Waltham Forest Safeguarding Children Board

Annual Report

April 2018 – March 2019
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Message from the Independent Chair
Dave Peplow

I am pleased to introduce the Waltham Forest Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report covering April 2018 to March 2019. This report sets out the work of The Board and its understanding of the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements across Waltham Forest and aims to give people who live and work in the borough a greater understanding of how agencies work together and individually to keep children safe from harm and abuse.

Being able to have frank and strong discussions has been vital in keeping our safeguarding system as strong as possible as well as making sure we have a coordinated approach across all our strategic boards.

Highlights this year included the development and publication of our Safeguarding Adolescents Practice Guide and delivering a neglect workshop to help with our understanding of the challenges and barriers for practitioners working with neglect more detail about these and progress against our other priorities can be found within the report.

As well as keeping a focus on the priority areas of work identified by the partnership we have been continuing to work towards implementation of our new arrangements which are as a result of a change in legislation. These changes will happen in the financial year 2019 to 2020.

I would like to thank all the Board staff, for their continued support in the smooth functioning of the WFSCB. I would also like to thank members of the Board and all the frontline practitioners and managers for their commitment, hard work and effort in keeping our children and young people safe.

Introduction

Purpose of this report

During the time period covering this report, 2018 to 2019 the Children Act 2004 requires Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs / “The Board”) to ensure that local children are safe, and that agencies work together to promote children’s welfare. The Board has a statutory duty to prepare an annual report on its findings of safeguarding arrangements in its area:

“The chair of the LSCB must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. The annual report should be published in relation to the preceding financial year and should fit with local agencies’ planning, commissioning and budget cycles.”

This annual report provides details of our Strategic Priority Action Plans for 2017-2019 as of 31 March 2019. It illustrates how effective the WFSCB has been over 2018/19, outlines how its partners have contributed to the work of the Board to promote effective child safeguarding and provides details of learning from audits and commissioned Serious Case Reviews (SCRs).

In writing this report, contributions were sought directly from board members, chairs of sub-groups and other relevant partnerships. The report draws heavily on numerous reports presented to The Board and its sub-groups during the year.
About Waltham Forest

If the population of under 25s in Waltham Forest was reduced to a village of precisely 100 young people, with all existing ratios remaining the same, the demographics would look something like this*:

Demographics

- **24** Asian/Asian British
- **20** Black/Black British
- **11** Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Group
- **6** Other Ethnic Group
- **16** Other White
- **23** White British/Irish
- **48** Girls
- **52** Boys

- **25** Aged 0-4
- **22** Aged 5-9
- **18** Aged 10-14
- **18** Aged 15-19
- **16** Aged 20-24

Locality

- **Chingford**
- **Leyton**
- **Leytonstone**
- **Walthamstow**

Wellbeing

- **36** Live in areas ranked in the 20% most deprived in England (aged 0-16 yrs)
- **39** Children living in poverty
- **5** Looked after or vulnerable children (includes care leavers, children in need and those on child protection plans)
- **2** Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (up to 25 yrs)
- **1** Hospital admissions for injuries (0-14 yrs)

Education settings

- **1** State funded nursery
- **58** State funded primary school
- **35** State funded secondary school
- **2** State funded special school

If Waltham Forest was a village of 100 children and young people...

- **5** Independent school
- **>1** Pupil Referral Unit

The picture of safeguarding in Waltham Forest

- **5605** requests for support or protection from Police
- **2623** requests for support or protection from Health
- **479** children cases that were known to be involved in cases heard at MARAC**
- **723** successful outcomes for Troubled Families
- **3822** referrals to Children’s Social Care
- **12.9%** of re-referrals to Children’s Social Care
- **91%** Children & Family Assessments completed within 45 days
- **226** children subject to a child protection (CP) plan
- **280** average days a child has a CP plan (for plans ended in year)
- **15.6%** of children becoming subject to a second or subsequent CP plan
- **99.5%** of children subject to a child protection plan whose cases have been reviewed in time
- **294** children missing from home during the year
- **347** children missing from care during the year
- **47** children ceased to be looked after due to returning to live with parents or relatives with parental responsibility
- **10** young people ceased to be looked after due to receiving a custodial sentence
- **42** Looked after children who were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children
- **69%** of previously looked after children aged 18-21 who are now in employment, education or training

* Data for this figure obtained from various sources and is provided an overview
** It is likely that there will be duplicate children in this figure as the same cases are discussed at multiple MARAC meetings during the year
**About the Waltham Forest Safeguarding Children Board**

Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) continue to be a statutory requirement for ensuring and monitoring the effectiveness of local agencies that provide services for children up to the age of eighteen.

The Waltham Forest Safeguarding Children Board (WFSCB) is the key statutory body overseeing multi-agency child safeguarding arrangements across the Borough and has a range of roles scrutinising and challenging local safeguarding practice. The WFSCB follows guidance from LSCB Regulations 2006, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, and in accordance with the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004.

The WFSCB works with partner agencies to ensure that all local children's agencies within Waltham Forest work together effectively for the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. It is a partnership of statutory and voluntary sector partners as well as lay members and for the period of this annual review, has been chaired by an Independent Chair person. These functions are carried out through the full board and its priorities and activities that are outlined throughout this report.

In Waltham Forest all agencies have committed to taking a Think Family approach. Think Family is about recognising that families are complex systems and family means different things to different people and can include friends, community members etc. It is important to learn from families what family means to them. In order to make changes that are effective and long lasting this needs to be done with the family as a whole in order to maximise change. Families are individual and will have their own culture and ways of working.

**Governance and Membership**

The WFSCB reports to the Strategic Partnerships Executive that is made up of key senior agency representatives. The Board is supported by the WFSCB Business Management Group (BMG) and meets six weeks before every WFSCB meeting. For each priority of the WFSCB there is a regular subgroup that manages the relevant action plans and progress on these are reported to the Board via BMG.

The full Waltham Forest Safeguarding Children Board met on a quarterly basis during 2018/19, with one extraordinary meeting taking place in June.

We have the benefit of Lay Members on the Board, who bring a resident and community perspective to the work. At each meeting all members provide feedback about how they felt the meeting went and this is used to improve and develop how the Board works.

“Good progress is being made to making the meeting child centred and ensuring all elements of the group contribute.”

Member feedback from WFSCB 20 April 2018

“I was impressed throughout with the expertise and commitment of the WFSCB members that I met, and the professionalism of the organisation and management of the WFSCB. Many thanks for providing me with this opportunity.”

Sarah, Lay Member from June 2017 to May 2019
The Strategic Partnership Unit provides joined up support across the four strategic boards; Waltham Forest Safeguarding Adults Board, SafetyNet, Health and Wellbeing Board and Waltham Forest Safeguarding Children Board. The unit provides policy support and strategic planning to all the boards and identifies opportunities to undertake cross-cutting work across more than one board with the aim of reducing duplication and increasing effectiveness and efficiency to improve outcomes for residents.

Examples of cross cutting work include the Learning and Improving Practice Forum which oversees multi-agency audit activity, multi-agency training and disseminating of learning from local learning reviews and statutory reviews. We also have the One Panel that ensures we have a Think Family approach to our review work that enhances our learning.

### Resources and Funding

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<td>Clinical Commissioning Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>North East London Foundation Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barts Health NHS Trust</td>
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<td>Police - nationally agreed</td>
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<td>CAFCASS</td>
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<table>
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<th>Expenditure</th>
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<td>Salaries for Chairs 18/19</td>
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<td>Running costs, printing and publishing, events, bitesize, advert for chairs, travel, etc.</td>
<td>£10,908</td>
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<td>Statutory reviews – SCR and SAR</td>
<td>£5,875</td>
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“Voice of child perfectly captured.” Member feedback from WFSCB 1 March 2019

“Really good example of holding agencies to account.” Member feedback from WFSCB 25 June 2018

“Very open discussions – Good recognising front line issues.” Member feedback from WFSCB 9 October 2018
Board Priorities

WFSCB cross-cutting priority: Adolescents Safeguarding

In Waltham Forest we recognise both the complexity of safeguarding adolescents and the need to have a dynamic strategic and operational response that is live to the changing landscape and can reflect, review and change as required. Adolescents Safeguarding includes child sexual exploitation (CSE), harmful sexual behaviour (HSB), child missing from education, home or care (CM/E), child criminal exploitation (CCE) and peer on peer abuse etc.

Our practice, language and understanding has evolved and developed significantly over the last 4 years alongside the emerging research and practice both locally and nationally which has helped shape how we think and practice locally.

The national spike in serious youth violence over the summer of 2018 and the growing awareness of the issue of children being criminally exploited has formed part of our reflection. In addition, we have benchmarked our approach and action plan against the recommendations of a recent neighbouring borough’s serious case review about a 14-year-old boy who was criminally exploited and was sadly murdered.

Adolescents safeguarding relates to other areas of work being addressed by the strategic boards. As a partnership we strive to manage these overlaps in a way that adds value to the work and avoids creating gaps.

What difference has the WFSCB’s Adolescents Safeguarding priority made to children and young people in Waltham Forest?

Improved the collective response to adolescent risk

❖ The Safeguarding Adolescents Practice Guide

As a partnership our approach is one of contextualised safeguarding together with a trauma informed approach. This approach requires practitioners to deliver a sophisticated and mature response. At the centre of our work to embed this approach is our recently locally developed practice guidance which provides the knowledge, tools and framework for practitioners. Importantly the guidance cross references with our existing partnership threshold document “the right conversation, right action, right time” to create a seamless approach to all children so we do not see some forms of abuse in isolation. Our local approach has been very much influenced by the work of Ms Understood and the University of Bedfordshire. The guidance was launched in June 2018 and aims to equip practitioners with up to date information on adolescent development, and to provide a consistent practice framework to improve our response to adolescents who experience risk of harm. The approach includes information on enforcement and support and recognises that safeguarding adolescents may involve different combinations of these elements at different times.

NELFT have embedded contextual safeguarding within their safeguarding children Level 3 foundation training and have also created new safeguarding level 3 training on Exploitation. This covers all forms (modern slavery, human trafficking, cuckooing, criminal exploitation, sexual exploitation etc.) across the lifetime, with a new NELFT policy to reflect this.
Produced bitesize video guide on safeguarding adolescents

Specialist posts in both Children’s Social Care and the Youth Justice Team. Specialist workers champion the guidance, support practitioners and some also hold a caseload of families with multiple needs. These appointments reflect our commitment to a balance between safeguarding and enforcement and promote the embedding of our trauma informed, contextualised safeguarding approach.

Identified and trained Safeguarding Adolescent leads in each agency. Alongside this, the specialist posts will lead on developing relationships with partners that have influence in the contexts and spaces that young people experience harm, for example work is underway with the franchise owner of a local fast food establishment which has been linked to instances of youth violence and exploitation to ensure that this is a safe space for young people to spend time.

CASE STUDY

The case study below evidences the practice guidance in action and how this approach improves outcomes for the young people we support.

A 17 year old young woman where there were concerns in relation to CSE. During a prolonged missing episode, she was found by police outside of London in possession of drugs and as a result was charged with possession with intent to supply. Through implementing a relationship based, trauma informed approach the social worker was able to support the young person to disclose her experience of both criminal and sexual exploitation. A National Referral Mechanism referral was completed due to the criminal exploitation being considered within Modern Slavery Legislation and with the positive outcome of the referral along with asserted advocacy from the social worker and wider partnership; the charges against the young women were discontinued, meaning she did not enter the criminal justice system which will impact on her outcomes as she enter adulthood. Police were able to pursue the perpetrators to disrupt the risk they posed. As a result, the young woman has been supported by the professional network to access specialist services to recover.

This case study highlights the impact of having a focus on the risks that adolescents are exposed to in contexts outside the family and responding with the right conversation and the right action.
Embedded Barnardo’s ‘Nightwatch Project’ into Waltham Forest by engaging with those working in the night time economy within the borough to provide them with information and training around various aspects of adolescent safeguarding. Partners include businesses such as late night pharmacies, off licences, taxi services fast food outlets and many others to support them to help to keep children and young people safe.

- Embedded adolescents safeguarding in to Daily Risk Management meetings and continued development of ‘super’ MASH of adults and children

Earlier intervention to prevent children being exploited

- Approximately 30 primary schools are signed up to the Advanced Lifeskills Resilience Programme that is being delivered over the course of 3 years. This includes 27 lessons for each participating student focusing on topics such as decision-making, risk taking behaviours, assertiveness, resisting peer pressure, healthy relationships and the harmful effects of substance and tobacco use.

- Delivered VAWG training and awareness sessions to 450 members of schools’ staff and 3,500 pupils through the Whole School Approach Project. The project also supported the #StopTheSilence campaign which saw a reach of over 12,000 on Twitter.

A local Youth Health Champion (from a project commissioned by Public Health) won a Royal Society of Public Health Award for their work on the #StopTheSilence campaign.

- Refreshed WFSCB webpage to provide effective signposting and information for young people and parents

The WFSCB provided constructive challenge to Barts Health in relation to children being placed on adult wards. This challenge resulted in all children now receiving one to one contact from the safeguarding team and a focused piece of work within Whipps Cross Hospital to capture the experiences of 16-17-year-olds who were admitted to adult wards between December 2018 and February 2019. This information has been collated and the findings shared internally and externally with partner agencies. This has enabled Whipps Cross Hospital to identify what is working well and what improvements can be made to improve the quality of the service for 16-17 year olds.
Addressed gaps in services
❖ A recovery Task and Finish Group was established to scope and develop pathways, exploring good practice elsewhere and mapping existing provision in Waltham Forest
❖ Waltham Forest CCG has been part of the successful procurement of an emotional support hub for child sexual abuse survivors across the North East London (NEL) CCG’s footprint. The new service is currently in the mobilisation phase and will adopt a trauma informed approach to children and families in contact with the service.

What’s next for Adolescents Safeguarding in 2019/20?
❖ A renewed emphasis on the community aspect of the VAWG Whole School Approach Project as well as ensuring boys are included
❖ Use the findings from the recovery task and finish group to inform next steps for addressing gaps
❖ A broader focus on transition
❖ Continue to embed the contextual safeguarding and trauma informed approach as set out in our Safeguarding Adolescents Practice Guide

WFSCB Priority: Neglect
Our ambition is to improve the safety and wellbeing of children in Waltham Forest by tackling child and adolescent neglect through adopting a Think Family approach across the partnership. This will ensure a holistic, needs-led, multi-generational approach in terms of practice and identification of neglect. We will achieve this through targeted intervention based on an understanding of the local profile of neglect as well as the quality of the practice provided to families to support them in order to identify and address gaps in service provision.

What difference has the WFSCB’s Neglect priority made to children and young people in Waltham Forest?

Services are better able to identify neglect through improved awareness
❖ Updated, refreshed and re-launched the Waltham Forest neglect resource
❖ Engaged the local Dental Outreach Team who now incorporate neglect, including the links between oral health and neglect into their work within the community, with parents, children and schools etc.
❖ IAPT (talking therapy) service now asks at the point of triage about other members of the household to ensure a think family approach as a result of challenge by neglect subgroup
❖ Ensured that neglect features and is referenced in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and is incorporated into the integrated commissioning work taking place locally

Children are recognised as ‘not brought’ rather than ‘did not attend’
❖ The neglect subgroup requested health agencies to review their polices and sought assurances about ‘was not brought’ policies in place. This has identified the strengths and also areas for each agency to work through.
The WFSCB have developed an understanding of the challenges and barriers for practitioners working with neglect
❖ Hosted a workshop that looked at challenges and barriers of neglect

Neglect Workshop

40 multi-disciplinary practitioners from 14 different agencies/services attended a workshop that was facilitated by 6 multi-agency representatives. Phil Raws from the Children’s Society spoke about adolescents experiencing neglect. Attendees used 2 local and 1 national case study to draw out the challenges around working with neglect.

“What multi-agency conversations were excellent! I learnt lots.”

“A range of practitioners and wealth of experience in the room”

“I wasn’t bombarded with information but was clearly given the essential contexts of neglect and being placed into groups forced cohesion”

❖ Identified and agreed new performance indicators that will assist with understanding the local picture of child neglect

What’s next for Neglect in 2019/20?
❖ Use the findings from neglect workshop to further improve practitioners’ understanding and awareness of neglect
❖ Use performance indicators to understand the local neglect profile
❖ Work more closely with schools to share good practice around neglect
❖ Carry out further work to promote and encourage use of the neglect resource
❖ Utilise surveys going out to school pupils to obtain an understanding of neglect from local children and young people

WFSCB Priority: Safeguarding in Settings

By settings we mean, those in addition to education that children use in their wider communities that should be subject to quality safeguarding standards. Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility and there remains a need to drive the work of this priority forward both in education as well as the community, voluntary and faith sector.

Our ambition is to secure a multi-agency approach to working with educational, community and faith settings in the safeguarding areas that cause most concern, establishing clear processes and communication systems whereby information can be shared regarding safeguarding issues and good practice.

What difference has the WFSCB’s Safeguarding in Settings priority made to children and young people in Waltham Forest?

Children subject to exclusions are better supported
❖ Significant progress was made in the delivery of the Fair Access Panel (FAP) that works to improve outcomes for excluded children. In the autumn term of 2018/2019, for the 81 cases presented to FAP it took an average 7 school days from FAP to pupil starting in an education provision. This was an improvement on the average of 11 school days in the previous year.

❖ A borough wide action plan was co-designed with schools in summer 2018 and implementation began in autumn term to reduce exclusions and persistent absence. Clear outcomes and output indicators are agreed to measure the progress made toward the aim of reducing pupil exclusion and persistent absence
A head teacher advisory group was set up in June 2018, with ten head teachers representing all education phases, from mainstream and academy schools. A Live persistent absence (PA) data tracker was developed to facilitate real time monitoring of progress of the persistent absence action plan. New reports allow schools to review the numbers of children who have entered the (PA) category, and those who are within 10 sessions of being (PA) on the year. A borough-wide attendance and absence protocol was written in consultation with head teachers and disseminated to all schools. The PA action plan was launched in October 2018 and more than 60 schools have engaged in training events to date.

Preliminary PA data for the first term of academic year 18/19 (through the live tracker) indicates that we are beginning to see a positive impact of the action plan. Current data indicates the PA rate has reduced from 12.03% to 10.68% from the same period academic year 17/18 to 18/19 respectively. This is representative of a 13% improvement for the first term.

**Increased awareness of safeguarding and the support available**

- Waltham Forest is coordinating the East London region (on behalf of 15 other local authorities) for a national Department for Education (DfE) pilot linked to the mapping and identification of Out of School Settings (OOSS). The purpose of the mapping out of school settings is to ascertain if existing legislation is sufficient to intervene or disrupt a setting where it may be necessary to protect the children and young people who access them.

- Refreshed WFSCB webpage to provide effective signposting and information for young people and parents

- Delivered 4 Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) sessions to over 50 multi-agency practitioners working with individuals/families in Waltham Forest around how to manage allegations against professionals or volunteers working with children

- Carried out section 11 audits with Early Years providers in addition to those done with all schools. This included moderating a number of settings

**Children and parents using sports settings are assured that they are compliant with safeguarding standards**

- Rolled out the ‘Feel Good’ Accreditation Scheme to sports providers and clubs that provides a kitemark of quality including appropriate safeguarding arrangements in place

**What next for Safeguarding in Settings in 2019/20?**

- Further improve awareness of safeguarding roles and responsibilities with the community, voluntary and faith sector
- Build a legacy for the Out of School Settings Project
- Work on improving outcomes around permanent exclusions
- Continue to build engagement with parents, schools and settings in the work of the group
Other cross cutting priorities

Violence against Women & Girls (VAWG)

This year we produced a new VAWG strategy and children and young people form part of the 7 priority areas. We recognise the impact of VAWG on children and young people through both direct and indirect experiences. We work together to provide services to meet the specific needs of children and young people and to support the partnership in early identification. Key achievements for 2018/19 are:

❖ Improved communication between policing and schools, Operation Encompass is a process by which “Key Adults” in schools and academies are informed that a child in Waltham Forest has been affected by domestic abuse

❖ Ask Me Project which is targeted towards people who come into contact with the local community at a grass roots level and empower them to raise awareness around VAWG and create a safe space for people to share their experiences

❖ Training surgeries and case guidance for professionals

❖ Public engagement, held stalls across the borough and delivered public workshops on VAWG in partnership with libraries, children and family centres and VCS organisations

❖ A ‘live system’ for safety planning high risk domestic abuse cases (i.e. MARAC cases) has been introduced. All MARAC cases are immediately referred into the Daily Risk Management Meeting (DRMM). At DRMM agencies share relevant information and agree clear action plans relating to victims, perpetrators and children, ensuring a whole family approach.

Mental Wellbeing

After starting work in late 2017, the Mental Wellbeing Task & Finish Group has completed a multi-agency audit, had its strategy approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board and developed a detailed partnership action plan, which prioritised communications via digital and London Borough of Culture teams, addressing wider determinants of mental wellbeing, including housing and poverty, early intervention and promote mental wellbeing in schools.

Key actions to date include:

❖ Multi-agency work on mental wellbeing as part of the London Borough of Culture, within schools, education, employment and housing, including a funding bid to the Department of Work & Pensions.

❖ Support the borough’s new Time to Change hub, a project that works with volunteers who have experienced mental ill-health to challenge stigma and discrimination.

❖ The development of key data indicators and a draft communications plan to support the Group’s work

Following the success of the ‘We Can Talk’ children and young people mental health training for staff in Barts Health on how to ask difficult questions and be more curious, further dates have been organised and a roll out of this to this to other hospitals such as Great Ormond Street Hospital is planned.
**Alcohol & Drugs**

The Alcohol & Drugs Steering Group has worked hard into 2018-19 to build on the findings from the multi-agency audit and needs assessment and to implement key aspects of the substance misuse strategy. Key focuses have been to focus on:

- Development of an improved dual diagnosis (mental health and alcohol and drugs) pathway and inclusion of access within new commissioning of services for people with learning disabilities.
- Increasing referrals to alcohol and drug treatment services, working closely to develop referral pathways with key partners against a background of a new services contract being designed. This has included closer work with Early Help, Adult Education, Employment and Anti-Social Behaviour Teams to identify issues and encourage outreach and training by CGL.

The Group’s action plan has continued to focus on some key target groups:

- Reducing drug and alcohol associated disruption in families, including prevention of future substance misuse as young people transition to adulthood
- Improved outcomes for adults with problematic substance use issues in addition to other complex needs
- Reduce the number of residents experiencing alcohol or drug-related exploitation
- Improve outcomes for couples who live with a combination of substance misuse, domestic violence and complex health or social needs.

**Modern Slavery**

With the focus of this year’s work on training and awareness partners committed to ensure frontline professionals were confident in spotting signs of modern slavery and knew how to act on it, for example, Barts Health ensured training across the hospital commenced in January. The site has engaged in public and staff awareness sessions which have been supported by the social workers. Adults Social Care are more able to identify victims and have a greater understanding of their statutory duties and best practice. Modern Slavery is highlighted as a type of abuse in the updated computer system Mosaic. This enables activity to be analysed and monitored to sharpen focus on areas of concern and those that need development. Regulatory services will be leading on the day-to-day work in relation to awareness, this ensure that services such as trading standard and licensing are able to identify signs of modern slavery within their daily activity and escalate as appropriate. After training professionals have fed back improved confidence in recognising and referring victims of modern slavery.

**Cuckooing**

The revised system of governance of cases and referrals going through MASH ensures a single approach for all agencies and will avoid duplication to ensure all relevant agencies are involved with each case. Adult Social Care staff have been actively involved in work with service users and partners which is helping to inform practice and shape roles in involved agencies such as housing and police. A multi-agency approach has been adopted by many teams including, the pre-eviction panel, homelessness services, the Advanced Mental Health Practitioner Team and the complex clinical case forum. This contributed to managing risks and ensuring the right outcomes are achieved for residents. The Police have delivered numerous awareness raising sessions internally with a focus on safeguarding the victim. Housing have ensured that information relating to cuckooing was issued in resident’s news and tweeted by the lead member for housing and have identified a small budget for emergency cases for temporary accommodation.
The impact of the Strategic Board Priorities on agencies

The work of the boards, including the WFSCB priorities is reliant on effectively working together as a partnership and in Waltham Forest, this is one of our greatest strengths.

Adults Social Care
The “Think Family” approach is at the heart of all activity and we are committed to a strong multi agency partnership. Case examples highlight effective multi agency working and the development of the Integrated Safeguarding Hub is an exciting key development in support this work.

Adults Social Care are key partners in ensuring the best health outcomes for families in the borough and we have effective systems and working relationships with other agencies and services throughout the borough to achieve this. There are examples of good practice in all these areas and we are building on work already carried out to define partnership roles and responsibilities related to providing advice and guidance, preventative work, care management and safeguarding awareness activity to ensure our response is proportionate and optimises the safety, wellbeing and over quality of life of residents.

Barts Health
Our maternity team have been heavily involved in delivering some of the Strategic Partnership priorities, including modern slavery and VAWG. We are proactive in providing the female genital mutilation (FGM) service and our Ruby team are heavily engaged with other VAWG work.

Bart’s Health Adolescent Nurse Specialist engaged in improving support to adolescent patients. We have recently developed patient surveys for our adolescent in- patients who to canvas their opinions on how safe they feel and how to improve our services.

The site has engaged in public and staff awareness sessions which has been supported by the social workers.

Community Rehabilitation Company
London CRC works solely with statutory adults subject to court-imposed sanctions as such our priorities are very much dictated by this caseload and its demographics. That said, much like the boards and their priorities we have seen changes to the demographics most notably the increase in youth violence as such we have seconded 2 officers to the London extremism and gangs team. We have also developed Subject matter expert roles in the areas of Serious Group Offending, Women, Domestic Abuse, Prevent and Safeguarding.
Children Social Care
The adolescent safeguarding priority has been particularly influential in improving safeguarding of adolescents and contributing to the practice improvement of supporting adolescents at particular risk in a contextual safeguarding context.

The neglect priority has improved the understanding of thresholds by the partnership and is beginning to show signs of earlier identification, however we continue to see referrals made for other reasons and the neglect issues identified once referred to our service during the assessment process, so more needs to be done to improve recognition of neglect as a safeguarding concern.

Connaught School
Work at local authority level such as regular meetings for school designated safeguarding leads and co-ordination of section 11 audit is providing schools with better support which must, in turn, improve practice at school level. There are fewer complaints amongst secondary heads regarding Safer Schools Officers which implies greater satisfaction with the service. The local authority BACME team focus on Persistent absence and Exclusion from school is resulting in lower persistent absence rates. As children missing education can be a sign of neglect and abuse, this implies that there is also a reduction in child neglect.

Early Help
The Adolescent Safeguarding and Gangs and Youth Violence priorities have led to the development of an enhanced service response to vulnerable adolescents through a recommissioned Gangs’ Prevention programme, development of the Adolescent at Risk worker role (supporting the Anti-Social Behaviour priority) and the continued roll out of the Safeguarding Adolescents Practice guide. This work has shaped the pledges and commitments of the work of the newly formed Violence Reduction Partnership (e.g. the Child First approach to the TREAT domain).

Safeguarding in Settings has overseen the Persistent Action plan that has contributed to the 17% reduction in Persistent Absence rates across primary and secondary schools in the borough. It has also provided greater partnership input (in terms of service champions) for the Harmful Sexual Behaviour service.

The VAWG priority has enabled funding to be secured in two key areas- IRIS for enhanced support from Primary Care and also the Safe and Together model that is being launched in July 2019.
Metropolitan Police Service
2018/19 has seen a profound restructuring of how the Metropolitan Police provide safeguarding services to our most vulnerable citizens. We have brought child protection, community safety and serious sexual offences under a single locally accountable strand, which has strengthened our ability to respond in a coordinated way to issues such as VAWG, CSE and gang related violence both within law-enforcement and across key partnerships. We believe that these changes have already helped to deliver on local objectives and this will continue to improve as they bed-in and we move into 2019/20.

National Probation Service (NPS)
Two probation officers undertook the adolescents at risk training and have disseminated this amongst the staff group. Where relevant this approach has impacted on our work with young adults in Waltham Forest. With NPS co-chairing some key panels such as the Gangs and Youth Violence sub Group this year, this has ensured that probation staff are able to manage risks presented and offer alternative interventions to our service users in a joined up multi-agency way.

NELFT
The 18/19 priorities for the Strategic Boards are mirrored in NELFT safeguarding strategy and priorities. This has led to new policies, changes to safeguarding training content, updated advice and support offered to frontline clinicians at safeguarding network meetings, safeguarding supervision and on the safeguarding advice service.

Parkside Primary School
The board priorities help to inform how we operate for example, we have undertaken staff training around neglect and we are looking at ways we can develop further in terms of prevention work prior to children attending secondary school. We now have a first aid trainer employed at the school who can train children and staff in basic first aid. We also have a member of staff trained in mental health first aid as we want to further develop our provision for children exhibiting mental health issues. In terms of prevention work we are looking at developing our curriculum in relation to drugs education, gangs and general violence.

Pinpoint
As a result of our involvement in strategic boards in 18/19, our organisation and our partner’s organisations are more in-tune with the scale, complexity and frequency of common issues that affect young people and their families, not just in the specific areas of the borough in which we operate, but the borough as a whole. Because of the information we are presented with through the partnership, we are also able to cross-reference what happens at a local level within a wider context of young people’s experiences of living in London and the UK.
The strategic boards have also offered us the opportunity to strengthen relationships with multi-agency partners so that we have a better appreciation of some of the challenges colleagues face. The impact of this on our operations in 18/19 is significant - we feel more in-tune with and in a better position to respond to safeguarding issues on the ground as a result of our involvement with the strategic boards.

Public Health
Public Health is actively involved in all board priorities. For example, discussions around the VAWG priority led to progress around funding the IRIS project to improve GP response and have informed the ongoing VAWG project within schools as part of the work of the Adolescents Safeguarding priority.

Waltham Forest College
Some of the key themes or safeguarding ‘hot topics’ have been introduced into the College tutorial framework and awareness is heightened during awareness campaigns such as Safer Learner Week and Protect Your Mate Week. An example of workshops that have been introduced linking to the Strategic Board priorities are gangs and FGM awareness.

WFCCG
Feedback gathered from children and young parents around oral health an annual fun day for looked after children has informed the content for future health promotion sessions. The first session on healthy relationships took place in January 2019 at the Care Leavers Hub.

Together with the Local Authority the CCG has funded the Young Ambassadors initiative for local schools and also hosted a parent’s forum in relation to mental health and wellbeing. This has resulted in the following changes.

The Child Protection Information Sharing (CPIS) system has been established across the Barts health footprint. There continues to be close working between the Local Authority, Barts Health, WFCCG and NHS England to ensure that children subject to child protection plans (including unborn children) or are looked after presenting in urgent care or unscheduled settings are notified to their originating Children’s Social Care Team.

Whitefield School
Our curriculum prioritises the development of communication and we work within ‘Positive Behaviour Support’ so that behaviours of concern are seen as evidence of anxiety and/or unmet needs which needs a positive response.

We include pupil views in our Person-Centred Reviews and act on issues raised. Our abler pupils sit on our Student Council and two attend Governing Body meetings where they share their views.
Key activities of the Waltham Forest Safeguarding Children Board

Hearing the voices of our young people

*How do agencies ensure voice of the child is central to all they do?*

**Adults Social Care**

The “Think Family” approach is embedded into Adult Social Care ensuring the voice of children and adults is central. Moreover, our local systems highlight the need for practitioners to consider risks to children, carers and any others, providing guidance on what action to take as required.

**Barts Health**

Bart’s Health has the youth empowerment group which is very active. The group is involved in service changes, staff recruitment and recently helped design a feedback survey for 17 and 18 year olds.

**CAFCASS**

CAFCASS funds the running and operation of the Family Justice Young People’s board (FJYPB). This is a group of over 50 children and young people aged between seven and 25 years old who live across England and Wales. All members have either had direct experience of the family justice system or have an interest in children’s rights and the family courts. The FJYPB promotes the voice of children and young people that experience family breakdown including those children and young people who are involved in family court proceedings. Court reports by CAFCASS are enhanced by using the child’s own words, resulting in the powerful voice of children informing recommendations to the court.

