. Instead it funds and hosts the co-ordination arrangements delivered predominantly through the Brent Council Strategic Partnerships Team and some support from the Brent Council Governance Team.

This contribution is made up of:

- A share of the Brent Council Strategic Partnerships Manager post
- One full-time Brent Council Strategic Partnerships Lead – Children and Young People post
- One part-time Brent Council Strategic Partnerships Learning and Development Co-ordinator
- A share of Brent Council Governance Team administration support for Board meetings

**Brent Council’s contribution to the LSCB arrangements during this period was approximately £110,000.**

Brent CCG additionally co-ordinate and fund the management and support arrangements of the Brent Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) at the cost of £30,525 per annum

#### April 2019 to September 2019 (6 months)

From April 2019 to September 2019, the LSCB received a total amount of £32,275 in direct financial contributions from partner organisations (see Fig 3).

During this 6-month period;

- Brent Council’s contribution to the LSCB arrangements (support staff costs including on-costs) was approximately £55,000

From April 2019 to September 2019 (6 months) the LSCB spent a total amount of £27,387.50 (see Fig 4).

**Fig 3**

Brent LSCB income from April 2019 to September 2019 (6 months)	
Partner Organisation	Amount (£)
Brent CCG	22,950
London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust	5,500
MOPAC/Met Police	2,500
London Fire Brigade	250
National Probation Service	800
CAFCASS	275
<b>Total LSCB income</b>	<b>32,275.00</b>

**Fig 4**

Brent LSCB expenditure from April 2019 to September 2019 (6-months)		
Expense		Amount (£)
Independent Chair costs		11,550
Learning and Development	Old online multi-agency learning & development management system (Learning Pool)	5,416
	New online multi-agency learning and development management system set up	5,320
	External facilitator costs	415
Board meeting costs (refreshments)		311.50
Safeguarding Survey (Section 11 Audit)		4,375
<b>Total LSCB expenditure</b>		<b>27,387.50</b>

**Total income and expenditure for April 2018 to September 2019 (18 months)**

The table below (Fig 5) details the combined Brent LSCB income between April 2018 and September 2019 (18 months).

The LSCB received a combined total amount of £96,825 in direct financial contributions from partner organisations during this period.

During this 18-month period:

- Brent Council's total combined contribution to the LSCB arrangements (support staff costs including on-costs) was approximately £165,000
- Brent CCG's total combined additional contribution to the Brent CDOP support arrangements was approximately £30,525

The table below (Fig 6) details the combined Brent LSCB expenditure between April 2018 and September 2019 (18 months).

The LSCB spent a combined total amount of £79,650 during this period.

**Fig 5**

Brent LSCB income from April 2018 to September 2019 (18 months)	
Partner Organisation	Amount (£)
Brent CCG	68,850
London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust	16,500
MOPAC/Met Police	7,500
London Fire Brigade	750
National Probation Service	2,400
CAFCASS	825
<b>Total LSCB income</b>	<b>96,825.00</b>

**Fig 6**

Brent LSCB expenditure from April 2018 to March 2019		
Expense		Amount (£)
Independent Chair costs		47,600
Learning and Development	Venue and resource costs	375
	Old online multi-agency learning & development management system (Learning Pool)	20,666
	New online multi-agency learning and development management system set up	5,320
	External facilitator costs	415
Board meeting costs (refreshments)		899
Safeguarding Survey (Section 11 Audit)		4,375
<b>Total LSCB expenditure</b>		<b>79,650.00</b>

The remaining £17,175 will be passed over to the new safeguarding arrangements, alongside the agreed £32,275 to cover the final 6 months of the financial year (October 2019 to March 2020).

A portion of this has already been committed to be spent on a serious case review that was commissioned by Brent LSCB in September 2019.

## 3. Activity during April 2018 to September 2019

### 3.1. Priority Group Activity

At start of April 2018, the Board agreed to reduce the number of priorities from four to the following three:

1. **Domestic Abuse**
2. **Neglect**
3. **Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation**

The priorities were also aligned with other strategic boards to ensure a holistic approach to safeguarding across Brent.

The LSCB priority groups have the responsibility for delivering programmes of work that address these priorities. The Chair's Co-ordination Group on behalf of the Board monitors progress.

### Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse has been a longstanding multi-agency priority in Brent.

The LSCB continued to collaborate with Brent Council Community Protection Service to offer half-day awareness raising sessions on domestic abuse and the role of the Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)<sup>1</sup> as part of the LSCB training programme.

#### Operation Encompass

Operation Encompass is a nationally recognised early intervention safeguarding partnership project, devised in Plymouth, and involves the Police and schools sharing information to assist children and young people exposed to domestic abuse. The information is given in strict confidence to enable support to be given by the school dependent on the needs and wishes of the child.

Over the last three years, the LSCB Chair has worked with successive police safeguarding leads to implement Operation Encompass in Brent. Prior to the re-structuring in Barnet, Brent and Harrow into a single Basic Command Unit (BCU), the scheme was in its pilot stages involving a few interested schools in Brent. This pilot revealed that there needed to be clearer identification of the nominated individual at a school that would receive the information and then need for consistent procedures within the local police. To ensure that the momentum of the pilot was not lost, this topic remained a standard agenda item at all Board meetings.

The creation of the new NW BCU and transfer of staff has caused the project to stall. Further intervention by the Chair with the most recent safeguarding lead has added momentum and it is hoped that the project will be re-launched in the near future.

The local police now securely recording all such incidents illustrate the renewed commitment. In Brent, this figure is approximately 300 incidents per week.

#### Domestic Abuse Priority Group

It is disappointing that due to staff changes, which involved a change of co-chair and pressures of work, which the Domestic Abuse Priority Group was not able to meet until the Spring of 2019. Therefore, the group could still be considered to be in its forming stage and updates would be available and shared with the new Safeguarding Partners.

The LSCB continues to challenge the systems and processes related to dealing with cases of domestic abuse and building links with other committees and groups such as the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).

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<sup>1</sup> The Domestic Abuse MARAC is a multi-agency meeting to discuss the risk of future harm to people experiencing domestic abuse to draw up an action plan to help manage that risk.

## Neglect

The Neglect Priority Group has met four times since October 2018 and has multi-agency membership which includes representatives from Brent Council (Children and Young People Department and Housing Needs Service), the 'health economy', Barnardo's and education.

In June 2018, Brent LSCB, in partnership with Brent Children's Trust, developed a Neglect Strategy (2018-2020) with the aim to:

- Improve the awareness and understanding of neglect, both within and between agencies working in Brent including Community Wellbeing, Children and Young People, Housing Services, schools and settings, health, police and the wider general public
- Improve the recognition, assessment and response to children and young people living in neglectful situations, to reduce the impact upon children and young people's well-being thereby preventing the need for statutory intervention
- Secure and sustain a collective commitment to addressing neglect across all partner agencies and to demonstrate effective leadership in driving forward the required systems, culture and processes
- Ensure the effectiveness of service provision to the children and young people of Brent

The Neglect Priority Group identified ways to implement the LSCB Neglect Strategy and to deliver specific outcomes by undertaking the following activities:

- A review of the findings of the multi-agency neglect audit that was undertaken in 2017
- The development of a 7-minute briefing on neglect
- An audit in respect of neglect undertaken through a Brent Family Front Door multiagency audit group would look at cases involving neglect
- Enabling the inclusion of a revised multi-agency training course on neglect within the LSCB learning and development programme

Moving forward into the Spring of 2020, the group plans to review the existing data related to neglect available throughout partner agencies, conduct a further deep dive audit and review the findings of the Safeguarding Survey (section 11 audit).

## Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation

The Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation (VVE) Priority Group has met four times since October 2018 and has multi-agency membership which includes representatives from Brent Council (Children and Young People Department, Community Protection and Housing Needs Service), the 'health economy', Queen Park Rangers in the Community and education.

The group explored how 'soft intelligence' is recorded and shared across agencies and considered ways to improve existing information sharing processes.

As part of this exploration work the group undertook a review of case referrals to test how 'soft intelligence' is processed and shared.

Six cases were chosen by Brent Family Front Door Service Managers to review and the Review Group consisted of representatives from:

- Police
- Brent Council
- Children and Families (Youth Offending, Brent Family Front Door & Safeguarding)
- Community Protection
- Secondary School Deputy Head Teacher
- Health Sector (Brent CCG, Central London Community Healthcare Trust, Central London North West Healthcare Trust)
- Queens Park Rangers in the Community Trust

The group focussed on the following points during the review:

1. Effective information sharing and partnership working
2. Any gaps and/or the strengths in the system in collating and analysing the information about the child
3. Any good practice or areas for improvement in terms of the collation and dissemination of soft intelligence

Learning points were identified and recommendations will be shared with the new partnership arrangements for consideration and action in late 2019.

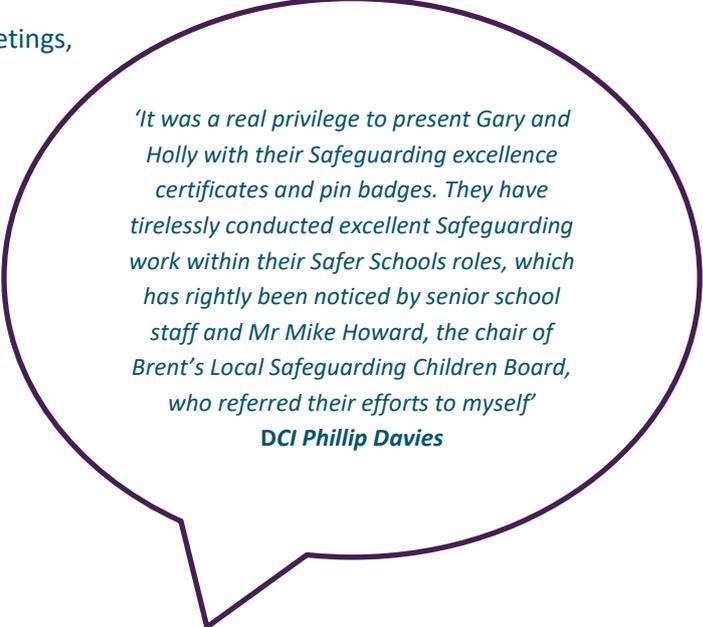
### Newman Catholic College Event - Safeguarding in Action

In May 2019, the Chair of Brent LSCB attended a strategic partnership event to initiate community led strategies to safeguard children and young people, led by Newman Catholic College.

This event was set up in response to 'Safeguarding children and young people in education from knife crime – Lessons from London (Ofsted March 2019) and was well attended with colleagues from the Police, Council Parliament, schools and community leads.

### Police Safer Schools Officer commendations

Because of discussions at the VVE Priority Group meetings, senior colleagues from Capital City Academy and Newman Catholic College had conveyed to the LSCB Chair that two Police Safer Schools officers had been doing excellent work within their schools. The LSCB Chair shared this with senior Police colleagues and the officers were nominated to receive recognition by way of the certificate and pin initiative, which recognises excellence in safeguarding within the Police. The Met Police's Head of Safeguarding, Commander Richard Smith, supported this recommendation.



*'It was a real privilege to present Gary and Holly with their Safeguarding excellence certificates and pin badges. They have tirelessly conducted excellent Safeguarding work within their Safer Schools roles, which has rightly been noticed by senior school staff and Mr Mike Howard, the chair of Brent's Local Safeguarding Children Board, who referred their efforts to myself'*

**DCI Phillip Davies**

## 3.2. Section 11 Audit (Safeguarding Survey)

Section 11 of the Children Act (2004) places responsibilities on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure that their functions are discharged with regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

LSCBs are required to gather information to assess and monitor compliance that partners are meeting the above statutory obligations.

Following the successful adoption of an innovative approach to the S.11 audit<sup>2</sup> in 2016, it was agreed that the Brent LSCB 2019 S.11 audit would approach a specialist market research organisation (BMG Research) to devise, implement and process an online questionnaire and results.



The Safeguarding Adults Board accepted an invitation to be involved in this project and the objectives were expanded to:

- access and evaluate the level of safeguarding knowledge within Brent (both safeguarding children and adults at risk of harm)
- identify knowledge gaps within particular groups or organisations
- inform on-going knowledge building

Members representing various partner organisations were invited to attend a workshop in March 2019 with the Chair and BMG Research to contribute to formulating the questions.

Following this workshop, an online survey was developed asking questions covering eight identified standards:

- 1) Senior management commitment to the importance of safeguarding and promoting children's welfare
- 2) Awareness of the organisation's commitment to safeguarding responsibilities
- 3) Lines of accountability within the organisation for safeguarding and promoting welfare
- 4) Service development taking into account the need to safeguard and promote welfare
- 5) Effective safeguarding training
- 6) Safe recruitment procedures including vetting procedures and those for managing allegations are in place
- 7) Effective inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- 8) Effective information sharing

The online survey was distributed to groups and individuals with safeguarding responsibilities across all partner organisations.

The survey was tailored to the type of respondent, their organisation and/or individual circumstance, their specific role plus their level of responsibility for safeguarding and it was designed:

- to be simple and engaging
- to provide further relevant information
- to assure anonymity
- to be constructive

The survey was live from 1 May 2019 to 31 July 2019 – a period of 3 months; the majority of partner organisations promoted and encouraged completion of the survey across their workforce.

