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CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION SCRUTINY PANEL

**Monday, 18th December, 2023 at 7.00 pm in the Conference Room,
Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield, EN1 3XA**

Membership:

Councillors: Maria Alexandrou (Chair), Andrew Thorp (Vice-Chair), Gunes Akbulut, Mahym Bedekova, Nelly Gyosheva, Doris Jiagge, Ahmet Oykenner and Ruby Sampson

AGENDA

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Committee are invited to identify any disclosable pecuniary, other pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests relevant to the items on the agenda.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 6)

To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 30 October 2023.

4. CHILD EXPLOITATION (SEXUAL & CRIMINAL) AND MISSING CHILDREN (Pages 7 - 16)

To receive the report of Angela Bent, Head of Service, Practice Improvement & Partnerships and John Lawrence-Jones, Service Manager, Children's

Specialist Support.

5. UNIVERSAL PRIMARY FREE SCHOOL MEALS - UPDATE (Pages 17 - 20)

To receive the report of Peter Nathan, Director of Education.

6. WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24 (Pages 21 - 24)

To note the Children, Young People & Education Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2023/24.

7. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

To note the dates of future meetings as follows:

Monday 11 March 2024

All meetings will commence at 7:00pm and will be held in the Conference Room at the Civic Centre.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON MONDAY, 30TH OCTOBER, 2023

MEMBERS: Councillors Maria Alexandrou Chair), Andrew Thorp (Vice-Chair), Gunes Akbulut, Mahym Bedekova, Nelly Gyosheva, Doris Jiagge and Ruby Sampson

Officers:

Peter Nathan (Director of Education), Anne Stoker (Director of Education and Director of Children and Family Services), Bharat Ayer (Head of Safeguarding Partnerships), Neil Best (Head of Strategic Resourcing & Partnerships), Barbara Thurogood (Head of Special Educational Needs), Laura Martins (Head of Transformation & Complaints & Access to Information Services-Acting), Chloe Pettigrew, (Safeguarding Children Partnership Manager), Will Wraxall (Complaints, MEQs & Corporate Function Manager) and Stacey Gilmour (Governance & Scrutiny Officer).

Also Attending:

Matilda Ward (Enfield Youth Council Member)
Finley Willis (Enfield Youth Council Member)

Observing:

Sevgi Rifat (Lead Participation Worker)

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Abdul Abdullahi (Cabinet Member for Children's Services) and Cllr Ahmet Oykenner.

Apologies for lateness were received from Cllr Doris Jiagge and Chloe Pettigrew (Safeguarding Children Partnership Manager)

To accommodate for the late arrival of the officer presenting agenda item no: 4, the Chair agreed to amend the running order of the agenda, therefore agenda item no:5 was taken first. However, for clarity the minutes are shown in the order of the published agenda.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 March 2023 were **AGREED** subject to the following amendment:

- (i) Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Gunes Akbulut.

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3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were received:

Cllr Mahym Bedekova declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6 as her child is in receipt of an SEN Statement.

4. SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

Chloe Pettigrew, Safeguarding Children Partnership Manager introduced the report of the Executive Director – People, to note the activity of the Enfield Children's Safeguarding Partnership (ECSP) in 2022/23 and the priorities of the partnership for 2023/24.

Questions were invited from Members.

In response to Members' questions, clarification was provided in respect of Operation Engage, and details given regarding trauma informed practice.

Following questions from Members clarity was provided regarding the role of the Safeguarding Ambassadors, a group of Enfield young people who are working with the Safeguarding Children's Partnership to improve practice. They are part of Enfield Youth Service's Young Leaders programme and have been trained specifically on safeguarding and how to work with partners. The Ambassadors had met with the Detective Superintendent of the North Area BCU (Basic Command Unit) three times and discussed their experiences of the police. This led to the Police asking the Ambassadors to create a video outlining their experiences, so that it could be shared more widely across the force. This video will be made in 2023-24 and will be shared with the Panel Members once available.

Clarity was sought on the impact figures detailed on page 24 of the report and further information was provided.

In response to Members questions, clarification was provided on the Turnaround Project which is funded by the Youth Justice Board and delivered jointly with Enfield Youth Justice Service. The project was launched in December 2022 and the key aim of the project is to identify children at the cusp of offending and divert them from further involvement in offending through early intervention support.

The Panel agreed:

I. To note the Annual Report. Noting the report at Cabinet, Scrutiny and Council enables Enfield Council to demonstrate its commitment to safeguarding children and young people throughout the organisation. The report is a partnership document and as such is agreed at the Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive Group.

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II. Once signed off, a summary of the report will be circulated to the Panel Members.

Action: Bharat Ayer, Head of Safeguarding Partnerships.

5. ANNUAL CHILDREN'S STATUTORY COMPLAINTS REPORT

Laura Martins, Head of Transformation & Complaints & Access to Information Services (Acting) introduced the report which provided an insight into complaints received and upheld, identified themes in complaints, performance in responding promptly to complaints, and the actions proposed to improve experience for children and their families going forward. A new system had been implemented which had provided a better way of recording complaints and obtaining data

During 2022/23, Enfield Council received a total of 29 stage 1 Children's Social Care statutory complaints which is a decrease in volume of 9 complaints compared to the previous year. There were two stage 2 investigations and one stage 3 panel held.

Questions were invited from Members:

Members sought further clarification regarding the complaints data detailed in the report. Officers advised that 17% of complaints were fully upheld and 44% partially upheld. The addition of upheld statistics is a new aspect of the report facilitated by the new complaint management software.

In response to further questioning from Members, it was explained that 73% of stage one complaints were responded to within the statutory timescale, which is below the Council's target of 95%. The late responses were due to cases being particularly complex and requiring additional time to investigate.

In response to Members' concerns regarding targets not being met, Officers advised that in terms of learning, there had been delays when monitoring progress and handling escalations from first to second stages resulting in significant response delays. There were also opportunities to improve response quality and case recording. This learning has informed improvement actions which are now underway, and these actions are designed to improve response timeframes and case handling quality as well as reduce service and complaint related delays.

Following further questioning from Members, information was provided on the complaints process for each of the three stages.

In response to further concerns regarding Stage 2 complaints and the fact that no responses were provided on time nor in line with the response timeframe targets, Officers explained that this was due to resource issues in both the central complaints handling team and service area, as well as challenges securing external investigators due to lack of availability. However, action had been taken to address this issue and, following a concerted effort last year, a bigger pod of trained independent investigators had now been identified.

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The Panel agreed:

- I. To note the report

6. SEND PROVISION UPDATE

Peter Nathan, Director of Education introduced the report which provided an update on special educational need placements, current pressures, and activities to increase the number of places within Enfield and to reduce out of borough expenditure. The report also highlighted current and projected demand for SEND places, current provision both in-borough and out-of-borough and the related costs to the Council and sets out proposals for the introduction of large scale SEND provision.

Barbara Thurogood, Head of Special Educational Needs also provided an additional PowerPoint presentation, providing further information on SEN population, timeliness, increased provision, Delivering Better Value (DBV) Government initiative, opportunities, workstreams and the Change Programme.

Questions were invited from Members:

In response to questions about the Change Programme Officers explained in more detail the three-tier model for alternative provision which included targeted support in mainstream schools, time limited placements and transitional placements.

Further details were provided to Members on the proposed SEN projects within the Schools Capital Programme. This included information on Fern House School, Winchmore Secondary School, Swan Annexe and Oaktree School.

In response to Members' questions regarding the realistic timescales for the opening of the Portcullis Lodge site, Officers explained that the DfE will be responsible for design and construction of the new school building which is subject to further development work. Officers are supporting this process and the Council will be expected to fund early site preparation works and the costs of these works is currently being estimated. Other factors will also come into play such as ecological and access issues, however once planning has been finalised it is a good site for building on. The DfE have indicated that the Secretary of State will announce the successful academy trust in January 2024. Following a statutory consultation period pre-start work will begin between the Trust and the DfE to develop proposals for the new school but it is hoped that it will be completed in 2026, with September 2026 being a more realistic date. It was hoped that there would be an update on the build completion projection in December which would then be shared with the Panel.

Action: Neil Best, Head of Strategic Resourcing & Partnerships.

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Further discussions took place on prospective projects. A second application to the DfE SEND Wave for provision at Addison House in Southgate was unsuccessful as funding any works through allocated DfE grant funding was not possible given commitments within the agreed Schools Capital Programme. The option of the Council funding this development directly through borrowing has also been deemed unaffordable given the Council's financial position and other priorities. A review of the Capital Programme is now underway to ascertain whether funds can now be made available to bring forward a project at Addison House. The revised School Capital Programme is to be presented to Cabinet in December.

Members sought clarification on the DfE Delivering Better Value Programme (DVB) and Officers provided further information. Participation in the programme enables local authorities to apply for a £1m grant to deliver innovative programmes to support children and young people and to optimise their financial position. Enfield have been successful in their application to the DfE and have been awarded the grant to deliver six strands.

In respect of the introduction of a new SEN support pathway for early years SEND children, it was confirmed that this will mean that EHCPs will no longer be necessary for needs to be met. This change will result in children receiving more timely and appropriate support and it is expected that by 2024/25, the number of Early Years EHCPs will decrease by 5-10%. The pathway will also be expanded to allow children to access Speech and Language Therapy without an EHCP, and it is anticipated that this expansion will significantly reduce the number of EHCPs that will need to be issued. This change will not only decrease the number of EHCPs required but also ensure that support can be provided more promptly.

In response to questions from Members regarding the Change Programme Partnership Officers advised that this is a new government initiative which is a response to the SEND Green Paper. The plan sets out a clear roadmap to transform the SEND and AP system and make it sustainable over the long term. Thirty-one local authorities have been selected by ministers to pilot key SEND reforms through a £70 million 'change programme'. Barnet Local Authority will be the lead supported by Enfield, Camden, and Islington. This will allow for a more consistent approach and all boroughs will have the same offer, making the system less confusing for parents, therefore enabling them to make informed choices for their children and young people.

The Chair thanked Officers for a very thorough report.

The panel agreed:

- I. To note the report
- II. That a build completion projection update for Portcullis Lodge be circulated to the Panel once this information became available.

7. WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

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NOTED the Children, Young People & Education Scrutiny Panel Work Programme for 2023/24.

AGREED to move the planned agenda item on Falling School Rolls to the meeting on 11 March 2024. This would avoid the need for an additional meeting of the panel.

8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

NOTED the dates of future meetings as follows:

Monday 18 December 2023

Monday 11 March 2024

The meeting ended at 8:55pm



London Borough of Enfield

Report Title	Child Exploitation (Sexual and Criminal) and Missing Children
Report to	Children, Young People & Education Scrutiny Panel
Date of Meeting	18.12.23
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Executive Director / Director	Anne Stoker (Director – Children & Family Services) Tony Theodoulou (Executive Director – People)
Report Author	Angela Bent – Head of Practice Improvement John Lawrence-Jones – Service Manager Children Specialist Service
Ward(s) affected	All
Classification	Part 1 Public
Reason for exemption	

Purpose of Report

1. To provide an update on how Children and Family Services responds to child exploitation (sexual and criminal) and missing children.

Main Considerations for the Panel

Enfield's response to child exploitation and missing

Adolescent Safeguarding Teams

2. The two Adolescent Safeguarding Teams (AST) which sit within the Children's Specialist Support Service under the Child Protection and Vulnerable Children service were configured in 2021 as part of a service redesign focused on the Council's response to extra-familial risk and 'edge of care' family breakdown concerns. The aim was to have a more cohesive structure that was better placed to respond holistically to the various facets of extra-familial risk, which are often intertwined. The aim being to have a more holistic response to young people that is aligned to research findings and best practice principles. Each of the two

teams consists of a team manager, an advanced practitioner, four social workers, and a youth worker.

3. The ASTs undertake a range of interventions with young people. These are often facilitated by the young person's allocated social worker, though both teams also have a youth worker who can deliver structured sessions of direct work to support the case-holder. Interventions delivered include the following:
 - Direct work on topics, such as substance misuse, safe relationships, managing emotions, safe scripts, red lines, value cards, identity/presentation in the community.
 - Family group conferences to help families to develop their own solutions.
 - Trauma-informed parenting sessions delivered jointly with the Youth Justice Service - considering historical experiences of trauma and how these may impact on the young person's current presenting behaviours to support attuned parenting.
 - Joint safety planning with the Youth Justice Service to ensure that practical, immediate keep safe measures are as robust as possible.
 - Joint sessions with Vanguard mentors around extra-familial harm. Vanguard is a therapeutic support service for young people at risk of and affected by violence aged up to 25.
 - Accessing grant provision - for example, Buttle UK provided gym membership, stationery for school, money for a family day out, and a stab-proof vest for a young person.
 - Referrals to partner agencies, including those in the voluntary sector to support casework and to promote robust exit plans – for example Sister System who offer a mentoring and befriending service to girls who are in care or on the edge of care, Family Based Solutions offer intensive sessions with the whole families to prevent family breakdown, St Giles Trust offer youth mentors and direct work to young people who have been a victim of serious youth violence, HEART CAMHS who work with children looked after to support their mental wellbeing.
4. Two case examples have been detailed in the [appendices](#) to illustrate the impact of such interventions in practice.

Contextual Safeguarding Hub

5. The Contextual Safeguarding Hub was also launched in 2021. As well as having a lead role for missing issues, including the offer of return home interviews, the Hub provide support for staff across Children and Family Services around exploitation and missing children. This includes availability for individual case consultations, attending key meetings, like strategy discussions, providing training, and contributing to operational and strategic multi-agency working through participation with the Safeguarding Adolescents from Exploitation (SAFE) panel and Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) panel. Additionally, the Hub have a lead role in facilitating the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) pilot panel.
6. The Hub's establishment is one practice lead, two missing co-ordinators (one full time and one half time), one half time triage and multi-agency co-ordinator, and one half time co-ordinator for the NRM panel.

7. The Hub's practice lead regularly facilitates consultations to support practitioners and undertook 54 between April and September this year. The vast majority are undertaken with regard to young people that are open to children's social care and have an allocated social worker, though some consultations have also been undertaken with caseworkers from the Youth Justice Service and practitioners from Early Help.
8. The practice lead has developed tools that practitioners can use within interventions with young people. For example, around strengths-based rapport building, healthy relationships and sexual consent work.
9. The practice lead has also facilitated mapping exercises to build on existing intelligence by setting out networks of alliances and conflicts between different groups and individual young people in Enfield. There were three mapping meetings of this kind between April and September this year. This has made a valuable contribution to strategic discussions and planning within the MACE meeting – for example, when several incidents of youth violence occurred within a short timeframe, and all had links to a particular educational setting.
10. The missing co-ordinators have a lead role for offering and facilitating return home interviews when children are found after being reported as missing from home or from care. Additionally, the Hub have developed a pathway for the most vulnerable young people who are missing and at risk of extra-familial harm. In this context, the Hub cross reference children who have exploitation markers, using data from the SAFE and MACE panels, with the children who go missing most regularly to identify those who would benefit from additional support. The missing children co-ordinators are proactive in contacting these children before they go missing to build trust, rapport, and confidence in the service.
11. A new centralised process for recording missing episodes has been developed and will be implemented in December 2023. It is anticipated that this new approach will improve standards around recording missing episodes and offering return home interviews in a timely fashion. This will also enable more comprehensive management oversight of this cohort of young people, which in turn will facilitate scrutiny of the efficacy of the new approach.

Other targeted response offer

12. Within the Youth Development Service, the contextual safeguarding youth workers provide wellbeing workshops to schools to raise awareness of different types of extra-familial harm. These include lunchtime clubs, pop-up stalls, and after-school outreach support. These events are generally well attended - for example, the sessions at Bishops Stopford School regularly have 25-30 young people in attendance.
13. The service also provides a range of other interventions that include support around extra-familial exploitation risks. These include community outreach work, such as youth workers focusing on 'hotspot areas', which are identified as having high rates of youth anti-social behaviour and/or crime. Youth workers walk around these locations, speaking to young people they come across, exploring any worries, and signposting them to positive activities. Similarly, the Youth Bus

is a mobile provision that enables young people to access information, advice and guidance, free activities, advocacy, and early help support on their doorstep. 1274 young people accessed the outreach service between June and September this year, which demonstrates extensive reach. Additionally, this was an increase of 341 on the previous quarter when 933 young people accessed the service, which suggests that the impact of this service provision is increasing.

14. Early Help, Youth and Community safety offer programmes, such as the Turnaround project in Early Help that works to divert young people away from criminality and entering the youth justice, Operation engage aimed to reduce serious youth violence, Project Dove and the comprehensive youth offer including youth clubs and summer university support our response to tackle exploitation and missing.
15. For those young people aged 18+, who are no longer entitled to a service from children service, but extra familiar risk still a concern, a transitional safeguarding response include support from Precious Moments who provide mentoring and advocacy for young people.
16. Plans are in place to strengthen how services capture feedback from young people and their families within children's social care and the Youth Development Service, to ensure that service user perspectives are understood and factored into service development considerations.

Multi-agency panels

17. The Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) panel and the SAFE Panel are the partnership forums for safeguarding children and young people at risk of extra familial harm. MACE and the SAFE panel contribute to the wider Enfield contextual (extra familial) safeguarding approach. Both panels meet monthly and are chaired jointly by the police and children's social care
18. Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Meeting (MACE) The Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Meeting (MACE) has strategic oversight of all exploitation cases, information, intelligence and activity across each LA area and across BCU boundaries. MACE uses Victim, offender, location, themes (VOLT) mnemonic and works in line with the Pan London guidance.
19. The main purpose of the SAFE panel is to be a multi-agency panel that maintains operational/casework oversight of children and young people, aged up to 18, and where appropriate, care leavers or those on an Education, Health and Care Plan (up to age 25), at risk of significant harm through exploitation.
20. The Vulnerable Young People group, is a subgroup of the Enfield Safeguarding Partnership, this year developed the Safeguarding Adolescent Strategy 2023-26 which has 4 key priorities; a) Embed a contextual safeguarding approach across the partnership, b) Deliver innovative and evidence based prevention and early intervention activities, c) Provide effective protection and support at the right place and the right time, d) Develop a multi-agency approach to identification and disruption of those who pose a risk to children and young people. An action is currently in development.
21. Enfield was successful its bid to be one of 20 sites within the Home Office National Referral Mechanism (NRM) Pilot Programme, to trial an approach of devolved decision-making around modern slavery concerns for children under 18

years old. This means that decisions are made locally instead of by the national Single Competent Agency (SCA) with the aim of facilitating faster decision-making that is more informed by local knowledge, so that young people receive a timelier outcome.

