

BRENT SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

YEARLY REPORT

APRIL 2024 - MARCH 2025

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Foreword by the Delegated Safeguarding Partners of the Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP)

In this period of reporting the Safeguarding Children Partnership has been through a time of change; owing to the publication of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 and the requirement to be compliant with the guidance by December 2024. As such the SCP reviewed, updated and published its updated [Multiagency Safeguarding Arrangements](#) in January 2025 including a change to the structure at the most senior strategic level with the introduction of Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs).

In turn this led to enhanced joint working with the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) and the establishment of a Joint Executive Group. Furthermore, the SCP worked with consultants from the Department for Education (DfE) to successfully formalise representation from Education in high level decision making, in line with Working Together 2023.

The SCP has been successful in meeting areas of key focus over the twelve months including co-organising and delivering the Joint Safeguarding Conference with the SAB and the commissioning of our audit platform tool which we are pleased to report is currently under construction and due to launch September 2025.

Most recently, the release of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill will see Statutory Partners move towards a period of transformation with the intention of establishing Multiagency Child Protection Teams and embedding the Families First Partnership Programme.

Comment from the SCP Independent Scrutineer

This has been a busy time for the partnership, with much being achieved throughout the period covered by this Annual Report. The partnership is now fully compliant with the requirements of the Government guidance, Working Together 2023. The three core statutory partners, the Local Authority, Health and Police, are all engaged with the partnership, with the much wider network of partners also well connected.

The Report demonstrates that there has been progress in several areas, including a closer working relationship between the Safeguarding Children Partnership and both the Safeguarding Adults Board and Community Safety. These relationships will be improved as the partnerships move into a single management structure within the Local Authority.

02 INTRODUCTION

Local organisations and agencies have a duty to ensure that they consider the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children when carrying out their functions. In addition, there is also a shared responsibility between organisations and agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area.

The responsibility for the strategic oversight of this join-up locally rests with the three Statutory Safeguarding partners, who have a shared and equal duty to arrange to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area.

The three safeguarding partners in relation to a local area in England are defined as:



1. **The Local Authority**
2. **The Integrated Care Board**
3. **The Police**

The three safeguarding partners must:

- agree on ways to co-ordinate their safeguarding services
- act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others
- implement local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents

BRENT MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

The purpose of the local arrangements is to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where:

- **Children are safeguarded** and their welfare promoted.
- **Partner organisations and agencies collaborate**, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children.
- **Organisations and agencies challenge** appropriately and hold one another to account effectively.
- **There is early identification and analysis** of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats.
- **Learning is promoted and embedded** in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice.
- **Information is shared effectively** to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families.



To fulfil this role, the three Statutory Safeguarding partners have set out jointly how they work together and with other relevant agencies in the Brent Multiagency Safeguarding Partnership Arrangements (MASA).

Brent's MASA was first published on the Brent Safeguarding Partnerships website in June 2019 and implemented on 30 September 2019.

The published arrangements were reviewed, updated and published by the Partnership in January 2025 in order to achieve compliance with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023.

In light of the changes in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023, Brent's Safeguarding Children Partnership arrangements now operates a four-tier structure:

Tier 1 - The Joint Executive Group - Safeguarding Children Partnership Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) and Safeguarding Adults Board Leadership Group are representative of the local LSP requirement.

Tier 2 - The Delegated Safeguarding Partners Group (DSP), previously known as the Executive Group - high-level strategic leadership group.

Tier 3 - Brent Safeguarding Children Forum - diverse and wider-ranging partnership group.

Tier 4 - Delivery focussed sub groups - responsible for carrying out specific statutory duties of the partnership, these include:

- Case Review Group
- Multi-agency Audit Group
- Learning and Development Group (joint sub group of Brent's Safeguarding Children Partnership and Brent Safeguarding Adults Board)

The Joint Executive Group fulfilled the objectives, functions and responsibilities set out in Working Together 2023 to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Brent by:

- Setting the strategic direction, vision, and culture of the local safeguarding arrangements, including agreeing and reviewing shared priorities and the resource required to deliver services effectively.
- Leading their organisation's individual contribution to the shared priorities, ensuring strong governance, accountability, and reporting mechanisms to hold their delegates to account for the delivery of agency commitments.
- Reviewing and sign off key partnership documents: published multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, including plans for independent scrutiny, shared annual budget, yearly report, and local threshold document.
- Providing shared oversight of learning from independent scrutiny, serious incidents, local child safeguarding practice reviews, and national reviews, ensuring recommendations are implemented and have a demonstrable impact on practice (as set out in the yearly report).
- Ensuring multi-agency arrangements have the necessary level of business support, including intelligence and analytical functions, such as an agreed data set providing oversight and a robust understanding of practice.
- Ensuring all relevant agencies, including education settings, are clear on their role and contribution to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

The Joint Executive Group membership includes:

Brent Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Executive • Corporate Director of Children and Young People • Corporate Director of Service Reform and Strategy • Director of Adult Social Care
North West London Integrated Care Board (ICB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Nursing Officer • Assistant Director for Safeguarding
Metropolitan Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borough Commander NW BCU
Independent Chair and Scrutineer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Scrutineer of Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership • Independent Chair of Brent Safeguarding Adults Board

The DSP Group fulfilled the objectives, functions and responsibilities set out in Working Together 2023 to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Brent by:

- agreeing the overarching strategic vision and local priorities for safeguarding children
- challenging and holding the Safeguarding Forum to account
- agreeing, publishing, and reviewing the safeguarding oversight arrangements
- monitoring serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues of importance
- ensuring that the arrangements to work together to identify and respond to the needs of children in the area are effective and robust
- identifying any new safeguarding issues and emerging threats
- making strategic links with other Brent partnerships
- making provision for independent scrutiny of the safeguarding arrangements

The DSP Group membership includes:

Brent Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Director of Children and Young People • The Leader Member for Children, Young People and Schools
North West London Integrated Care Board (ICB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Nursing Officer • Assistant Director for Safeguarding
Metropolitan Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detective Superintendent for Public Protection NW BCU
Independent Scrutiny	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Scrutineer for Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership

The Brent Safeguarding Children Forum is a wider partnership forum accountable to the DSP Group.

The Forum co-ordinated and monitored multi-agency safeguarding oversight arrangements as set out in Working Together 2023 and is chaired by the Independent Scrutineer.

The Forum is responsible for;

- driving delivery of local safeguarding priorities set by the DSP Group
- building relationships with other strategic partnerships, the local community, local schools, and other educational establishments
- seeking assurance on behalf of the DSP Group that partners are fulfilling their safeguarding responsibilities, sharing information effectively and have robust safeguarding policies and procedures in place through multi-agency audits and challenge at Forum meetings
- ensuring that safeguarding partners and relevant agencies follow the London Safeguarding Children Procedures
- developing and maintaining a Brent Thresholds document giving guidance on children getting the right help at the right time
- developing, implementing, and monitoring the impact of an interagency safeguarding children learning and development programme, incorporating local and national learning from serious child safeguarding cases
- analysing and considering partnership responses to any new safeguarding issues and emerging threats identified by the DSP Group
- undertaking Local Learning Reviews on behalf of the DSP Group
- developing ways for the safeguarding oversight arrangements to include the voices of children and families in Brent (e.g., refining rapid reviews to include agencies who can properly represent the voice of the child/ren, such as schools)
- considering multi-agency management information (e.g., scrutinising annual reports presented to the Forum) and intelligence to establish an overview of and assess the effectiveness of safeguarding activity within Brent
- supporting agencies in resolving disputes that have been appropriately escalated
- scrutinising the learning, good practice, and implementation of recommendations from rapid reviews
- responding effectively to emerging safeguarding issues

The membership of the Forum includes representation from the following partners, relevant agencies and a lay member:

SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS	
North West London ICB	Designated Safeguarding Children Professionals for Brent Assistant Director for Safeguarding Named GP for Safeguarding, Brent
Brent Council	Statutory Lead Member for Children’s Services (Safeguarding, Early Help and Social Care) Children and Young People Housing Needs Safeguarding Adults Public Health Community Safety
Metropolitan Police	North West Basic Command Unit (BCU) Public Protection

AGENCY/ORGANISATION	
Education establishments	College of North West London / United Colleges Group Newman Catholic College Lyon Park Primary School The Village and Woodfield Special Schools Kingsbury High School Preston Manor School
	Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust (CLCH)
	Central North West London Mental Health Foundation NHS Trust (CNWL)
	Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)
	London Ambulance Service (LAS)
	London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust (LNWUHT)
	Probation Service

The Brent Safeguarding Partners selected the agencies and organisations as members of the Forum. These agencies and organisations have been chosen as they provide key strategic and operational insight for the safeguarding of children and young people in Brent.

The selected relevant agencies form the core membership of the Brent Safeguarding Children Forum. Forum members are expected to;

- **proactively and enthusiastically engage with the partnership safeguarding arrangements**
- **be able to influence the strategic planning for safeguarding children within their agency**
- **be able to secure appropriate information from their agency to support the partnership work**
- **ensure that decisions of the Forum are taken forward within their own agency, and any impediments or delays to their implementation are reported to the Board**
- **be responsible for communicating the partnership work effectively within their agency**

The Safeguarding Partners recognise the importance of involving the local community and therefore the Forum has one lay member, with a view to seeking increased lay membership.

The lay member acts as valuable ambassador to help build stronger links with the local community as part of the new arrangements and is encouraged to:

- promote awareness of safeguarding across Brent's communities
- represent the community voice at Safeguarding Forum meetings
- engage with Brent's people and local groups to support community cohesion

The Forum continues to develop and strengthen the existing engagement from early years, schools and the Further Education College in the borough and has a significant membership from this sector.

Attendance at all Safeguarding Forum meetings is monitored and where any concerns arise regarding attendance and engagement of relevant agencies, the Chair will raise these with both the agency concerned and the DSP Group.

The Case Review Group is critical to the work of the Safeguarding Partners in Brent. It is the key mechanism for carrying out reviews of serious safeguarding cases that meet the criteria set out in Working Together 2023. During this reporting year, one Rapid Review was undertaken on the theme of Window Safety and falls from height. There were three Serious Incident Notifications: Two for Care Leaver deaths and one for an incident of Neglect.

The Case Review Group meeting is led Chaired by the Independent Scrutineer and is responsible for:

- considering all serious incident cases in Brent and making recommendations to the Safeguarding Partners for determination if the learning review criteria has been met to refer a case to the National Panel.
- identifying recommendations for any lessons to be learnt from serious incidents in Brent
- coordinating the arrangements on behalf of the Safeguarding Partners for commissioning and publishing local child safeguarding practice reviews
- developing the terms of reference, monitoring progress developing improvement plans coming for each local review
- making recommendations for multi-agency learning events based on the findings arising from case reviews and what the process is for undertaking them
- sharing examples of good practice to develop understanding of what works well.

The Case Review Group has a fixed core membership drawn from the statutory safeguarding partners and relevant agencies. It has the flexibility to invite other relevant professionals to discuss certain cases as and when appropriate (including rapid reviews).

The core membership of the Case Review Group includes representation from the following partners, relevant agencies, and organisations;

SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS	
North West London ICB	Designated Safeguarding Children Professionals for Brent Named GP for Safeguarding, Brent
Brent Council	Children and Young People Community Safety Legal Services
Metropolitan Police	North West Basic Command Unit (BCU) Public Protection

AGENCY/ORGANISATION
Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust (CLCH)
Central North West London Mental Health Foundation NHS Trust (CNWL)
London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust (LNWUHT)

In recognition of the sensitive and confidential nature of business, all agency representatives/members must sign a confidentiality agreement, which includes the requirement to appropriately share and securely store information.

The Case Review Group also ensures that where possible and appropriate to do so, children, young people and families are involved in Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPR).

The Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) has a statutory duty to provide effective multiagency training that improves partnership working and safeguarding outcomes.

In Brent, the Safeguarding Children Partnership and Safeguarding Adults Board jointly deliver a multiagency safeguarding training programme, overseen by the Learning and Development (L&D) Group and coordinated by the Strategic Partnerships Team. The programme focuses on addressing local and national priorities, strengthening multiagency practice, boosting engagement, and continuously improving through evaluation and impact assessment.

The joint multi-agency Learning and Development Group focusses on:

- Delivering a joint multiagency safeguarding learning and development programme that is effective at responding to identified local and national safeguarding issues and priority areas of focus
- Redesign the current programme to increase the impact on multi-agency practice, processes, and systems in Brent
- Maximising and raising the profile, and uptake, of the programme through the development of a communications plan
- Reviewing the evaluation process and defining impact

The Strategic Partnerships Learning and Development Officer leads on supporting the progress of this group and identifying the multi-agency membership and development of the work plan.

Multi-agency audit activity evaluates the effectiveness of agencies, individually and together, to improve the wellbeing of children, including ensuring that children and young people get the right help and protection at the right time. During this reporting year the Multiagency Audit Group has undertaken audits on the following themes: Serious Youth Violence, and Domestic Abuse. It has also successfully supported the Local Authority in a Ofsted inspection of SEND and a London Innovation and Improvement Alliance - Police Stop and Search audit.

The Multi-agency Audit Group meeting is chaired by Brent Council Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance and is responsible for;

- Developing a good oversight of multi-agency practice through audit activity.
- reviewing how agencies work together to create the right conditions for effective practice
- evaluating how and where improvements are needed
- developing and implementing a programme of multi-agency audits to establish that appropriate safeguarding activities are being undertaken and that effective procedures and practices are in place
- conducting multi-agency audits, making multi-agency practice recommendations, and disseminating learning
- monitoring implementation of multi-agency recommendations and actions arising from audits and consider what difference these have made
- testing and monitoring multi-agency compliance with Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 requirements

The Multi-agency Audit Group has a fixed core membership drawn from the statutory safeguarding partners and relevant agencies. It has the flexibility to invite other relevant professionals to participate in certain audits as and when appropriate.

The core membership of the Multi-agency Audit Group includes representation from the following partners, relevant agencies, and organisations;

SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS	
North West London ICB	Designated Safeguarding Children Professionals for Brent Named GP for Safeguarding, Brent
Brent Council	Children and Young People
Metropolitan Police	North West Basic Command Unit (BCU) Public Protection

AGENCY/ORGANISATION
Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust (CLCH)
Central North West London Mental Health Foundation NHS Trust (CNWL)
London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust (LNUH)
Education representatives (Designated Safeguarding Lead -Preston Manor School)

The Safeguarding Partners agreed that the Safeguarding Forum is led by an Independent Chair, who also undertakes the role of the Independent Scrutineer. The Independent Chair's role includes:

- appropriately challenging partner agencies and professionals for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in Brent
- providing direction to the Safeguarding Forum and ensuring statutory obligations and local priorities are being delivered
- overseeing the progression case reviews to ensure they meet required timescales
- ensuring that key local issues and national developments are considered by the Safeguarding Forum
- challenging and monitoring the performance and participation of partners in the work of the Safeguarding Forum
- chair and agree the record of rapid reviews and oversee the implementation of recommendations and learning

Officer support arrangements

Support staffing arrangements for the Brent safeguarding children partnership arrangements are funded and resourced by Brent Council.

The Strategic Partnerships Team is responsible for leading the coordination of the arrangements and is managed by the Strategic Partnerships Manager. The team is based in the Children, Young People & Community Development Team of the Council.

Alongside the safeguarding children partnership arrangements, the Strategic Partnerships Team also coordinates activities for other strategic partnerships in Brent including; Brent Safeguarding Adults Board, Brent Health and Wellbeing Board, Integrated Care Partnership Board and Brent Children's Trust.

This staffing structure enables stronger coordination between the strategic partnerships in Brent to both avoid duplication and develop joint initiatives. It also successfully facilitates a level of independence from the operational safeguarding activity of the council.

The following staffing provision within the Strategic Partnerships Team that coordinate the safeguarding children arrangements include;

- A full time Strategic Partnerships Manager
- A full time Strategic Partnerships Lead
- A part time Strategic Partnerships Learning and Development Officer

The Brent Council Governance Team provide some administration support for both the DSP Group and Safeguarding Forum meetings (approximately 1 day a month).

The safeguarding partners agree the partnership financial funding to support the local arrangements on an annual basis and the financial year runs from the 1 April to the 31 March the following year.

Safeguarding Partnership Contributions

Brent Council

As Brent Council’s contribution consists of the officer support staffing/resource arrangements for the partnership, no additional financial contribution is made to the partnership financial arrangements.

Metropolitan Police

Despite numerous repeated challenges made at all levels across London, all London boroughs, regardless of size, continue to receive the same level of financial contribution from the Metropolitan Police, agreed centrally by MOPAC and set at £5,000. In recent communications it is noted that this is likely to remain unchanged until at least 2029.

North West London ICB

NWL ICB financially contribute towards the partnership financial arrangements, this is a continuation of the contribution previously made by Brent ICB and is set at £48,489 for this financial year.

Relevant Agency Contributions

Between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025 Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership also received financial contributions from the following relevant agencies:

National Probation Service	£ 3627.24
London North West University Healthcare Trust	£ 11,000

Financial Contribution	Amount £
Metropolitan Police	5,000
NWL ICB	48,489.00
Probation Service	3,627.24
London North West University Health Care NHS Trust	11,000
TOTAL	68,125.24

Expenditure

Below is a summary of Partnership expenditure covering the financial period since the last annual report:

Expense	Amount £
Independent Scrutineer fees	22,500
Learning Management System (LMS) and website contributions	3,500
External facilitators for multi-agency training	18,000
Events	5,000
PHEW Audit Platform	12, 700
Total	61,700

The partnership recognises that there has been an underspend in this financial year which has been impacted by a number of factors including:

- The partnership has not seen any expenditure against Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.
- There has been a focus on strengthening the existing multi-agency learning and development programme with a view to developing a richer and broader programme during the next financial year.

As a result, this underspend will be carried over into next year's reserves and it is projected that the partnership spend will increase during the next financial year through the activities associated with this including Section 11 audits and the recruitment and retention of young scrutineers.

04 BRENT SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY

Date	Meeting	Key areas of focus
25th April 2024	Case Review Group Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding actions from Rapid Review February 2023 addressed Notification of Care Leaver Death Reflections and discussion on Derbyshire LSCPR 'Theo' - Group sought assurances for Brent regarding similar serious incidents Rapid Review 7 Minute Briefing shared and signed off Learning and Development update
16th May 2024	Safeguarding Forum meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on compliance with Working Together 2023 Presentation on Strategy Discussions from Brent CYP Presentation from Child Sexual Abuse Project Manager, North West London Local Authorities on Child Sexual Abuse provision from North West London Partner agencies Presentation from Police on Safer Schools Partnership Board Presentation from Child Death Review Team on their Key Working Offer Discussion led by Named GP for Child Safeguarding on The Cass Review
7 th June 2024	Joint Executive Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial meeting Discussion regarding the interface between SCP and SAB & the value of cross board representation National Priorities analysis Transitional Safeguarding
27th June 2024	Case Review Group Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on Multiagency Audit as an action from Rapid Review - February 2023 Learning and recommendations from Window Safety Rapid Review Paper and discussion regarding DfE Information Sharing Guidance Learning and Development update
28th June 2024	Executive Group Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Group considered and signed off the following papers: Annual Report, Budget 2024/25, PHEW audit Proposal Police provided an update on a recent review of their involvement with MASH teams Feedback was provided on a Rapid Review on window safety and the Multiagency Audit on Young Peoples Mental Health and Discharge planning as a legacy from a Rapid Review in February 2023. Proposals for a Joint Executive of the Safeguarding Children Partnership and Safeguarding Adults Board.

04 BRENT SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY

Date	Meeting	Key areas of focus
2 nd September 2024	Joint Executive Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Joint Transitional Safeguarding subgroup • Safeguarding Partnership updates including SCP engagement with Youth Parliament • Update on the development of Joint Safeguarding Conference • ICB Partnership Funding Review discussed
16th October 2024	Executive Group Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Independent Scrutineer provided an update on compliance with Working Together 2023 • Presentation from Police on the MPS Children's Strategy • Presentation on preparation from JTAIs
17th October 2024	Safeguarding Forum Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rich discussion regarding the engagement of young people within the partnership • Update on compliance with Working Together 2023 • Presentation on overview of recent Multiagency Audits • Standing item - Update on Strategy Discussions • HMYOI Feltham - Prisons action plan and letter to stakeholders
21st November 2024	Case Review Group Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on outstanding actions from Multiagency Audit Group - 1)Young people and Mental Health Needs. 2) Serious Youth Violence. • Update on Serious Incident - Self Harm • Presentation on JTAI preparation • Learning and Development update - Joint Safeguarding Conference and new course information
4th December 2024	Executive Group Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Multiagency Safeguarding Arrangements and Escalation Policy shared and agreed • Discussion on case referral for dispute resolution CAMHS and Brent CYP
5th December 2024	Safeguarding Forum Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on the John Smyth Review • Presentation on the On-line Safety Bill • Presentation on Exclusions Annual Report 2023-24

04 BRENT SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY

Date	Meeting	Key areas of focus
11 th December 2024	Joint Executive Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TOR signed off • SCP MASA signed off by the LSPs • High Level updates for Statutory Partners shared including MPS Children's Strategy, the ICB forward plan & the council Strategic Change Programme
12 th February 2025	Case Review Group Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on learning and recommendations from Asthma Death • Presentation on learning and recommendations from from Child Death - Neglect • 7 Minute briefing and discussion on the John Smyth Review • Learning and Development update
5 th March 2025	DSP Group Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation from Police on Youth Base Neighbourhood Policing • Dispute Resolution update and forward plan • 7 Minute briefing and discussion on Children, Wellbeing and Schools Bill • Update on Education as a fourth partner • Update on voice of the child and the recruitment of young scrutineers • Police update as assurances on Stonebridge shootings
13 th March 2025	Safeguarding Forum Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Safety: Sharing learning from the DSL Network Annual Conference & next steps for the Partnership • Update on Stop and Search Audit • Paper and discussion - Investigating healthcare incidents where suspected criminal activity may have contributed to death or serious life-changing harm.

INTEGRATED CARE BOARD -

Provided by Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children Harrow & Brent

**Training**

The North West London ICB has successfully co-ordinated and delivered a comprehensive safeguarding training programme meeting the training needs of the Designated Professionals, Named Professionals, and the wider North West London Children's workforce. The core safeguarding training offer in 2024/25 included Safeguarding Children (Level 3) and Safeguarding Adults (Level 3). These are full day training courses delivered online by the NWL ICB Safeguarding Team.

In addition to the core training offer the following training courses were commissioned 2024/25:

- The Impact of Substance misuse on young people and family
- Organ Trafficking Lunch & Learn Session by London Metropolitan Police
- Aftercare under S117
- Trauma Informed Practice
- Child Sexual Abuse Exploitation: Supervision and Management of Investigations
- Self Neglect & the Mental Capacity Act

A robust evaluation process is in place and this will further inform the NWL ICB training offer 2025/2026.

The NWL ICB training offer 2025/26 will include the core training offer - Level 3 training Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding adults and in addition two new courses; Domestic Abuse and Children Looked After.

The NWL ICB Safeguarding Team have developed a training package on domestic abuse specifically designed to meet the learning needs for Primary Care. The training package is a two hour online training package set at Level 3. The package was delivered in March 2025 and received positive feedback from attendees. There will be two further training sessions in May and July 2025.

The NWL ICB Designated Doctors and Nurses for Children Looked After have developed a new training course on Children Looked After and Care Leavers. This is a full day training delivered online and will be launched in 2025/26.

INTEGRATED CARE BOARD -

Provided by Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children Harrow & Brent



In addition, to the NWL ICB Training offer the Brent Named GP Safeguarding Children delivers borough based training and supervision sessions to meet the needs of Brent GP.

Supervision:

The ICB has commissioned safeguarding supervision training to ensure Designated Professionals and Named Professionals have the skills and competencies to deliver effective safeguarding supervision across the NHS workforce.

ICON - Preventing Abusive Head Trauma in Babies:

NWL ICB has completed the roll out of the ICON programme across all eight North West London boroughs. ICON is an effective evidence-based programme designed to provide information to parents and carers about infant crying, including how to cope, where to get support and so prevent abusive head trauma in babies.

In addition to the ICON training delivered to Health Providers an additional ICON session has been delivered a part of the LSCP training offer.

During 2025/26 work will be undertaken to audit the implementation of ICON across Health Providers.

CP-IS Phase 2:

NWL ICB has begun the implementation the Child Protection – Information Sharing Service (CP-IS) Phase 2 across North West London. This initiative further strengthens the safeguarding of children by enabling healthcare professionals to access real time crucial safeguarding information about children subject to a Child Protection Plan, Looked After Children, and unborn children with protection concerns.

The CP-IS system is a national safeguarding initiative that facilitates real-time data sharing between Local Authority Children's Social Care systems and health services across NHS England.. CP-IS Phase 1 is already in place and operating in unscheduled care settings. In Phase 2, access will be extended to scheduled and community care settings, employing a silent lookup read feature when accessed.

Training sessions for Primary Care, Acute and Community Providers have been delivered and a Task and Finish Group in place to further support implementation during 2025/26. Timeframe for full implementation is March 2026.

POLICE -

Provided by Detective Superintendent Public Protection NW BCU



NW-BCU is proud to be a statutory partner within the Brent Safeguarding Children's Partnership. The partnership gives us an opportunity to learn from each other, reflect and improve the service we deliver. Below is a brief snapshot of our contribution for this reporting year.

In 2024 the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) spent many months preparing and consulting with partners and young people on a new child strategy. Many youth and community groups across London were consulted. These included the police cadets in Brent. The ambition being to keep children in London Safe, build their trust and to bring to justice those who abuse and exploit them. In September 2024 the MPS set out its new five year Child Strategy. The basis is formed from 'Working Together 2023 and the Children's Act 1989/2004 which sets out the statutory responsibility of the Police, Local Authority and Health partners to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children and respond to their individual needs. A Child First approach ensures that we know all of the circumstances of children coming to notice giving priority to tackle discrimination, improve our relationship with children, strengthen links between neighbourhood teams and education settings and promoting routes into policing careers and volunteering. At the same time we are increasing our efforts to prevent and reduce crime committed by children.

In July 2024 NW-BCU took part in a Safeguarding Stop and search Project aiming to help professionals better understand the impact of stop and search of young people through taking a safeguarding approach. Ten local Stop and Search cases were reviewed from each borough seeking to evaluate whether information sharing with key partners following a stop and search helped discover other safeguarding opportunities which could result in better overall safeguarding outcomes.

To bring police and schools closer together NW-BCU focussed on Operation Encompass inviting Local schools to sign up to the scheme which shares information regarding domestic abuse incidents with a child's school so that they can receive silent support from teachers. It does not replace any safeguarding processes but is an additional means of supporting children who may be exposed to domestic abuse.

Moving in to this year, NW-BCU have agreed to work with 'Comfort Cases' a UK based registered Charity who kindly provide a free rucksack with suitable age and gender based items such as Pyjamas, a book, teddy bear for children taken into police protection.

On the theme of Police Protection, the MPS have reached out to Local Authorities to work together in a three month audit of police protection cases. This will enable data to review what is going well and what can be done better.

Further linking in with both the Child Strategy and the Serious Violence Duty, NW-BCU have begun a renewed more vigorous focus on knife crime which is prevalent amongst our young people. NW-BCU has a Detective Superintendent leading the approach working together with the Community Safety Partnership leads.

BRENT COUNCIL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE -

Provided by Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance



Brent Children and Young People's Services contributed to the three priorities of the Safeguarding Children Partnership. This includes:

- An active leadership role in shaping the Safeguarding Conference. This contributed to a well-received conference with a high level of attendance from both CYP and schools.
- Sharing data collection tools used by CYP to develop data collection in the Safeguarding Children Partnership, including use of Power BI dashboards.
- As part of communication engagement, CYP has been actively championing the voices and experiences of children and young people through the CYP Participation Strategy 2024-27 and the Brent Youth Strategy 2025-28.

Examples of additional activity to build upon the partnership response to safeguarding children during the period of review included:

- Developing Family Help through a redesign of the Early Help and Children's Social Care target operating model, the first phase of implementing the Department for Education Families First Partnership reform programme. This phase will bring Early Help practitioners and social workers into Family Support Teams that are better linked with Family Wellbeing Centres, providing better aligned support for families that prevents escalation of risk and need. This redesign will go live in June 2025.
- Coordinating a multi-agency Stop and Search audit as part of phase 4 of the London Innovation and Improvement Alliance (LIIA) led Stop and Search pilot. This involved multi-agency audits of 10 children who live in Brent to understand how we are working together to ensure children and young people who are stopped and searched are first seen through a safeguarding lens. The Brent report was shared with LIIA and the Safeguarding Children Forum to drive local recommendations.
- Leading the Schools Designated Safeguarding Lead Network with a focus on digital safety in the 2024/2025 school year. This included a well-attended conference in February 2025 looking at current online trends such as generative AI and the impact on safeguarding in schools. The conference also focused on children's experiences of community safety, bringing children's lived experiences into cluster-based conversations with DSLs, community safety colleagues and police to make spaces safer for children.
- Continuing to drive a strong multi-agency response to extra-familial harm by coordinating multi-agency complex strategy meetings, peer mapping meetings and co-chairing the Exploitation, Violence and Vulnerability Panel.
- Further enhancing an adaptive training offer that identifies learning from serious cases and running reflective sessions to help practitioners learn from these situations and improve their practice.



A joint multi-agency training offer for Safeguarding Children's Partnership, and Safeguarding Adults Board in Brent.

The Learning and Development Sub-group

The group is led by two co-chairs, meets every two months. Members represent a range of agencies within the Safeguarding Children Partnership and Safeguarding Adults Board and provides a steer on the programme and new multi-agency courses.

It is important to recognise that the multi-agency safeguarding programme is not mandatory and is offered as an enhancement to all partners individual workforce training programmes.

Supporting the SCP and learning dissemination

The SCP's Case Review Group is providing a stronger link between learning from cases and the learning offer with a more effective thread between the SCP's case learning and the programme. A matrix is being developed to support mapping specific case learning with training and where possible, data is also used to provide context.

The SCP's key focus for the coming year is on online safety, this is being developed through a Task and Finish Group and will include multi-agency training on this complex area. This is reflective of increased engagement by partners in the learning and development offer in this and other trainings and includes the Police, education and designated safeguarding Health professionals.

In 2024-25 66% of those booked onto training provided by the London Safeguarding Children Partnership attended these (145 of 217, dependent upon accuracy of registration). Bookings were up on 2023-24, but attendance was down by 8%. We continue to promote this offer.

Evaluation, impact and attendance

The platform used for all the multiagency training currently includes a staged evaluation process:

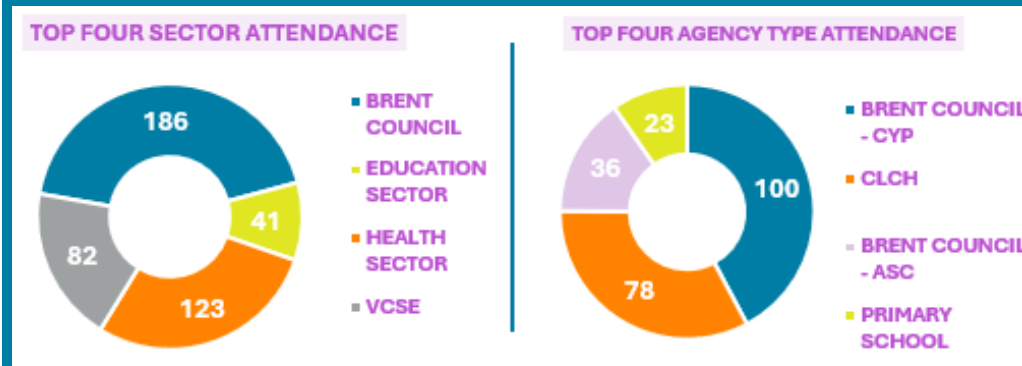
- Pre-course evaluation - This includes questions designed to measure their current knowledge and confidence.
- Post-course evaluation - Sent to attendees directly after a session which mirrors the initial evaluation
- Post-course Stage 2 evaluation and Line Manager evaluations - Both sent two months later to try and gauge impact/actions resulting from the training from attendee and management perspectives

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Whilst the pre-course evaluation is answered by the highest number of attendees, the remaining evaluation stage response rates require improvement. Those who do complete the post-course evaluation, regularly measure 20% increase in self reported subject matter knowledge. The gains in other areas, such as confidence in dealing with the subject matter show similar increases.

We are now focussed on improving the evaluation aspect in order to better understand impact and what attendees will go on to do differently as a result of attending the training. A Task and Finish group has been set up to review how we improve the dissemination of learning and better measure the impact of the learning and development programme.



There has been some success with reaching voluntary organisations, which the 2024 conference highlighted as important partners in safeguarding referrals and support.

The attendance by different key sectors is notable for its difference and we are working with those agencies to better understand this, their needs, offers and our offer to identify barriers, duplication and gaps.

Forward plan

For 2025/26 we plan to focus on:

- Strengthening the dissemination of learning via links to strategic priorities and learning from reviews
- Increase the number of unique topic sessions offered
- Balancing the offer to equally service children and adults partnership training needs
- Increasing the range of agencies attending
- Increasing attendance and reducing no shows
- Better understanding of impact
- Increasing the number of shorter sessions to aid attendance and monitoring this.

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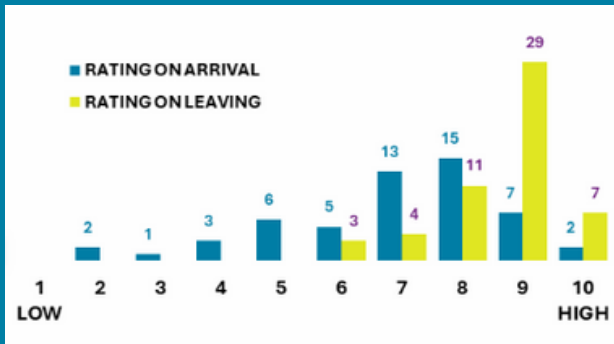


Brent Safeguarding Partnerships Joint Conference

In December 2024, Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) and the Brent Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) came together to host a joint safeguarding conference for the first time, with the aim of bringing together professionals from both sectors to address safeguarding across all age groups.

The conference was attended by 155 delegates representing a broad range of statutory and community organisations. A deliberate decision was made to adopt an interactive format that prioritised active participation. Instead of traditional keynote speeches, attendees engaged in multi-agency table discussions centred around a case study. This approach proved to be extremely effective.

Each table had a facilitator who guided the discussions. Participants were asked to log their insights, decisions, learning, and actions onto a web-based platform throughout the day. This provided real-time, anonymised feedback visible to all attendees on a main screen. The case was presented in stages to the multi-agency groups, allowing participants to gradually understand and assess the complexities of a multi-generational family, their diverse needs, and the appropriate responses and support that agencies should provide in similar situations.



Attendees were asked to rate their knowledge of effective multi-agency safeguarding when they arrived, and again at the end of the conference: (1 = Low Knowledge 10 = High Knowledge).

When asked, 31% of attendees stated that the conference would have some positive impact on their confidence working with other agencies.

69% said the impact would be significant.

51% of attendees identified working through the case scenario as the most valuable aspect of the day.

The evaluations received from participants were overwhelmingly positive. One key indicator of success we aimed for was a "noisy room", a sign of active engagement. This goal was clearly achieved, as attendees were deeply involved in debate and discussion throughout the event.

Here are a few representative comments shared by participants about their experience:

'The idea of multi-agency working on each table was fantastic. Discussion was effective, so much constructive feedback came forward'

'I have a clearer path/route identified for progressing multi-agency working which I will share with the team'

'This conference has significantly raised my awareness of how much support is out there and how to locate it'

Over the next year Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership will prioritise the below key areas of focus:



On Line Safety - In response to increased professional experiences from SCP agencies and the fast-paced national landscape, the BSCP will be implementing a Task and Finish group to drive a fixed term workstream around Online Safety and AI for young people in Brent.



Developing data collection, use and analysis. - Design and embed the audit platform to support quality assurance, including the Section 11 audit. Strengthen the Multiagency audit data gathering to support insights and enhance a systematic approach.



Capturing the Voice of Young People - The recruitment of Young Scrutineers to be representative at DSP group meetings in addition to various BSCP Task and Finish Groups



Neurodiversity - To focus on Autistic Spectrum Disorder, early identification and the safeguarding impact. In particular females and 'masking' behaviours.



Transitional Safeguarding- To collaborate with the SAB and relevant agencies to focus on the effectiveness of transitional safeguarding in Brent.

We thank our partners for their continued support in our efforts to improve safeguarding practice and procedures in Brent