**1,707 surveys were completed.**

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<sup>2</sup> The new approach replaced a system by which a London-wide developed audit tool was completed and senior representatives from each agency presented this to a challenge panel consisting of the LSCB Chair and external reviewers.

## Key findings

### Respondent Information

Fig 7 shows a breakdown of the responses by organisation and sector.

**Fig 7**

Breakdown of responses by organisation/sector	
Education	808 (49%)
Brent Council	451 (27%)
Health Sector	223 (14%)
Metropolitan Police	66 (4%)
Voluntary/Community Organisation/Charity	45 (3%)
Adults Services – Residential/Home Care/Supported Living	13 (1%)
Faith Setting	10
Housing Provider (Registered)	9
Sports/Leisure Organisation	5
Probation Services	5
Adults Services – Day/Support Centre	4
London Fire Brigade	3
Children’s Home	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1707</b>

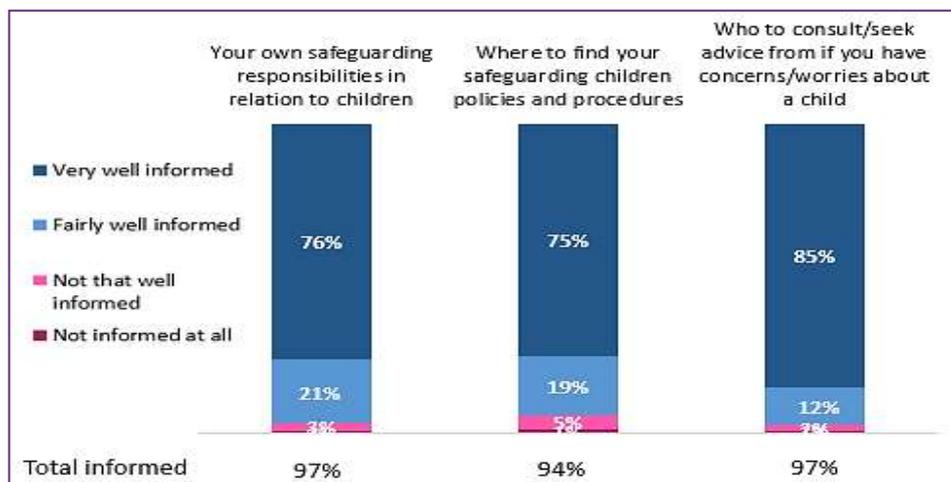
- The majority of respondents (67%) reported that they have contact with both children and vulnerable adults (adults at risk of harm)
- ‘Front line’ staff made up 69% of the respondents, and overall 46% were ‘front line’ professionals
- Almost all respondents who work with children agreed/strongly agreed with the following key safeguarding statements about their roles;

*‘My organisation encourages me to think about safeguarding as part of my role’*

*‘If I thought a child was being neglected/ abused I would know what to do/ who to report this to’*

*‘In my role I have a responsibility to know about the signs which could indicate that a child might be a victim of abuse or neglect’*

- Most respondents who work with children felt informed about safeguarding, especially where to get advice

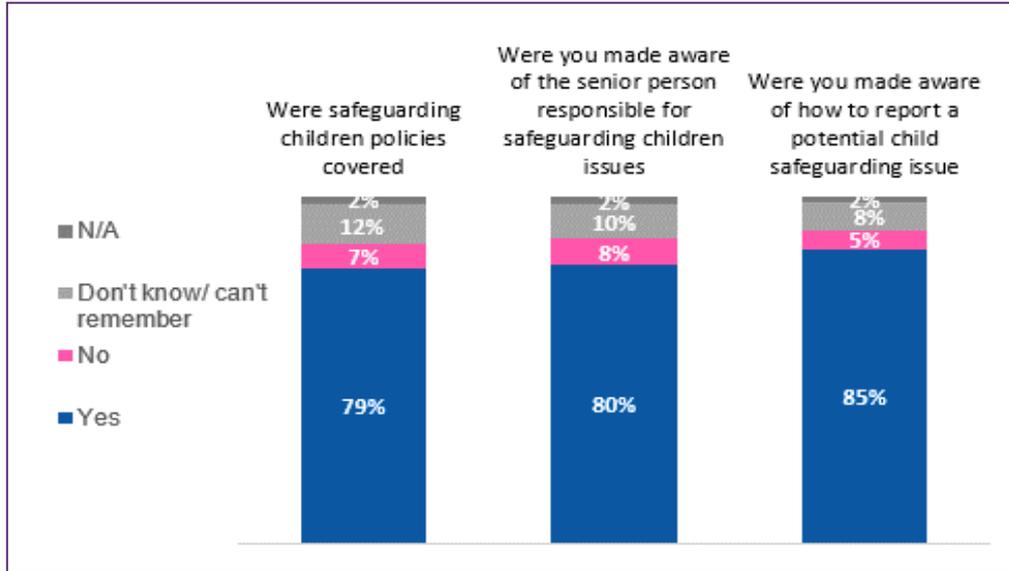


## Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks

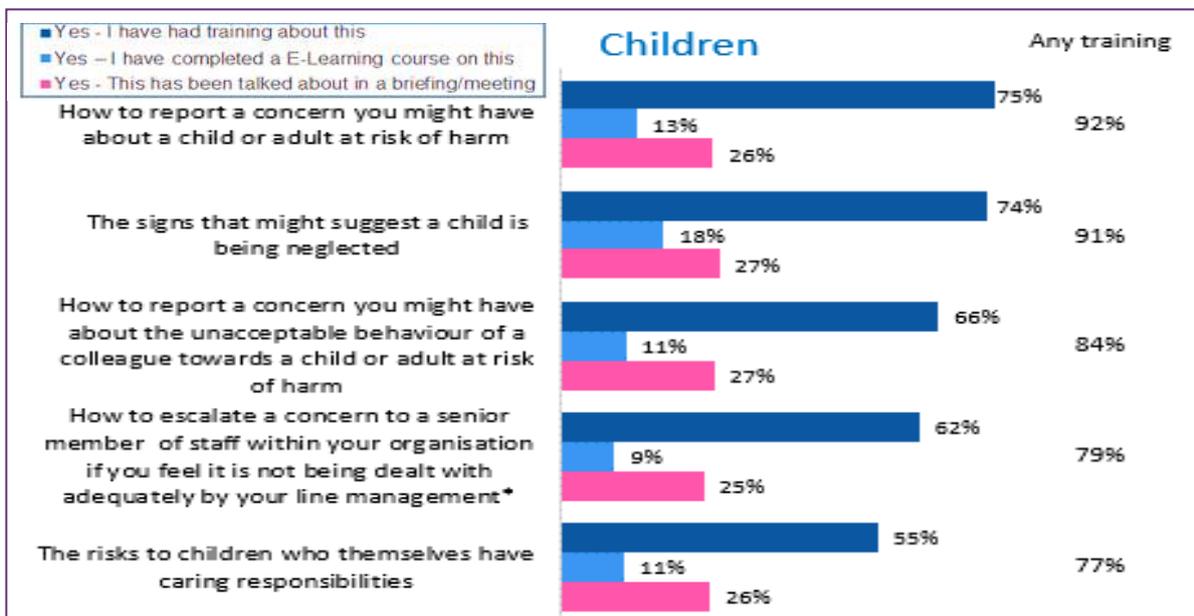
- Nearly 9 in 10 respondents require a DBS check for their roles.
  - Of those who started their role in the last 12 months, 100% had the check, 96% before starting
  - Of those who have been in their role over 12 months, 88% have had a DBS check in the past 3 years, and nearly half (48%) in the last year

## Training

- A high number of those who have contact with children, (79% - 85%), had initial training that covered the safeguarding policies, names of safeguarding leads and how to report concerns



- The most common message to be taken out of training about signs of abuse or neglect was to report concerns, (mentioned by 27%), whilst the most recalled sign was changed or unusual behaviour (recalled by 26%)
- Only 1 out of 5 who undertook safeguarding training (22%) recalled the importance of record keeping
- The majority of training participants felt more confident as a result of the training, with just under half (46%) saying they strongly agree that they feel more confident about safeguarding
- In the last 12 months 9 out of 10 respondents have had training on reporting a concern and signs of neglect/abuse, usually via traditional training



- The most commonly received information over the last 12 months related to identifying and responding to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) (recalled by 64% and 69% respectively)
- Information on transition planning was much less commonly disseminated
- A notable proportion of respondents said they wanted more information or training across a range of topics, especially:
  - working with hard to engage families (38%)
  - County Lines (24%)
  - identifying and responding to CSE (23%)

### Supervision

- Two out of three employees (66%) who know children by name, have regular supervision with managers and the majority of these use the sessions to discuss children they are working with and any possible concerns

### Information Sharing

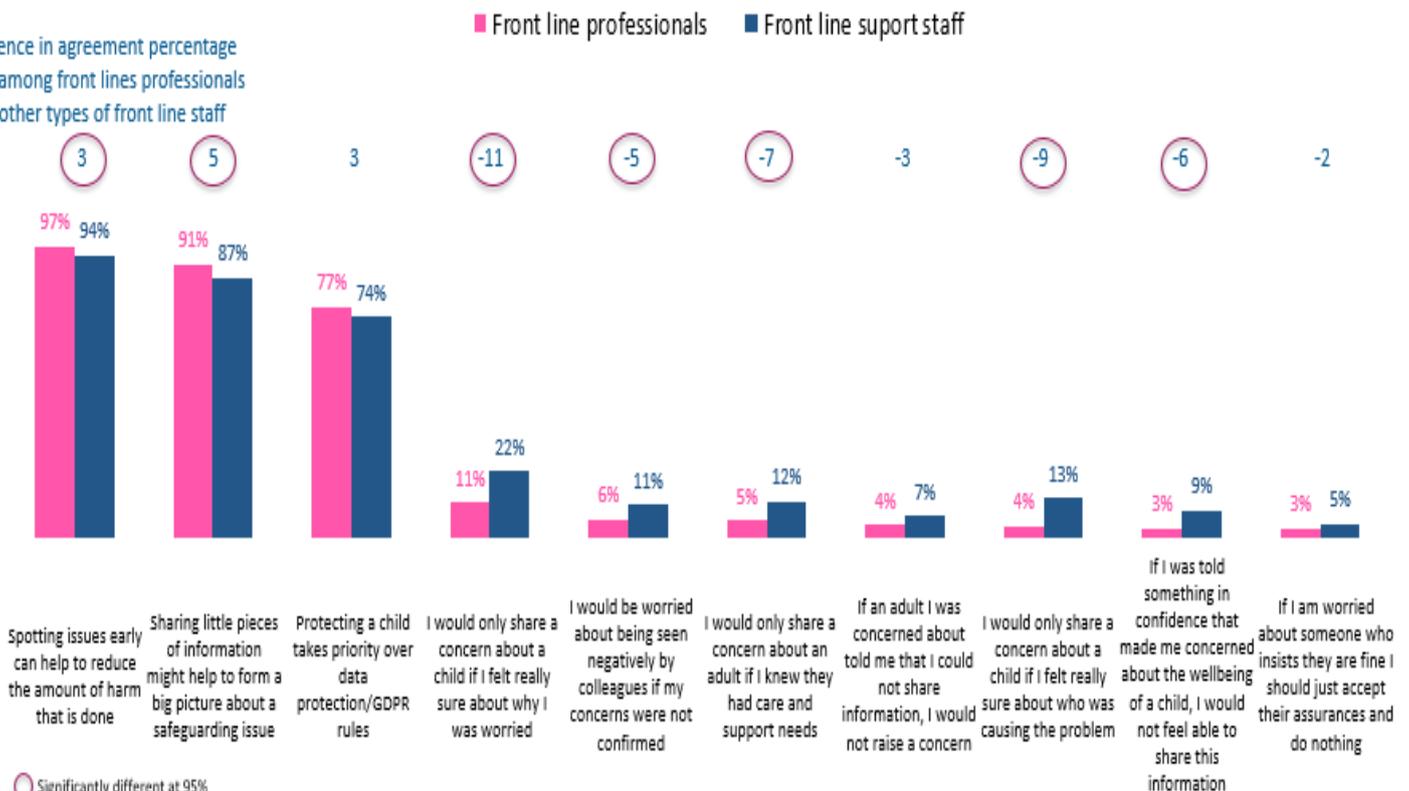
- Most respondents agree sharing little pieces of information helps form a big picture, and spotting issues early can help reduce harm, (with which 74% agree strongly). A small proportion (4%) think they should do nothing if someone insists they are fine; almost double the proportion would be worried about how they could be perceived, although this is also at low levels (7%).
- Only 51% of respondents who work with children strongly agree that protecting a child takes priority over GDPR
- 15% of those who work with children agreed with the following negative statement:

*“I would only share a concern about a child if I felt really sure about why I was worried”*

### Reporting Concerns

- There is a clear relationship between feeling informed and reporting
- Frontline professionals feel more empowered to report than frontline support staff

Difference in agreement percentage points among front lines professionals and other types of front line staff

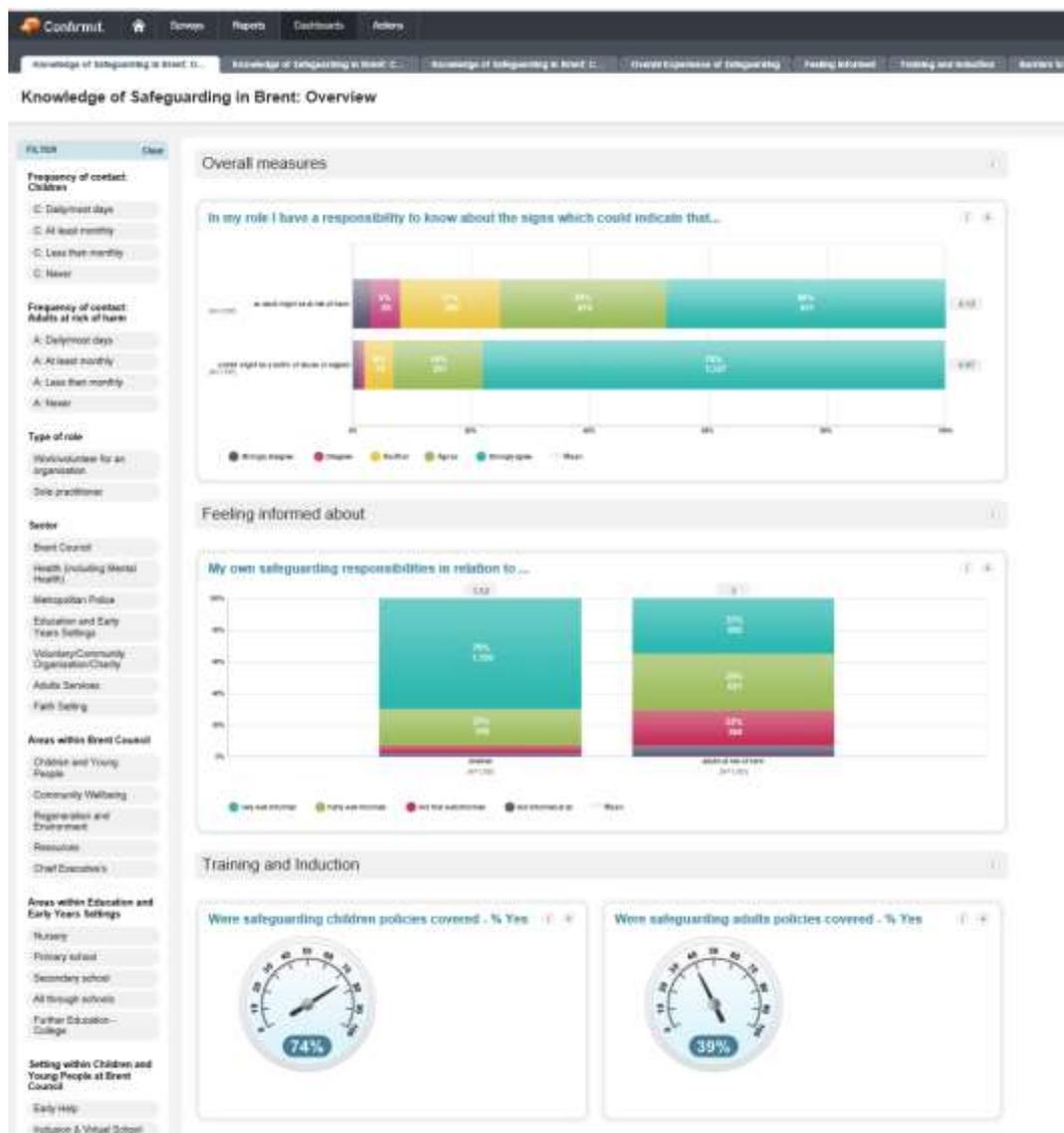


○ Significantly different at 95%

- Having reported a concern about a child, three in ten respondents (28%) did not subsequently receive feedback on action/decision
- Nine in ten of those who have reported concerns about a child within their organisation state it was treated seriously and received a quick response

## Next Steps

BMG have created a dashboard, which will allow easy interrogation of the results. A representative sample in shown below, this is a screenshot from the dashboard and as such, the image is slightly blurred.



This dashboard will be used to allow partner agencies to view their staff's responses and decide upon their strengths and areas for improvement. The results will be considered at future safeguarding forum meetings.

### 3.3. Learning and development

Since Brent LSCB’s inception, the Board has provided a multi-agency learning and development programme as part of its core business. This has traditionally consisted of classroom-based training offering a range of course topics including domestic abuse, gangs, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Working Together to Safeguard Children and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

This offer is available to all professionals who work or volunteer with children and young people in Brent.

The LSCB have a Learning and Development Advisory Group, which is co-chaired by Pam Stewart, LSCB Lay Member and Rachel Phillips, Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children, Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust. The part time Strategic Partnerships Learning and Development Co-ordinator supports the LSCB and the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB).

The updated function of the Learning and Development Advisory Group is to co-ordinate the multi-agency training programme to equip professionals and volunteers to promote the welfare of children, learn practices from SCR/Local Safeguarding Practice Reviews and to work effectively with other agencies.

In April 2018, the LSCB was asked to:

- provide a clear steer on the direction the multi-agency learning and development programme would take in 2018-19
- obtain a renewed commitment from partner organisations in supporting the development and delivery of this programme

Following the Board’s response, the multi-agency learning offer was reduced; in particular, the Introduction to multi-agency safeguarding course (Working Together Level 1) received minimum partner commitment for delivery, therefore meaning that it could no longer be offered as a face-to-face course. Instead, safeguarding e-learning modules were made available as part of the refreshed offer.

#### Multi-agency learning and development offer

Despite the LSCB experiencing less commitment from partners to deliver and facilitate the LSCB multi-agency learning and development offer (resulting in a limited training pool), the LSCB continued to provide a strong multi-agency learning offer over the last 18 months.

Brent LSCB offered a range of multi-agency E-learning modules and classroom sessions including:

E-learning module topics offered	Classroom training topics offered
Child sexual exploitation	An Introduction to the Early Help Assessment (EHA)
Domestic abuse	Domestic Abuse and the role of the MARAC in Brent
Early help for children	FGM - Female Genital Mutilation
Honour base violence and forced marriage	Managing Allegations Made Against Staff & Volunteers
Mental health awareness	Neglect
Modern slavery	Parental mental health
Neglect	Prevent and Radicalisation
Radicalisation	Private fostering
Safeguarding and child protection	Reducing Parental Conflict: Modules 1,2,3 & 4
Social media and safeguarding	Signs of safety
	Young Carers

Brent LSCB also promoted other national certified E-learning modules produced by other organisations including:

- Prevent offered by the Home Office
- Mental health awareness offered by Mind
- FGM offered by the Virtual College (digital learning organisation)

## Multi-agency course attendance

The LSCB is pleased to note that there has been an increase in multi-agency attendance to the training offered during this period. 47 face-to-face multi-agency learning sessions across 13 different topic areas were offered during the period, with 433 delegates fully attending.

**Fig 9**

Course topic	No. sessions offered	No. sessions cancelled	Total no. of fully attended delegates
An Introduction to the Early Help Assessment (EHA)	6	0	72
Reducing Parental Conflict: Modules 1	4	0	48
Reducing Parental Conflict: Module 2&3	2	0	32
Reducing Parental Conflict: Module 4	1	1	0
FGM - Female Genital Mutilation	3	0	35
Neglect	3	0	33
Parental mental health	1	0	17
Prevent and Radicalisation	4	0	45
Private fostering	3	3	0
Signs of safety	3	0	15
Young Carers	9	0	59
Domestic Abuse and the role of the MARAC in Brent	4	1	45
Managing Allegations Made Against Staff & Volunteers	4	0	29
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>433</b>

There was a noticeable decrease in cancellations of courses due to low interest in comparison to the previous 12-month period, with the number of course cancellations reducing from 17 to 5.

The table below outlines the level of partner organisation attendance and demonstrates the majority of attendees were from Brent Council Early Help and Education followed by voluntary/community organisations sector.



## Other multi-agency learning and development

### Seven-Minute Briefings

Brent LSCB adopted a new method of sharing learning through seven-minute briefings. This technique, borrowed from the FBI, is based on research suggesting that seven minutes was an ideal time span to concentrate.

This method of learning would support short team-based learning sessions with the aim of enabling managers and staff to reflect on their team's practice and systems.

The first seven-minute briefing was developed as a result of the learning identified from a case considered by the Case Review Group and focussed on Child Sexual Exploitation and Cuckooing (see Appendix A).

All seven-minute briefings will be published on the [Brent LSCB \(Safeguarding Partnerships\) website](#) and circulated regularly.

### Housing Workshop – Adults Safeguarding Board Annual Conference

The LSCB also undertook a learning reflection review of a case submitted by the Brent MASE Panel. Part of the identified learning (alongside the seven-minute briefing) was to raise awareness of the safeguarding responsibilities with housing provider organisations in Brent.

The LSCB and SAB agreed to include a workshop at the annual Safeguarding Adults Board Conference in February 2019. The workshop was presented by a specialist in housing and social care and looked at the role of housing providers in:

- identifying safeguarding concerns
- building a culture of safeguarding in housing
- exploring indicators of safeguarding concerns
- links between safeguarding, other tenancy management issues and Anti-Social Behaviour.

The Brent Safeguarding Adults Board Conference also explored a range of topics including:

- homelessness
- transitions
- hoarding

Whilst the focus of the conference was on adult safeguarding, there was a clear joint safeguarding approach throughout the conference. Michael Preston-Shoot (Chair of Brent Safeguarding Adults Board) highlighted joint working between safeguarding adults and safeguarding children, focusing on key topics such as transitions and arrangements for care leavers.

### Community BBQ event

The Co-chair of the Learning and Development Advisory Group, Pam Stewart organised a community BBQ event in Harlesden on 26 June 2019 to raise awareness of Safeguarding. Over 30 community members attended including staff and parents from the local nursery, residents and passers-by. Three seven-minute briefings were delivered covering the priority areas of Neglect, Exploitation and Domestic Abuse. The feedback from the event was very positive and everyone enjoyed the food as well.

## Review of learning and development offer

Through analysis, Brent LSCB decided that there is scope to improve the overall effectiveness of the multi-agency learning and development offer and identified a number of actions for the new safeguarding partners to consider developing as part of the new safeguarding arrangements:

- Introducing a robust framework to assess the value and effectiveness of training
- Upgrading the Learning Management System (LMS) platform making an annual saving of £10,000
- A joint safeguarding adults and children learning and development offer
- Reintroduction of non-cancellation fees
- Using the results of the Safeguarding Survey to inform the multi-agency learning syllabus

### 3.4. Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

Brent CDOP has historically been one of the LSCB’s sub groups. By a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary review of child deaths, Brent CDOP aims to improve the understanding of how and why children die. It uses the findings to take action to prevent future child deaths and, more generally, to improve the health and safety of the children.

Brent CDOP’S work involves reviews of the deaths of any child normally resident in the area by:

- (a) collecting and analysing information about each death with a view to identifying:
  - (i) any case, giving rise to the need for a serious case review
  - (ii) any matters of concern affecting the safety and welfare of children in the area of the authority
  - (iii) any wider public health or safety concerns arising from a particular death or from a pattern of deaths in the area
- (b) ensuring that there is a co-ordinated response by Brent LSCB partners and other relevant persons to an unexpected death

Brent CDOP was established in 2008 under the initial guidance that was set out in Regulation 6 (SI No 2006/90) of the Children Act 2004. Whilst the Children and Social Work Act 2017 superseded this Act, Brent LSCB continued to ensure that child death reviews were undertaken until the point at which new child death review partnership arrangements came into place on 26 September 2019.

The Chair of Brent CDOP is Melanie Smith, Director of Public Health from the Brent Local Authority and the Vice Chair is Dr Arlene Boroda, Designated Paediatrician for Child Deaths in Childhood.

There have been regular meetings to discuss and review the Child Death cases with good attendance from key partner agencies.

The Senior Safeguarding Administrator in Brent CCG provides the administrative support for this work.

The Designated Paediatrician for Child Deaths in Childhood is also the Designated Doctor for Safeguarding Children. The Designated Doctor provides the rapid response home visits for unexpected child deaths. The Designated Single Point of Contact (SPOC) in Brent is based in NHS Brent CCG. This arrangement provides good access to specialist health advice and access to the CCG Safeguarding Children Team (who undertake the rapid response). The Designated Doctor provides the rapid response home visits for unexpected child deaths.

#### Activity during April 2018 to March 2019

Between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019, 23 child deaths were notified to the CDOP for children who were resident within the Brent LSCB area at the time of their deaths.

Deaths reported in the previous years:

Deaths	Expected	Unexpected	Total
2008-09	21	17	38
2009-10	15	11	26
2010-11	28	10	38
2011-12	26	15	41
2012-13	30	13	43
2013-14	14	16	30
2014-15	18	6	24
2015-16	13	10	23
2016-17	20	6	26
2017-18	19	7	26
2018-19	16	7	23

## CDOP Reviews

The CDOP completed reviews on a total 22 child deaths cases during this period:

- six cases notified during the year 2017-2018
- sixteen cases notified during the year 2018-2019

These cases may not be considered for review within the recommended timescales of six months or in the same year as they are notified, as there can be a delay in obtaining information because of:

- delays in receiving post mortem reports
- other processes being completed such as inquests and criminal trials

## E-CDOP

From April 2018, all London CDOPs are required to use [eCDOP](#), an electronic database for:

- the notification of deaths
- sharing information
- reviewing cases for CDOP meetings or panels
- collating data across London
- feeding information into the National Child Mortality

Notifications of deaths to the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) have improved, as London-wide partner agencies are now more aware of the need to ensure timely, effective and comprehensive communication.

## Key learning and good practice

The CDOP identified a number of learning points including:

- when reviews lead to specific learning for health care providers, feedback should be given to individual practitioners and/or organisations on a case by case basis
- when there is learning that is applicable to a range of services it is cascaded via the health subgroup in Brent, with the intention that learning from local and national child death reviews is incorporated into practice, training and supervision
- safe sleeping advice should be offered to all who care for babies including grandparents and fathers
- more detailed questioning and documentation is required regarding women who present in labour, especially prematurely, regarding domestic abuse
- CDOP processes should have a category for deaths to include those that have had organ transplants
- GPs should respond promptly to requests for information from CDOP and are requested to offer bereavement care and support and genetic counselling to parents and families
- counselling in schools should be available to support children's emotional wellbeing

## North West London Child Death Arrangements

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 replaced the previous CDOP arrangements with the requirement placed on new child death review partners (defined as the local authority and the CCG) to make arrangements for the review of each death of a child normally resident in the area.

In response to these legislative changes, 16 partners from CCGs and local authorities covering Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster created the new North West London Child Death Review (NWL CDR) service, to deliver the new Child Death Review statutory requirements.

Following consultation, a new CDR team was set up to operate across NWL on a phased basis, during the Autumn of 2019.

## 3.5. Serious Case Reviews (SCR)

When a child dies, or is seriously harmed, because of abuse or neglect, a review is conducted to identify ways that local professionals and organisations can improve the way they work together to safeguard children.

During the transition period, Brent LSCB continued to make decisions on initiating and publishing SCRs until the 21 September 2019; the point at which the new safeguarding partnership arrangements were implemented in Brent.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduced the independent national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, which became fully operational on 29 June 2018.

The National Panel is responsible for:

- reviewing local decisions regarding the appropriate response to death/serious injury to a child and
- deciding whether to commission reviews of child safeguarding cases which are of national concern

### Rapid reviews

From 29 June 2018, when a serious incident becomes known to the LSCB, it must undertake a rapid review of the case, which must be completed within fifteen working days of becoming aware of the incident.

The aim of rapid reviews is to enable the LSCB to:

- gather the facts about the case, as far as they can be readily established at the time
- discuss whether there is any immediate action needed to ensure children's safety and share any learning appropriately
- consider the potential for identifying improvements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- decide what steps they should take next, including whether to commission an SCR

The Case Review Group, a sub group of the LSCB is the vehicle that carried out both rapid reviews and serious case reviews during this period.

### Activity

During the period:

- the Case Review Group considered seven cases to determine whether they met the criteria to conduct a serious case review
- the LSCB conducted a total of four rapid reviews with all decisions made being ratified by the National Panel
- The LSCB agreed to commission one Serious Case Review, which is due to be completed in the Spring of 2020. The learning and recommendations from this review will be shared with the new safeguarding partnership arrangements.

The new guidelines impose time limits on the completion of any such reviews. However, these restrictions take no account of delays from both the Coroner and the crown prosecution Service who do have similar requirements imposed on their organisations. In one case (which is now over a year old) the Chair and the Designated Doctor has made several requests for a decision as to the cause of death from the Coroner's Officer. This case is still outstanding.

All the review meetings were well attended, with significant participation from not only standing members but also those agencies with specialist knowledge of the case. Their insight and contribution greatly assisted the Chair in his decision-making and helps to present a fully considered rationale to the national Panel.

## Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

Following significant changes to the statutory framework for Serious Case Reviews (SCRs), Working Together 2018 statutory guidance sets out new arrangements for handling serious child safeguarding cases.

The purpose of these new arrangements is to identify improvements to be made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children both at a local and national level. Learning is relevant locally, but it also has a wider importance for all practitioners working with children and families and for the government and policy-makers.

The responsibility for how the system learns the lessons from serious child safeguarding incidents will lie at a national level with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and at local level with the new Safeguarding Partners.

### 3.6. Other activity

#### Private Fostering

In June 2018, Brent LSCB had extensive dialogue as to how partners could contribute to the effort to improve identification of private fostering arrangements in Brent.

The numbers of children known to be in private fostering arrangements in Brent are very low. This figure does not reflect the reality of the situation in Brent.

The LSCB continued to encourage the collective role of partners in helping to increase the number of referrals of possible private fostering arrangements.

Following discussion at the June 2018 meeting, a number of actions were undertaken to raise awareness across the partnership including:

- Training provided to school admissions colleagues within schools in relation to verifying identity documents
- Brent Family Front Door colleagues attending a General Practitioners (GPs) forum
- All marketing materials have been updated
- A Private Fostering information page was developed on the LSCB website
- An article published in the spring edition of the Brent Magazine
- The Private Fostering Team attended the Brent Multi Faith Forum to deliver multiagency training
- Information was shared with the network of food banks within the Brent
- A briefing note on Private Fostering has been shared with Notting Hill Genesis Housing Association
- The Team attended the Schools Designated Safeguarding Leads Conference in May 2019

#### Child Sexual Abuse North West London Hub

A Child Sexual Abuse Hub designed to align services for Ealing, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow and Brent was launched in 2018. This is one of five such hubs being rolled out in London, which are part of the wider CSA Transformation Programme led by NHS England and partner agencies

A key feature of this new facility involves health professionals from Brent and Harrow working together to cross-cover paediatric assessments and provide a uniform service.

Following an allegation of sexual abuse, the integrated pathway for this service across the agencies ensures that the child or young person 'tells their story once', there is good information sharing and thereby the 'Hub experience' is the start of the healing process for these children and their families.

Barnardo's had been commissioned across eight North West London boroughs to deliver the TIGER (Trauma-Informed Growth and Empowered Recovery) programme which provided emotional and welfare support to children and their careers in cases of Child Sexual Abuse.

## Modern Slavery

The Chair of Brent LSCB, alongside the Safer Brent Partnership and the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB), commissioned a task and finish group to understand needs of victims of modern slavery and trafficking, look at the current support provision in Brent, identify gaps, and develop possible solutions.

The Task and Finish Group explored the following:

- Carry out a scoping exercise to assess the scale of the problem in the borough
- Support for adults and families before they enter the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), and for when they leave the NRM, and continued support if they choose not to enter the NRM
  - Determine support requirements for identified adult victims
  - Determine support requirements for identified families
  - Develop comprehensive pathways and procedures for victims
- Determine the existing support for children
  - CSE is included within the definition of modern slavery and trafficking. There is already a comprehensive pathway in place for victims of CSE. Recommendations will be made for child victims of modern slavery and trafficking (not CSE).
- Determine how victims are identified, and understand partnership requirements to make recommendations to ensure the recognition of victims who come into contact with public services
- Supply Chain: carry out a review of contract requirements to ensure modern slavery and trafficking clauses are included and monitored

A number of actions were identified by the Task and Finish Group, which include:

- Developing a multi-agency process for referring concerns of modern slavery and supporting victims in Brent that is to be implemented in Spring 2020
- Including specific learning and development opportunities as part of the multi-agency offer
- Exploring how Brent captures, shares and analyses data
- Developing a local multi-agency network of modern slavery champions

## Transitional Safeguarding

In collaboration with Brent Children's Trust and Safeguarding Adults Board, the LSCB has organised a workshop where strategic leads from Brent Council Children and Young People, Brent Council Adult Social Care and partners in health and education come together to explore Transitional Safeguarding in Brent.

The workshop, scheduled for 7 November 2019, aimed to reflect upon of what we do well and where we need improve to support vulnerable young people becoming adults. Participants will consider questions designed to support reflection and planning. These will focus on areas such as the current knowledge base, strength and weaknesses, leadership, learning from case examples and the use of data.

This workshop will be facilitated by Dez Holmes, Director of Research in Practice and Research in Practice for Adults who champions evidence-informed practice across the children's and adults social care sector.

## 4. Handing over to Brent Safeguarding Partners

### 4.1. New safeguarding arrangements

On 21 June 2019, the Brent Safeguarding Partners published the new partnership arrangements to safeguard children in the borough.

These arrangements follow the introduction of the Children and Social Work Act in 2017 and the publication of the revised statutory guidance Working Together 2018; both of which set out what is expected of organisations, individually and jointly, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Brent's arrangements have been designed to capitalise on the pre-existing engagement of a range of partner agencies and momentum developed by the Independent Chair of the Brent LSCB. The arrangements also aim to reflect the national legislative changes and the statutory leadership roles of the three safeguarding partners – local authorities, clinical commissioning groups and police.

The arrangements consist of a two-tier structure with the Executive Group providing high-level strategic direction to a delivery focused Brent Safeguarding Children Forum made up of a diverse and wide-ranging partnership.

**The new arrangements began to operate in Brent on 21 September 2019 replacing Brent LSCB.**

Further information on the new Brent Safeguarding arrangements can be found on the new Brent Safeguarding Partnerships website <http://www.brentsafeguardingpartnerships.uk>.

## 5. Epilogue

LSCBs were introduced in 2003 and revised in 2009 following the tragic deaths of a number of children:

1. **Death of Victoria Climbié** (February 2002) and Lord Laming's report published in 2003
2. **The death of Jessica Chapman and Holly Wells** (August 2003) and the Bichard enquiry published in 2004
3. **The death of Peter Connelly** (Aug 2007) prompted a national review of safeguarding following the Climbié Inquiry. Lord Laming's report: '**The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report**' was published on the 12 March 2009
4. **The Government published its response: 'The Protection of Children in England: action plan'** in May 2009, accepting all of Lord Laming's recommendations

The new partnership arrangements outlined in section 4.1 are the latest Government response to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children deemed to be at risk of harm. Whilst the new procedures are still in their early stages, it is worth repeating the central theme of Lord Laming's enquiries in 2003 and 2009:

**“Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility”**

## 1. Background

- 2018 – CJ a 16yr old girl living with mother, older sister & younger brother.
- Absent father – history of Mental Illness & Domestic Abuse
- There were Indicators of cuckooing/exploitation
- Home cuckooed by a local gang, increased vulnerability of family
- CJ was known to have an older boyfriend
- CJ informed GP of being fearful due to sexual abuse by gang
- CJ attempts suicide & receives in-patient MH intervention

## 2. Why does this matter?

- CSE is one of our 3 LSCB priority areas
- We know Sexual Exploitation of children is child abuse
- We know it's a crime!
- We know C&YP who become entangled in this web, face huge risks to their physical, emotional & psychological health and long term well-being
- We understand the need for inter-agency collaboration to tackle this priority area
- Reports of Cuckooing are fairly new in Brent but it doesn't mean it is not happening. The police have introduced a 'cuckooing' flag (3 to date) on their crime reports in the last few months.

## 7. Questions for implementing change

Look at the Brent data for the last 6 months:

How do you ensure that your teams are kept up to date on local CSE facts?

What part do you play in inter-agency collaboration?

Please identify one key action you are going to take back to your team to share.



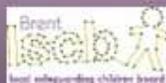
## 3. Information

- CSE is complex and is usually linked to other factors
- Grooming is a very important element to consider
- Cuckooing is when drug dealers take over the home of a vulnerable person in order to use it as a base for drug dealing. Since 2010, cuckooing is becoming an increasingly common problem in the South of England
- Key agencies were not aware of issues; including Police and housing re: house being targeted & used and Education re: younger brother's vulnerability

## 6. Recommendations for LSCB

Continue to disseminate information to professionals and the community regarding:

- Recognising signs of abuse and risk factors
- Think CSE!
- local safeguarding lead/ follow your local processes/ share info
- What to do if immediate danger - call the police
- Referrals can be made to the Brent FFD
- Offer support to the victim of abuse, ensure there is some follow up planned for the individual
- Offer specific training to agencies involved for long periods
- Ensure that we are listening to the voice of the child
- **WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?**



## 4 & 5. Key Issues

- Lack Holistic approach/ contextualised Safeguarding
- A number of vulnerability indicators including mother and older sister having learning needs
- Collaboration needed amongst agencies especially with housing associations and other safeguarding partners / early intervention
- Police - Becoming a missing person
- Education - truancy from school, missing education.
- Health - Good response by GP followed by disclosure CJ felt confident in speaking with her GP about sexual history
- Housing - There were indicators around that home that if investigated further officials may have reported cuckooing or gang affiliation. These included piercing/tattooing equipment, extra mattresses and report of knives and guns being stored.
- Community - There were no concerns raised by neighbours although there were groups of boys in and out of the home.

**Thank you to all partner  
organisations and  
members of Brent LSCB  
for all contributions  
made to the work of the  
LSCB since 2006.**