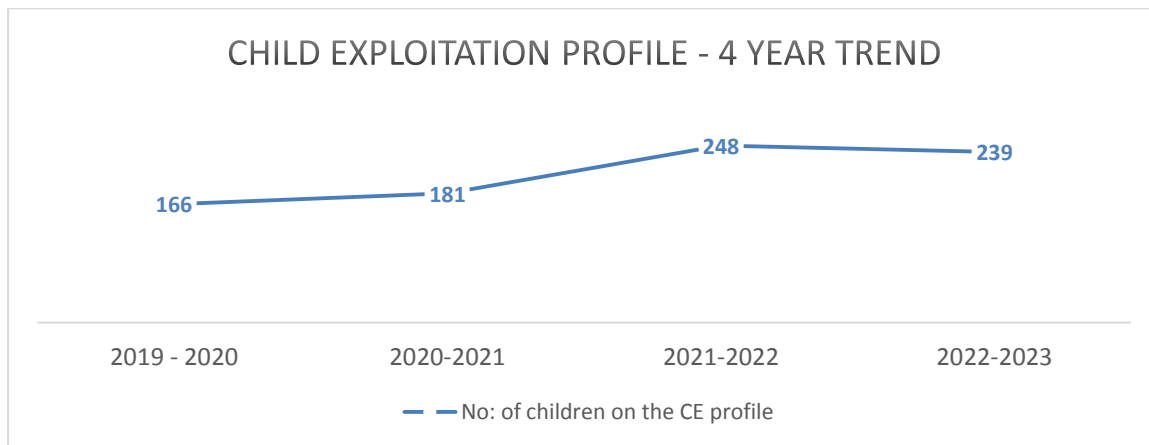
22. The Enfield panel commenced in April this year and consists of a monthly meeting, attended by key partner agencies, and chaired by the service manager of the Children's Specialist Support Service. The panel is run in accordance with Home Office standards and has received positive feedback from them. For example, the requirement to have a SCA observer present has recently been dropped, which demonstrates that the Home Office have confidence in the progress made by the Enfield panel. To date, the pilot panel has made decisions for 28 young people.

Raising awareness

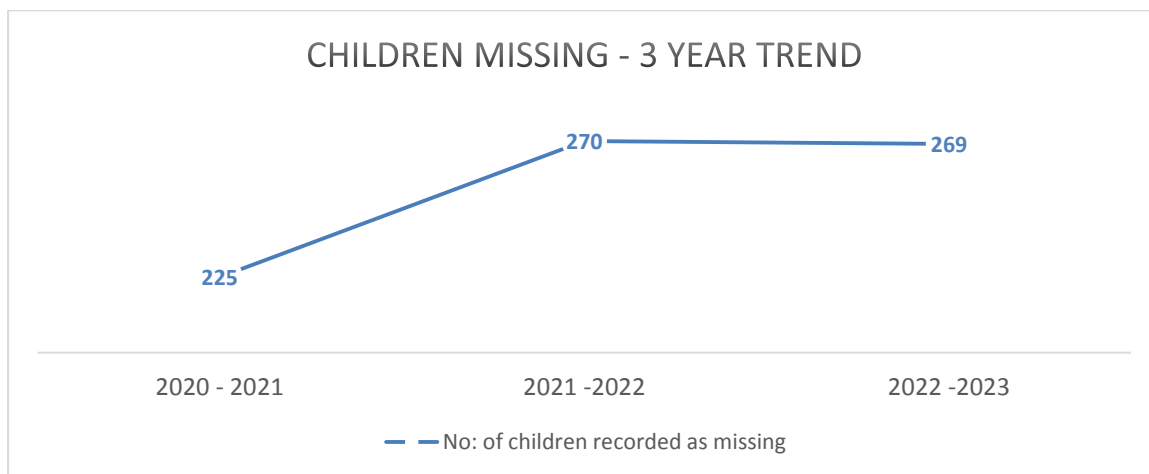
23. This July. Save Me a 33-minute short film was released. The story is about exploitation, gangs, crime, and the impact it can have on vulnerable young people. The film is aimed at the professional community and community leaders nationally and is now used as an educational tool to raise awareness of risks of exploitation and educate young people and their parents on how to stay safe. Since release in the summer it has been viewed over 39,000 times on [You Tube](#).
24. Children and Family Services commissioned the production after successfully bidding for funding from the Ministry Housing Communities and Local Government (now known as the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities). Young people from Enfield Care Council and the Young Leaders within Enfield were consulted on the storyline, the script and some took part in filming which took place in various locations in Enfield. The premiere took place at Cineworld Enfield on 3 July.
25. Children and family service ensures that all staff have access to training to raise awareness on exploitation (extra-familial harm). Part of that delivery includes the Contextual Safeguarding Hub practice lead delivering training in a range of contexts in order to promote awareness of extra-familial risk and the response to it. The practice lead has delivered a total of nine training sessions between April and September 2023. Training is delivered across Children and Family Services, with foster carers and with partner agencies.

Background and Options

26. This briefing provides an overview of children services response to child exploitation and children who are missing.
27. Child exploitation is a form of child abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child under the age of 18.
28. Between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023, a total of 239 children were identified as either experiencing or being at risk of child exploitation in Enfield, 44 were at risk of child sexual exploitation, 175 at risk of child criminal exploitation and 20 were identified as at risk of both.



- 29. There had been a year-on-year increase in the number children on the child exploitation profile, in the year 2022/23 there was a slight drop from 248 to 239.
- 30. At the end of September 2023 95 children were on the child exploitation list, 13% (16) were at risk of child sexual exploitation, 60% (74) at risk of child criminal exploitation and 27% (5) were at risk of both.
- 31. In 2022/23, 269 children were missing from care or home, this totalled to 983 missing episodes. Of the 269 children who had been missing in this period 21.5% (58) were children looked after by the local authority.



- 32. The number of children recorded as missing has remained very similar in the last two years, the spike between 20/21 and 21/22 has been attributed to covid restrictions being lifted meaning more children and young people were more likely to be out and therefore likely to not return home when expected.
- 33. In the first 6 months of this year (April – September 2023) 140 children were missing from care or home a total of 632 missing episodes. Of the 140 children who had been missing in this period 31% (43) were children looked after by the local authority.
- 34. 52% of the children on the child exploitation list have been reported missing at some point, either for single or multiple episodes.

35. When children social care is notified that a child has returned from a missing episode a return home interview (RHI) should be offered within 72 hours. In the first six months of 23/24, 84% (531) RHIs have been offered, 11% (68) the allocated case worker took the lead and 5% (33) the offer was not made within 72 hours.
36. Most children who go missing or where there is a concern regarding exploitation are aged between 14 and 18. In the first 6 months of this year, 51% of the missing children were female. Of the 43 children who went missing who are looked after 54% of those who went missing are male.
37. Our data shows that males are most likely to be identified at risk of criminal exploitation, whilst around 98% of female are identified as at risk of sexual exploitation.
38. Data shows that those identified as Black, make up the largest group of children identified as experiencing or at risk of exploitation or going missing averaging 40% of the overall numbers.
39. Data highlights the top 4 postcodes, where children at risk/ experiencing exploitation live, 28% lived in EN3 (Turkey Street, Enfield Lock, Enfield Highway, Ponders End), 18% EN1 (Town, Southbury, Bush Hill Park, Chase) 18% N9 (Jubilee, Lower Edmonton, Haselbury, Bush Hill Park, Ponders End) and 12% N18 ((Edmonton Green, Upper Edmonton, Haselbury, Bowes and Palmers Green)
40. This complex area of practice requires a comprehensive response from across the partnership. Within Children and Family Services, all teams have a responsibility towards young people who are impacted by these issues, since 2021, there has been a bespoke provision specifically targeted at young people who are at risk of exploitation.

Conclusion

41. In summary this report highlights extra-familial risks, such as child criminal exploitation (CCE), child sexual exploitation (CSE), gang affiliation, missing and trafficking, is occurring in Enfield, with between 95 -100 children are on the Enfield CSE/CCE Profile list at any given time.
42. There is a recognised correlation between children going missing and an increased risk to those children of being exploited. Children and Family services has adapted its delivery offer to provide a target response to this form of extra familial harm through the development of the contextual safeguarding hub and the adolescent safeguarding teams, whilst recognising that all services work with young people at risk.
43. Working alongside local and national partners, children services aim to reduce extra-familial harm and support young people and their families, whilst continuing to raise awareness across children services, foster carers and partners.
44. Plans are in place to improve the missing response process and improve seeking feedback from young people. The safeguarding adolescent strategy action plan is being developed and will be overseen by the safeguarding partnership.
45. There is a holistic approach to working with young people at risk of extra-familial harm and / or on the edge of care, to build a trusting relationship, reduce missing and to work with partners to disrupt the exploiters.

46. Children and Family services fulfil the Council's statutory responsibilities towards children in the Borough who are in need of help and protection or are in care or are leaving care. Services are regulated by legislation and by statutory guidance.

Relevance to Council Plans and Strategies

47. Priority: Thriving children and young people

- Help all children to have the best start in life
- Safeguard children and young people and increase support in-borough for looked after children with complex needs
- Improve educational outcomes for all children and young people
- Increase local education, play and leisure opportunities for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities
- Engage children and young people in positive activities
- Involve children and young people in decisions that affect their lives

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Appendices

Attached two case studies

Background Papers

N/A

Appendix 1

Case Study 1 – Child Sexual Exploitation

Amber is a 14-year-old White British girl. She transferred in from another local authority in April this year to move in with her mother locally, it was agreed that she would be supported under a child in need plan in Enfield. The principal concerns were around online grooming and child sexual exploitation, including a sexual assault perpetrated by a middle-aged man who Amber met up with after an online interaction in which he had stated that he is 19.

