

**London Borough of Enfield  
Equalities Board**

**Meeting Date 19<sup>th</sup> October**

**Subject: Child Q Task and Finish Group update**

**Cabinet Member:**

**Executive Director: Tony Theodoulou**

**Key Decision: N/A**

**Purpose of Report**

1. This report is to provide an update on the Enfield Safeguarding Children Partnership's work on Child Q through its recently established Task and Finish Group.

**Proposal(s)**

2. The Equalities Board to note the work being done by the Partnership and to note the work that has taken place within Police and Education settings.

**Reason for Proposal(s)**

3. To ensure the Equalities Board is aware of the actions that are taking place in response to the Hackney Review recommendations into the Child Q case.

**Relevance to the Council Plan**

4. The work of the Safeguarding Enfield Partnership meets the Council's priority of "Safe, healthy and confident communities".
5. The purpose of safeguarding work is to protect children, young people, adults at risk, and their carers 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.
6. The Child Q has provided the Partnership with important learning that is being addressed through a Task and Finish group, under its Practice Improvement work.

**Background**

7. Within the strategic meetings at the Executive group and Practice Improvement group meeting, there were discussions held about how the Enfield Safeguarding Children's Partnership can assure itself that the case of Child Q would not take place in Enfield.
8. Both groups acknowledged the experience of Child Q and how she may be impacted by this incident. It considered the practice of the professionals and how learning development could be used to support and enhance knowledge and practice across the partnership.
9. The task and finish group has been established to consider the report recommendations sought assurance from partner agencies that they have considered the learning in the report and actions any necessary learning.

## **Main Considerations for the Council**

10. The task and finish group have received reports from the partnership on how their area have embedded the recommendations from the local review into practice.
11. The task and finish group have explored the role of race within practice and the language that the partnership uses to define this area of concern.
12. The task and finish group will be analysing data that has been collated to determine whether there is evidence of race and disproportionality currently playing a role in Enfield. A presentation on data will take place in the next task and finish group meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022.
13. The Safeguarding Ambassadors, who are a group of young leaders, have met with Detective Superintendent Sebastian Adjei-Addoh to share their life experiences with police, and how they would like to contribute to practice development of police and improve support to children and young people. An area of motivation is particularly around children and young people understanding their rights regarding stop and search.
14. Following the initial meeting between the safeguarding ambassadors and Detective Superintendent Sebastian Adjei-Addoh, which took place at the Edmonton Police station, the Safeguarding Ambassadors have developed a wider plan on how the work with the police can be replicated across the partnership to include the Local Authority, health and schools.
15. The key area of focus that the safeguarding ambassadors wish to focus on is how the voice of a child or young person can be heard by frontline practitioners to help develop and improve practice. Reverse mentoring is an example of how this will be implemented.

## **Conclusions**

16. A key area for practice improvement is always found in the voice of a child or young person. The lived experience that children and young people can provide is invaluable to demonstrate to frontline practitioners the impact of their practice. The safeguarding ambassadors are keen and motivated to ensure that their peers' voices are heard.
17. The task and finish group are focussing on how change can be implemented strategically and have identified that there is a need for training on adultification that frontline practitioners need. This is an area that needs to be considered by the executive group to establish funding and implementation.

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Date of report: 28/09/2022

## **Appendices**

## **Background Papers**

The following documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report: