



London Borough of Enfield

Report Title	Enfield Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report 2022/3
Report to	<i>Council</i>
Date of Meeting	<i>22 November 2023</i>
Cabinet Member	<i>Cllr Abdullahi</i>
Executive Director / Director	<i>Tony Theodoulou</i>
Report Author	<i>Chloe Pettigrew, Children Safeguarding Partnership Manager and Sharon Burgess, Head of Safeguarding and Community Services</i>
Ward(s) affected	
Key Decision Number	<i>Non key</i>
Classification	<i>Part 1 Public</i>

Purpose of Report

1. The report is being presented to Cabinet to note the Safeguarding Partnership's activity to protect children in 2022-2023. It highlights the positive actions taken by the Partnership to prevent neglect, abuse and exploitation against children and families, includes data to demonstrate the impact of these actions, and states the priorities of the partnership for the 2023-2024 period.

Recommendations

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">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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Background and Options

2. There are statutory duties for publishing an annual Safeguarding Children Partnership report. These duties apply to the Safeguarding Children's Partnership. The duties require specific information to be provided. The specific actions taken to address the requirements are in italics.
3. For Safeguarding Children, Working Together requires that the report include: what the Safeguarding Partnership have done as a result of the arrangements, including on child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice (*the arrangements are highlighted in the report, as are the safeguarding practice reviews*).
4. The report should also include the ways in which the partners have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence

service provision (for example Safeguarding Ambassador feedback on police and health intervention).

5. Safeguarding partners should make sure that the report is widely available, and the published safeguarding arrangements should set out where the reports will be published. (*The report will be published on website: www.safeguardingenfield.org*).
6. A copy of all published reports should be sent to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care within seven days of being published.
7. The three safeguarding partners should report any updates to the published arrangements in their yearly report and the proposed timescale for implementation (*section on Children's safeguarding arrangements will cover this when necessary*).
8. The What Works Centre for Children's Social Care and National Panel conducted an analysis on annual reports across the country in 2021 and they stated *yearly reports for partnerships are intended to be shorter, more focused on impact, with more scope for local variation in terms of structure and publication format*.
9. The following paragraphs present some of the highlights of the Children's Safeguarding Enfield Annual Report 2022/23:
10. Across the Partnership, our primary responsibility is to provide a way for the local agencies to work together to safeguard those at risk, and to ensure that the arrangements in place are working effectively.
11. 2022-23 was a year to receive effective scrutiny on the partnership arrangements that are currently in place for Enfield. The scrutiny was to provide helpful feedback to the partnership on areas of good practice, so that this could be built upon whilst also providing helpful challenge on how the partnership arrangements could be improved. The independent organisation used to provide the scrutiny was Red Quadrant, and their report states:
12. *"The Red Quadrant team are able to confirm with confidence and assurance, that the Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements for Enfield Safeguarding Children Partnership are compliant with Working Together 2018. The arrangements ensure that children in Enfield are safeguarded and their welfare promoted. The annual report that this forms part of was also scrutinised and can confirm that this is compliant with the requirements of Working Together 2018."*
13. This year we took the opportunity to set strategic priorities for the partnership to consider in all their direct work with children, young people, and families. These priorities helped to set the framework of the targeted areas of concern and where all areas of practice improvement should be focussed.

14. The summary of the key issues or achievements of the year highlight:

- i. **Multi- agency partnership workshops-** Workshops were delivered by partnership managers on Child Protection Medicals, Information Sharing, Strategy Meetings and Early Help which had over 200 practitioners attend in total.
- ii. **Exploitation Event- Enfield's response** – This partnership event was held to raise awareness of the support available to practitioners local to Enfield with an additional spotlight on how Adulthood bias can impact upon a practitioner's response to exploitation. This event had 120 practitioners attend.
- iii. **Forced Marriage Partnership event-** The Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) on Nadya was published and a partnership event was held to raise awareness of how to identify concerns for Forced Marriage and how to respond. This event had 80 participants attend.
- iv. **Andre Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) published** – Review into the death of Andre, a 17-year-old, has been published - [Learning from reviews | Safeguarding Enfield](#)
- v. **Multi- agency audits completed** – There were two multi- agency audits completed which identified key areas of good practice to improve upon and areas where learning and development of practitioners should be focussed.
- vi. **Enfield Trauma Informed Practice (ETIPs)-** the Virtual School working in partnership with Educational Psychology Services commissioned training for Children Services, the Early Years' Service, HEART Health and CAMHs team and associated partners to ensure that professionals are using a common approach and language when supporting Enfield's vulnerable children, young people, and families.
- vii. **Safeguarding ambassadors-** the Ambassadors 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- 2024.