CAFCASS has a formal complaint/feedback process for children and young people in place allowing them to tell us what has gone well or if they are happy about the service we provided.

**Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)**

London CRC works with statutory service users over the age of 18 and as such we do not generally have direct contact with the children of service users. Nonetheless, safeguarding practice is integral to our work and where concerns may be present we rely on partnership working with children’s services and the MASH.

**Children Social Care**

Our internal audit programme judges the evidence of the child lived experience in all case audited. We also complete service user feedback with parents and carers and have a dedicated voice and influence service to ensure children have a voice. We also include children in our interview panels for all posts. Findings from this activity are reported monthly and annually through our quality assurance reports and actions agreed to address areas of concerns or take forward ideas shared by service users.

**Connaught School**

All secondary school have ‘School Council’ type bodies and will promote student voice within their individual school. Individual schools join other organisations which enable young people an opportunity to have their views listened to eg
Citizens UK (Connaught and Leyton 6th form), Youth Health Champions, Waltham Forest Mental Health Youth Summit and Big Youth Conversation.

**Early Help**
Early Help has two main processes for capturing the voice of the child; through the Young Advisors and through the Voices in Partnership (VIP) group in the Youth Offending Service. These groups have heavily influenced the Big Youth Conversation and have being at the centre of the development of the Violence Reduction Partnership. The groups have been instrumental in the successful commissioning of StreetBase, the new peer to peer outreach service funded by the Young Londoners fund. They have also led the campaign against Persistent Absence from school, sat on a range of advisory boards at the Greater London Authority, Youth Justice Board and Children’s Rights commission. Young People sit on all interviews in the Youth Offending Service and have recently produced a report on the safety within Young Offender Institutes.

**Metropolitan Police Service**
Children and vulnerable adults who are the victims of crime are interviewed by specially trained officers and where appropriate, with the assistance of independent intermediaries and appropriate adults whose role it is to facilitate communication and ensure that the voice of the child or of the vulnerable service user is heard and fully considered.

The needs and wishes of children and vulnerable adults who are victims of crime are at the heart to our investigations and of the criminal justice process. Only in exceptional circumstance, in cases of overwhelming public interest would a prosecution be considered without the informed consent of such a victim. Children and vulnerable adults who come to notice in the course of all aspects of police business are recorded on the “Merlin” database and information shared with partners through our hubs to deliver positive safeguarding outcomes.

**National Probation Service**
We continue to recognise and incorporate ‘The Voice of the Child’ wherever applicable in Pre-Sentence Reports and risk assessment processes.

Throughout the panels and meetings, our staff continue to incorporate child and adult safeguarding considerations. The voice and views of victims are part of release planning and licence conditions where appropriate for our service users being released from prison.

**NELFT**
The importance of the voice of the child being at the centre of all we do is discussed at safeguarding children supervision, is included in safeguarding children training and also questioned when discussing concerns on the safeguarding advice service by both the adult and children safeguarding team, as a Think Family approach. Consent is obtained and recorded for all children and young people who demonstrate competency to consent to treatment and attend appointments independently. Children and young person complaints leaflet is widely available and is also in an easy to read format as is information relating to services. Children and Young People are consulted on through a feedback process about the treatment that they received and this information is used to shape the service going forward.
**Parkside School**
We have a pupil safeguarding policy in addition to a school one and we have set up a child friendly safeguarding section on the website. Pupils are surveyed at least annually in regards to their views on all aspects of school life. Pupil voice activities are run every morning by year 6 children and cover a variety of themes. This is pupil voice run by the pupils. We survey parents at least annually on all aspects of their child’s education. We send out the results and the actions we have taken or are going to take as a result of parental views. We hold regular coffee mornings where parents are invited to drop in. We operate an open-door policy where parents can normally drop in without a prior appointment.

**Pinpoint** - although we are a small entity, our offerings are continually shaped and where possible, steered by what young people and their families express to us that they want/need.

**Public Health**
Youth Mental Health Ambassadors programme kicked off this year, and they were involved in the commissioning of the Kooth, online mental health service for young people, as well as providing broader recommendations for commissioning of CAMHS services, and progress more broadly on children’s mental health and wellbeing.

**WFCCG**
The CCG has included service users, carers and their families in the service redesigning, planning and decision-making process. Service users are invited to attend the CAMHS Project Board meeting and this open two-way conversation about the service enables the benefits of co-production and partnership working to be tested. For example, Young Ambassadors were involved in selection process of a CAMHS digital programme. They are also involved in the priority setting for transformation plans and have identified ‘sibling support’ as one of the major priorities for Waltham Forest.

The CCG’s Communications and Engagement team has worked with local partner organisations (LBWF, Barts and NELFT) to produce a Children and Young person’s engagement toolkit for both professionals and, children and young people themselves. The WFCCG Communications Team used the content gathered and work done by everyone to create a very simple ‘toolkit’ to be hosted on the CCG’s website. This has now been approved by all involved in its development and it can be viewed here.

**Waltham Forest College** - The voice of the child and/or service user is at the centre of our safeguarding operations and incorporated and underpinned as a key theme within our Safeguarding Policy, which is person-centred and outdrive-driven.

**Whitefield School**
Our curriculum prioritises the development of communication and we work within ‘Positive Behaviour Support’ so that behaviours of concern are seen as evidence of anxiety and/or unmet needs which needs a positive response. We include pupil views in our Person-Centred Reviews and act on issues raised. Our abler pupils sit on our Student Council and two attend Governing Body meetings where they share their views.
Child Death

The Child Death Overview Panel’s (CDOP) role, functions, governance and operations are set out in Chapter 5 of the statutory guidance “Working Together to Safeguard Children”, 2018 in relation to the death of any child resident in the local authority.

Overview of 2018/19 child deaths in Waltham Forest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>31</th>
<th>Waltham Forest child deaths in 2018-19</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>An overall downward trend of child deaths in WF over 10 years, though increased over the past three years.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>29</th>
<th>Unexpected deaths</th>
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<td>29</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>65</th>
<th>Male deaths (50% births were male)</th>
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<td>65</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>52</th>
<th>Infant deaths</th>
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<td>52</td>
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</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>39</th>
<th>Neonatal split equally with genders</th>
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<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>32</th>
<th>Consanguineous parents from varied ethnic backgrounds.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Asian ethnicity over represented but small numbers.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No geographical differences identified</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>31</th>
<th>Cases reviewed</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>&lt;5 were considered potentially preventable</td>
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<tr>
<td>26%</td>
<td>Unexpected</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>63%</th>
<th>Had modifiable factors for children, mainly ≤ 4 years of age</th>
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<tr>
<th>74%</th>
<th>Expected The majority ≤ 1 year old, 48% had modifiable factors. All had chronic illness and/or acute/sudden onset of illness.</th>
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<tr>
<th>42%</th>
<th>Cause of death was chromosomal, genetic and congenital abnormalities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32%</td>
<td>Perinatal/neonatal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Action taken to embed learning

- Working with health agencies to improve access to healthcare for vulnerable people
- Acknowledging good practice
- Improving best practice: Records, referrals including father’s details and other household members
- Improving communication and information sharing across agencies/partners
- Voice of the parent influencing and directing learning within Barts health who have embedded the changes
- CDOP / eCDOP awareness / process:
- Assuring Health Visitor processes around unsafe sleeping practices; twin survival and next pregnancies, co-sleeping
- In hospitals: Antenatal care—identifying poor growth; consistency in patient care staff allocation
- Water safety leaflets continue to be distributed
Safeguarding for children who are electively home educated

A new Elective Home Education (EHE) protocol was agreed by the safeguarding in Settings group and fully embedded by April 2018. The new protocol ensured a more robust response to those families failing to engage with the Local Authority and also in those incidents whereby the education plan provided was assessed as unsuitable to meet the needs of the child. The EHE worker now issues School Attendance Orders for those children where parents/carers have consistently failed to engage with the Local Authority. School Attendance Orders are also issued when an education plan is assessed as unsuitable and the parent/carer then fails to improve the education provided following a review period. Part of the new protocol is also to offer a home visit as standard to every child who is EHE in order to physically see the child wherever possible. Finally, BACME have also worked with the Disability Enablement Service (DES) for children with Education, Health and Care Plans to put agreed procedures in place to safeguard and review EHE for this cohort of children to ensure that their needs are being met through EHE and if not, what measures need to be put in place to rectify this.

The implementation of the new protocol was recognised by Ofsted in the recent inspection of children services. The lead inspector for education feedback indicated that that he had chosen the most vulnerable EHE cases to review, that they had all had home visits undertaken and that he was particularly impressed that we don't hide behind the statutory limitations of the EHE framework. Overall, he reported that there was a strong improving performance in this area.

Work of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

The LADO and Safeguarding in Education (SiE) service has gone from strength to strength and continues to embed its reputation for responsive, supportive and strong safeguarding advice and support.

There were 519 requests into the service in 2018-19, a 44% growth of in-service requests. 426 service requests went to the LADO service. Compared to last year which was 365, this is an increase of 18.6%. When placed at the 2015-16 levels (49 referrals), we have increased contacts and referrals with the LADO service by 959% which shows the hard work undertaken by the service to raise awareness and safeguarding standards for those who work or volunteer with children in Waltham Forest to increase the safeguarding understanding.

With the rise in service contact, the need for increased resources has been recognised with a staffing increase that has enabled a more accessible response from the SiE team for early years, schools and colleges.

We are continually striving to find new ways of supporting colleagues to meet their statutory responsibilities and to target those responsible for safeguarding in sports, leisure and faith to build upon the development we have already begun.

“The management of allegations and concerns about adults who work with children is timely and well considered. Strong awareness-raising with partners has led to a continued increase in the contacts and referrals to the local authority designated officer. Actual and potential risks are identified well, with proportionate actions taken to protect children.” Ofsted Inspection 2019

The future for the LADO and Safeguarding in Education service provides opportunities for growth and development, and the team is excited to continue to deliver its exceptional service and contribute to keeping children safe.
Learning & improving practice

Learning & Improving Practice Forum
This forum oversees a multi-agency audit programme and reports to the WFSCB. The Learning and Improving Practice Forum oversees the multi-agency audit program as well as driving forward the effective dissemination and sharing of learning across the partnership in a variety of ways as outlined below.

Multi-Agency Audits

Modern Slavery
Modern Slavery is identified as a type of abuse or neglect in Safeguarding Adults and Child Protection procedures. To eliminate the risks of Modern Slavery within our local organisations and supply chain, agencies must ensure they have a coordinated response with defined roles and responsibilities.

Some key findings from this audit:
❖ All of adult’s cases involved adults were victims of domestic modern slavery and forced marriage was a common theme. The children’s cases were mainly related to county lines
❖ A key area for development was to ensure that every person is spoken to alone and have an independent translator if required.
❖ The think family approach and professional curiosity was not consistent in all the cases. In some of the cases outside factors in regard to extended family should have been considered and professionals missed opportunities to enquire further in medical appointments.
❖ Action was taken in all the adult’s cases to optimise the safety of the adult by partner agencies.

Practitioner Audit on Think Family and Multi-Agency Working
Waltham Forest promotes a Think Family approach, but a lack of the approach was present in previous audit and review work across the partnership. Further exploration of this was needed to understand further when and how this is working well and where it is not, what we need to do to improve it.

Some key findings from this audit:
Think Family approach is not consistent. There was a challenge for practitioners in ensuring that they were addressing the needs of both adults and children in the family in a consistent way which helped them both individually as well as impacting positively on the family as a whole

Practitioners were not always clear who the lead professional (LP) was in a case. There was also a lot of discussion and questions in the audit about what the role of LP means and what does it look like when there are both children and adult services involved in a case

Information sharing and communication across the multi-agency network working with a family was not as consistent as required and some practitioners felt there were barriers and blocks to sharing information effectively.
Application of the thresholds for children
The audit was to assess the level of understanding of thresholds across the partnership, to establish how well embedded the document was and to assess how it is being delivered in practice. One of the key aspects of the document is to promote quality conversations between practitioners as well as service users.

Some key findings from this audit:
❖ Good use of the TAF (team around the family) model and effective child focused and outcome plans to assist accountability and joint understanding of need and threshold application
❖ Lack of professional curiosity with some agencies leading to a limited understanding of the possible risks particularly around child sexual exploitation, gangs and grooming
❖ Positive application of child’s voice being at the centre of assessments and being the catalyst for shaping the intervention

What practitioners said about this audit:

“Multi-agency sharing information/understanding thresholds/family dynamic from different perspectives”

“A session of good brainstorming/professionals sharing ideas and information together/relaxed atmosphere/really interesting and interrogative”

“Interesting and informative having several agencies around the table – their angle!”

Sharing learning within the partnership
How have agencies shared learning that has come out of the partnership’s reviews and audits?

Adults Social Care
The 18/19 priorities and associated work, including learning from reviews and audits is shared and communicated to staff on an ongoing basis at training sessions, various strategic forums and management/team meetings.

Barts Health
Whipps Cross at Bart’s health holds 6 weekly safeguarding board meetings. Safeguarding performance compliance, learning from reviews and audits are shared together with updates from strategic partnership board priorities and updates.
CAFCASS
Attendance at the board meeting has enabled the sharing of information regarding relevant developments of the organisation and has allowed CAFCASS to understand developments and challenges within the local authority that might impact on CAFCASS work.

Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)
London CRC regular participates in case reviews to ensure the learning from any such reviews is disseminated. We have appointed five contracts and partnership managers across London. We also hold by monthly public protection boards in each area as a mechanism to ensure we capture any ongoing areas for improvement and good practice. It is the function of these boards to ensure any learning from partnership reviews is appropriately disseminated. Furthermore, London CRC is in the process of launching a new online learning platform in recognition that people learn differently and via this platform bitesize training will be developed for all staff.

Connaught School
As the Secondary representative on WFSCB, main points are fed back at the Secondary Heads meetings (every half term) and appropriate documents are circulated accordingly for example, the Private Fostering Annual Report.

Children’s Social Care
Learning is shared through managers forum and team meetings and specific areas used to inform decision making in individual case supervision.

Early Help
Learning is shared through team meetings, practice forums and individual case supervision. It also shapes our Training and Development Strategy.

Housing
Housing has previously and is always readily available to participate in audits and reviews and is a permanent member of many of the partnership panels including Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation Panel (MASE).

Metropolitan Police Service
We play an active role in review panels and audits and contribute the police perspective to reviews, either from local expertise or from our central Serious Case Review Group. We share our internal learning through these forums and ensure that learning across the partnerships is disseminated internally through our Safeguarding management team.

National Probation Service
There have been no specific actions for the NPS this year but learning from partnership audits is disseminated to staff and built into our quality of practice groups where applicable.

NELFT
This learning has been shared via monthly safeguarding summary reports, safeguarding supervision network meetings, safeguarding training, named professional team meetings, senior safeguarding meetings, safeguarding advisor team meetings and also on our learning review register.

Public Health
We have taken forward findings from audits into both substance misuse and mental health as well as acting on the learning from the Child Death Overview Panel.
Pinpoint - Through sharing resources, training opportunities and initiating conversations about topics that come out of partnership reviews and audits with colleagues, young people, their families and the wider community.

Waltham Forest College - The partnership reviews and audits have been a useful exercise to gauge how different professionals associated to the individual may perceive key information. This creates the greater urgency to ensure multi-agencies co-create a communicational link to ensure information transparency that lead to actions that are person-centred and outdrive-driven.

WFCCG
Findings from the SCR Kesandu were disseminated to GPs in a safeguarding workshop. The Named GP for safeguarding facilitated a conference on a number of topical areas such as online exploitation, domestic abuse, CSE through the use of forum theatre. Safeguarding updates are also included in monthly GP bulletins.

Whitefield School Learning has been shared with our Senior Leadership Team and with Directors through our safeguarding committee. Additionally, a safeguarding group for the special schools is being facilitated by Safeguarding in Education team and will provide a platform to share learning more widely.

Safe & Well Campaign
In June 2018 we ran this campaign to raise awareness of the Strategic Partnership Boards and their 17 priorities. We wanted frontline practitioners to understand how their work directly relates to the boards.

We coordinated a series of training and awareness events that related to the seventeen priorities of all four boards and circulated ‘spotlight’ emails that provided advice and signposting to different areas of practice:

- 14 events coordinated by Strategic Partnerships Unit and delivered to
- 350 people working/volunteering in Waltham Forest
- 11 partner led/internal events overall positive feedback
- 11 information/spotlight emails

In addition to raising awareness of the strategic board priorities, there was increased traffic to the Strategic Partnerships web pages, opportunities for agency introductions and networking and ultimately improvements to practice. The campaign was an overall success and exemplifies the strength and maturity of the partnership working in Waltham Forest.

“Great content. Look forward to training and reading the practice guide.”
Participant from Safeguarding Adolescents Practice Guide launch
The One Panel: statutory and local reviews

The One Panel consists of senior officers from different agencies including health, children social care, adult social care, community safety and police. It receives referrals on cases that may meet the criteria for a statutory review, such as a Serious Case Review, a Safeguarding Adults Review and a Domestic Homicide Review. All reviews take a Think Family approach and the latest SCR is an example of this. Panel members all think family much more and this is impacting on practice including the supervision they provide in their agency settings. Two statutory reviews were completed in 2018/19 as follows:

SCR for Fartuun & Halgaan
Two sisters were removed from school by their mother and taken to Somaliland. They were enrolled in a school where they were to be de-westernised. After being physically abused they contacted the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and with support from police and children social care in the UK they were safely returned to the UK.

SCR for Child A & B
In June 2018 Child B, aged 14 made contact with the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) and disclosed that neither he nor his older sister who was 16 years old at the time had ever been to school or received home schooling. Child B reported that he and his sibling were confined to the house by their parents and allowed out to the park only outside school hours. The children were told by their parents to hide when professionals visited the family home. Their mother had physical health issues as well as anxiety and panic attacks.

This case was very unusual for both Waltham Forest and nationally. The children were effectively hidden from agencies both physically and in terms of records, so agencies were not aware of their presence until child B contacted the NSPCC.
What’s next for 2019/20?

The coming year sees the roll out of new arrangements under Working Together 2018 and we as a Local Safeguarding Partnership will publish and implement these arrangements accordingly.

The whole partnership came together in February 2019 for a joined-up needs assessment and review of the priorities for the four strategic boards. Building on the success of the cross-cutting priorities from 2017 – 2019, ‘Violence and Exploitation’ was identified and agreed as overarching priority for all boards.

This will be embedded within the work we currently deliver. Waltham Forest Council’s Public Health approach to tackling violence includes working closely with all of our partners, and building a violence reduction partnership. Our four strands of curtail, treat, support and strengthen ensure that we view this as a joint approach. In April 2019, Waltham Forest brought together over 90 partners and agreed pledges to work together under the Violence Reduction Partnership to:

- Build resilience in primary school children and support transition to secondary through universal and targeted interventions
- Consistent safety and well-being curriculum and trauma-informed practice across WF schools and colleges for students, staff and parents
- Every partner organisation to embed trauma informed practice across WF
- Enhance safeguarding pathway for children involved in criminal exploitation

Appendix: Attendance at WFSCB

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partner agency/member</th>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>Q2</th>
<th>Q3</th>
<th>Q4</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>+++</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barts</td>
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<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAFCASS</td>
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<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Further education (college)</td>
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