The following interventions have been delivered to date:

- The social worker spending time seeking to build a trusting relationship where Amber feels contained and understood – for example, completing a genogram together and going to her favourite park to do mindful colouring.
- The social worker has facilitated direct work sessions regarding healthy and appropriate relationships.
- The social worker has undertaken safety planning with Amber and her mother.
- CAMHS are involved around Amber's low moods and anxiety.
- The Lighthouse have assessed and are due to begin specialist work around Amber's experiences of sexual violence.
- A St Giles Trust mentor is supporting Amber to engage in positive activities, such as martial arts, which she has expressed an interest in.
- The Summer University and substance misuse support were also offered, but Amber did not wish to access these services.

The work remains ongoing at present, but some progress has already been made as noted by Amber, her mother, and the involved professional network at the most recent child in need review meeting.

Case Study 2 – Child Criminal Exploitation

Samuel is a 17-year-old Black British African Congolese boy. He was referred to the team due to child criminal exploitation concerns and links to serious youth violence. He had previously been arrested for conspiracy to kidnap, had been chased by a group of males who had a knife on another occasion, and disclosed later that he had been shot at. Additionally, there were concerns about poorly managed diabetes.

The team delivered the following interventions over twenty months during their work with Samuel under a child in need plan:

- Joint work with the Youth Justice Service who provided access to the Young Consultants programme and CAMHS provision.
- Virtual reality headset sessions around grooming and trap house risks were undertaken separately with Samuel and his mother.
- Samuel delivered virtual reality training to social workers during a Children and Family Services practice week, which included handing out certificates that he had signed to staff who had completed the session.
- Samuel also delivered a virtual reality session to other young people who were open to the service.
- A referral to the St Giles Trust's Vanguard service was made for mentoring support, which included accompanying him to access the diabetes clinic.
- Work around being open about his diabetes with trusted friends in order to manage this effectively when he was out with his peers.
- Football session / open day – Samuel participated in a sports session.
- Support to go away during the summer holidays due to heightened risks locally.
- Crazy golf outing as a reward for positive changes made.

- A referral to Catch 22 to help to develop positive training and employment plans.

The team's involvement is due to end soon as Samuel has utilised the interventions offered and engaged well. He has ceased associating with areas that are high risk for him, has completed his GCSE's and is now attending college. Samuel enjoyed delivering virtual reality sessions and has offered to facilitate further sessions, which indicates a sense of pride and accomplishment. Currently, he is working with the Vanguard service and Catch 22 to explore accessing a business course.

Samuel's family have expressed how appreciative they are of the support offered by the adolescent support team. Samuel has indicated that he would be willing to help adolescent support team or the Youth Justice Service deliver programmes and training in the future - for the small price of an Amazon voucher!

Note: the names have been changed for the purpose of this report.



London Borough of Enfield

Report Title	Universal Primary Free School Meals
Report to	Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny
Date of Meeting	18 th December 2023
Cabinet Member	Councillor Abdullahi
Executive Director / Director	Tony Theodoulou – Executive Director Peoples Dept Peter Nathan – Director of Education
Report Author	Peter Nathan
Ward(s) affected	All
Classification	<i>Part 1 Public</i>
Reason for exemption	

Purpose of Report

1. This report provides information relating to the introduction of free school meals for all pupils of primary school age which has been introduced by the Mayor of London. This has been introduced for one school year only namely 2023/24 and covers all primary aged children in London although this report will consider its impact in Enfield.
2. Enfield borough will receive an overall funding allocation of £5,529,269 to distribute to primary schools in the borough the first tranche of which has already been paid out to schools. This has been allocated based on census data at the rate of £2:65p per meal per child which is higher than the rate received by schools from the DfE which is currently £2:53.
3. A higher rate of funding has been provided for the one Jewish school in the borough due to the specialist nature of Kosher food. This has been calculated at £3:50p meal per child and thus the school will receive an additional £45,420 to pay for these meals over the year.

Main Considerations for the Panel

4. Despite there being considerable logistical concerns about the introduction of this scheme, schools across Enfield have managed the process of a considerable number of extra children having school dinners very well. The information received from the mayor's office has been that there have been concerns raised in other London boroughs about the free school meals scheme. In Enfield though headteachers seem to have just gone on with the job of implementation with relatively little fuss and there has been no come back to the key officer responsible in Enfield.
All that have responded to a recent request for feedback have welcomed the scheme although there have been a range of consequences which are outlined below.
5. A request for feedback on the scheme (UFSM) were sent out by the Director of Education and some detailed responses were provided by 15 schools with further feedback provided at a borough-wide headteacher briefing. All headteachers welcomed the scheme with all schools seeing a welcome uptake in children having a hot meal which was the intention of the UFSM.
In one school the uptake of hot meals doubled from 300 a day to 600: in a further school the percentage has increased from 60% to 90% of pupils having a hot meal each day: in another school it has increased to 81% of pupils from 63%. It is expected the numbers will rise further with the onset of winter with some children moving away from packed lunches. It is intended to carry out a full survey with the support of the mayor's office later in the academic year to get a more detailed picture of uptake which will also give a broader view across London.
6. There have of course been consequences of having far more children having school dinners. There have been some additional cost issues for schools such as needing a lot more cutlery and plates for example. Most schools have also had to extend their dinner break times to allow for more children. This means for example having three sittings for lunch instead of two with lunch times starting at 11:30am and not finishing until after 1pm. In one school lunch now starts at 11:20am and it isn't concluded until 1:30pm. There is also a cost implication here too as dinner supervisors are needed to work additional time. At a time when school finances are stretched, this is an additional financial problem for schools not covered by the grant. On the more positive side though, it does mean that school office staff have less administration to do in terms of collecting school dinner money.
7. A further practical issues has been the impact on kitchen staff producing the meals. Some headteachers have commented on the complications and indeed the stress involved in having to provide such an increased number of meals for the children. Most of the catering companies however have been able to manage the increase successfully and it is likely that this is more of a process of embedding the UFSM system.
8. An issue raised by headteachers is concerning whether the UFSM scheme is only going to be for one year or whether it will be in place in future years. Parent expectations have of course been raised by the UFSM scheme. If it is to continue, there could be some capital implications in terms of school kitchen development as needed in some schools. The earlier that schools are

made aware of the plans for the future are, the easier it will be to plan moving forward.

Relevance to Council Plans and Strategies

9. This report is relevant to the key priority of “Thriving Children and Young People” as well as the key outcome that children should do well at all levels of learning.

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CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

Date of meeting	Topic	Lead officer	Lead Members	Executive Director/ Director	Reason for proposal	Other committee/ Cabinet/Council approvals?
5 TH JULY 2023	Work Planning					
30 TH OCT	Annual Safeguarding Report	Bharat Ayer Sharon Burgess	Cllr Abdullahi	Tony Theodoulou	The Annual Report is brought to this Panel for discussion	Cabinet October Council November
	Annual Complaints Report	Laura Martin Will Wraxall	Cllr Abdullahi	Tony Theodoulou Anne Stoker	Requested by the Panel to come to the first meeting of the municipal year	
	SEND Provision	Barbara Thurogood Neil Best	Cllr Abdullahi	Peter Nathan/Tony Theodoulou	To update the panel on the work that is taking place to increase the provision of SEND places in the borough	Moved from the TBC meeting at the request of the Chair to replace the Family Hubs/HAF item and agreed by Peter Nathan
	Family Hubs and HAF (what's on offer, funding etc)	Helen Finnemore Sharon Davies Ivana Price	Cllr Abdullahi	Tony Theodoulou Anne Stoker Peter Nathan	The panel have requested an indepth review on this item	Moved to March 2024 meeting at the request of Ivana Price (agreed by Chair 12/9/23)

18TH DEC	Child Exploitation (sexual and criminal) and missing children	Angela Bent Paul Wright John Lawrence-Jones	Cllr Abdullahi	Tony Theodoulou Anne Stoker	The panel have requested an indepth review on this item	
	Progress update on the roll-out of free school meals in primary schools	Peter Nathan	Cllr Abdullahi	Tony Theodoulou Peter Nathan	The panel have requested that this item be re-visited following the report that was presented to the panel on 27/9/22	
11TH MAR	Violence towards staff in schools (panel wish hear from a teacher and receive updated data)	Peter Nathan	Cllr Abdullahi	Tony Theodoulou Peter Nathan	The panel have requested that this item be re-visited as it was felt that the report presented at the Panel's meeting on 23/3/23 was inadequate and did not include enough relevant information and data	
	Family Hubs and HAF (what's on offer, funding etc)	Helen Finnemore Sharon Davies Ivana Price	Cllr Abdullahi	Tony Theodoulou Anne Stoker Peter Nathan	The panel have requested an indepth review on this item	Moved from October 23 meeting at the request of Ivana Price (agreed by Chair 12/9/23)
	Falling School Rolls	Neil Best Keith Rowley Ian Hewison	Cllr Abdullahi	Tony Theodoulou/Peter Nathan	The panel have requested an indepth review on this item	Moved from the additional meeting as agreed by the panel at the meeting on 30/10/23

Date tbc	Falling School Rolls	Neil Best Keith Rowley Ian Hewison	Cllr Abdullahi	Tony Theodoulou/Peter Nathan	The panel have requested an indepth review on this item (to include financial impact to the school, logistical impact of not having full classes) (SEND to inform the panel of the work which has been done and is being carried out to increase the provision of SEND places in the borough)	Moved to 11 March 2024 meeting as agreed by the panel at the meeting on 30/10/23
	SEND Provision	Neil Best Barbara Thurogood	Cllr Abdullahi	Tony Theodoulou/Peter Nathan	To inform the panel of the work which has been done and is being carried out to increase the provision of SEND places in the borough	Moved to Sept 2023 meeting at the request of the Chair to replace the Family Hub/HAF item that has moved to March 24. Agreed by Peter Nathan

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