15. Important areas of work for 2023-24:

- i. Ensure that our learning and development courses we offer to practitioners is wider, focussing on the strategic priorities of physical abuse, child on child abuse and anti- racist practice.
- ii. Complete LCSPR on a child with additional needs and at risk of significant harm in the community. Implementing all associated actions to improve practice.

- iii. Complete multi- agency audits on Serious Youth Violence, the voice of the child and pre- birth assessments.
- iv. Complete the making of a video on the experience of young people being stop and searched by police and participating in an event to host this.
- v. Recruitment of an independent chair/ scrutineer.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Preferred Option

- 16. Publishing this report is part of the Enfield Safeguarding Children Partnership's statutory duties, and not doing so would mean we would be in breach of these.
- 17. As mentioned above, noting this partnership report at Cabinet, Scrutiny and Council enables Enfield Council to demonstrate its commitment to safeguarding children and young people throughout the organisation.

Relevance to Council Plans and Strategies

- 18. Thriving children and young people
 - i. The work of the Safeguarding Enfield Partnership meets the Council's priority of "Thriving children and young people".
 - ii. The purpose of safeguarding work is to protect children and young people, and families so that they can all thrive in the borough. The Partnership's approach to safeguarding focusses on well-trained staff who can effectively engage and manage the risks that may be present.
 - iii. There is an emphasis on improving services for those children, young people and families that require prevention and intervention from safeguarding services across a broad spectrum, from early help to statutory interventions.

Financial Implications

- 19. This report is not requesting any additional financial resources and therefore there are no specific implications for the budget of noting the Annual Safeguarding report. However, it is important to note that the costs of safeguarding children are increasing and this places significant financial pressures on the Council as reflected in the Council's medium term financial strategy.

Legal Implications

- 20. Section 16E of the Children Act 2004 requires safeguarding partners (which include the local authority) to set up safeguarding partnerships to work together to exercise their functions, so far as these are exercised for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children in their area. This must include arrangements to identify and respond to the needs of children in their area.

21. Section 16G of the Children Act 2004 requires the safeguarding partners to prepare and publish a report at least once in every 12-month period on what the safeguarding partners have done as a result of the safeguarding partnership arrangements, and how effective the arrangements have been.
22. Guidance on children's safeguarding partnerships is set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (July 2018) and explains the detail that should go into the annual report.
23. The matters set out in this report comply with the above statute and guidance.
24. Legal implications prepared by FH based on the version received on 18.07.23

Equalities Implications

25. Anti-discriminatory practice is fundamental to the ethical basis of safeguarding and care provision and critical to the protection of people's dignity. The Equality Act protects vulnerable children receiving our care and the workers that provide it from being treated unfairly because of any characteristics that are protected under the legislation.
26. In Fairer Enfield 2021-25, we clearly outline our commitment to the Equality Act and the policy provides clear principles and guidance for staff and service users on how we will ensure we are complying with the Act. This annual report outlines how we are delivering inclusive services to safeguard children and families in Enfield.

HR and Workforce Implications

27. There are significant staffing challenges across children's services and partners. It should be cited here that there are workforce pressures in recruitment of new staff for Children Services which places pressures on the current workforce. In addition, ICB and Police have also cited the partnership on their own recruitment pressures which in turn has an impact on the service that they provide.

Environmental and Climate Change Implications

28. The Safeguarding Partnership works across the Council to deliver positive outcomes for children, young people and their families, this includes improving awareness of housing conditions, so people are comfortable and safe.

Public Health Implications

29. Important public health aims include enabling young people to 'start life well'. Ensuring that the most vulnerable are safe and enabled to thrive is therefore very relevant.
30. The Safeguarding Enfield Partnership has strong links with the Health and Wellbeing Board. Public health officers are also members of the Children's Activity Groups, to enable joined-up work with a focus on prevention.

31. The priorities identified in this strategy will support work with local people and partners to promote approaches that improve the quality of life for vulnerable children, young people, and families.

Safeguarding Implications

34. The report highlights the work of the Safeguarding partnership to safeguard children and families in Enfield. The safeguarding implications of this work are:

35. For Enfield Council – it is important that we highlight how we work together with our community and partners, and detail what we are learning and how we improve current provision.

36. For the community - improvements in understanding how to stay safe, how to recognise abuse and how to report it.

37. For our partners – good communications so that any issues with joint work (which is essential to effective safeguarding) can be escalated, managed, and improved.

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Appendices

The Childrens Safeguarding Enfield Annual Report for 2022/2023 (unformatted).

Background Papers

Departmental reference number, if relevant: