

<b>LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN</b>	<b>WARDS:</b> All
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b> Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership – Annual Report 2022-23	
<b>REPORT OF:</b> Executive Director, Children and Learning and Director of Children’s Services	
<b>FOR SUBMISSION TO:</b> Children Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee	<b>DATE:</b> 19 December 2023
<p><b>SUMMARY OF REPORT</b></p> <p>In response to the Children and Social Work Act 2017, and publication of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, the Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) replaced the Camden Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB) on 1st July 2019. The statutory guidance set out what is expected of organisations, individually and jointly, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.</p> <p>The three statutory safeguarding partners, who hold equal responsibility for safeguarding children in the borough, lead the work of the CSCP, and they are Camden Council, North Central London Integrated Care Board and Central North Basic Command Unit (BCU) of the London Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). The annual report analyses the impact of the CSCP in maintaining good governance and strategic oversight of the quality and performance of the local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.</p> <p><b>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</b> No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report.</p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Tim Aldridge, Executive Director of Children and Learning &amp; Director of Children’s Services 5 Pancras Square, N1C 4AG <a href="mailto:Tim.Aldridge@camden.gov.uk">Tim.Aldridge@camden.gov.uk</a></p>	
<p><b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b></p> <p>The Children, Schools, and Families Scrutiny Committee is asked to:</p> <p>a) note and consider the outcomes achieved by CSCP in the 2022-23 Annual Report b) provide comments to the local statutory safeguarding partners for children.</p>	



Signed:

Executive Director of Children and Learning & Director of Children’s Services Date:

Date: 5 December 2023

## 1. Introduction

Camden is home to 54,100 children and young people aged 0-17, who make up 19% of the estimated resident population of 279,519. The CSCP annual report 2022-23 evidence the Partnership's activities and its effectiveness in developing safeguarding practice across partner agencies. This includes a focus on the challenges that the Partnership has faced, what it has done to tackle these and what further work needs to be done. This report seeks to provide a summary of the Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) Annual Report of 2022-23.

The report analyses the impact of the CSCP in maintaining governance and strategic oversight of the quality and performance of our multi-agency safeguarding work. The annual report aims to provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It identifies areas of strength and weakness, and the actions being taken to develop safeguarding practice to improve outcomes for vulnerable children.

## 2. Background

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (WT2018), statutory guidance, sets out what is expected of organisations, individually and jointly, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. WT2018 states that Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of local partners to safeguard children and promote their welfare. WT2018 requires that copies of all published yearly reports by safeguarding partnerships should be sent to the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care. The annual reports are an important source of learning and the findings from our analysis will inform national work being taken forward to reform multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for protecting children. WT2018 guidance places equal duty on three statutory safeguarding partners: In Camden they are Camden Council, North Central London Integrated Care Board and Central North Basic Command Unit (BCU) of the London Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). The report includes evidence of the CSCP's effectiveness and analysis of how the statutory partners have used their data, intelligence and learning to promote service improvement for vulnerable children and families.

## 3. Governance and independent scrutiny

To ensure independence and integrity of the CSCP, an Independent Scrutineer and independent auditors provides respective and constructive challenge of the effectiveness and impact of the CSCP. A key function of the role of the Independent Scrutineer, has been to provide strong support and healthy challenge within the multi-agency system to promote a collaborative culture of continuous learning and importantly to amplify the voices and concerns of Children and Families.

### 3.1 The **objectives** of the CSCP are to:

- **Objective 1:** Ensure agencies work effectively together to safeguard Camden children and to deliver the core statutory functions of the CSCP, that are quality checked through single and multi-agency audits with effective performance management.
- **Objective 2:** Address the challenges and risks posed by the changing face of safeguarding.
- **Objective 3:** Ensure preventative and early help services are provided in a joined-up manner.

- **Objective 4:** Continue to develop a culture of good professional judgement as reflected in our Learning and Improvement framework.
- **Objective 5:** Ensure effective training programmes across agencies to keep children and young people safe in Camden.
- **Objective 6:** Drive and challenge effective information/ intelligence sharing and systems across all agencies to ensure good communication to keep children and young people safe.

3.2 Our safeguarding priorities are based on a range of sources, which include a multi-agency dataset, performance information, multi-agency professional expertise, local and national Child Safeguarding Practise Reviews, independent scrutiny, and most importantly the voices of children, families, and communities. For 2023-24 our key priorities are:

- **Priority 1:** Relational safeguarding that carefully considers identity, whole family, including the impact of trauma.
- **Priority 2:** Effective challenge and addressing professional differences.
- **Priority 3:** Violence against women and girls.

3.5 The report **highlights** some key areas of achievement of the Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) in 2022-23, as well as examining the current key areas of work and development which include:

- Strong mature multi-agency partnership response to heightened areas of safeguarding risk.
- Monitoring the effectiveness of the single front door and collaboration with multi-agency partners to keep children safe.
- Embedding the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and how as a Partnership, violence against women and girls can be reduced.
- Work of our young advisors in strengthening our scrutiny mechanisms and directly hearing about the lived experiences of local children and young people.
- Ensuring that there is a pro-active and supportive response to keeping vulnerable adolescents safeguarded, enabling a smooth transition into adulthood.
- Embedding learning across the partnership in how we work with vulnerable parents and infants.
- Addressing racial equality in our safeguarding practice and our support to our workforce.

#### 4. Assurance: overseeing the effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements

##### **Leadership and governance from the statutory safeguarding partners**

As a mature partnership we understand that safeguarding children is one of the most complex tasks carried out across all services and all sectors. Effective safeguarding takes place when cultures are open and transparent, where informed senior leaders are close to and sighted on front-line issues, where those senior leaders are accessible and visible and where risk is owned throughout organisations and the partnership is collaborative. Our governance structures ensure that our safeguarding arrangements provide strong collaboration, scrutiny, assurance, accountability, and drive safeguarding activity, across the whole Partnership. Camden has received national acclaim for trailblazing practise in final report of the independent review of children's social care – led by Josh McAlister and has contributed to national policy and research in collaboration with Kings College London symposium which looked at future proofing child safeguarding practice, and asked what reform is needed in the child safeguarding and protection system.

## **The Voice of the Child- CSCP Young Advisors – A young person’s perspective on governance and scrutiny**

In Camden, listening, hearing, and taking account of children and young people’s views shapes every element of our work, and enables us to understand their lived experience, and their experience of the safeguarding system. Since 2019, the CSCP Young Advisors, have enriched our partnership’s approach by strengthening the links between our safeguarding arrangements and the lived experiences of local young people. Their views can be found throughout the annual report, as they make up our governance framework.

### **5. Emerging themes from our local serious incidents and reviews (AR: Page 51-52)**

5.1 The purpose of a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) is for agencies and individuals to learn lessons to improve the way in which they work both individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This reporting year two LCSPR were commissioned. Both cases have been completed however, due to ongoing criminal proceedings, confidentiality of reviews is to be maintained until publication, probity prevents any further detail being shared here but emerging themes have been summarised below:

- Intersectional identities - Inequality combines with other types of discrimination and disadvantage to affect children and their families’ life experiences, needs, opportunities and outcomes.
- Adverse childhood experiences (ACES) - The impact of poverty, neglect, domestic abuse, substance misuse, criminality in the family in making a young person more susceptible to exploitation.
- Understanding the lived experiences of children with additional needs, who may use non-verbal child behaviour to communicate their trauma of abuse or neglect. This includes thinking together on challenging behavioural and poor school engagement as potential signs of abuse or neglect.
- Maintaining visibility on vulnerable children who are elective home educated (EHE).
- Children being seen alone and in person, by statutory and community agencies.
- Promoting a culture where escalation and challenge are seen as collaborative means of keeping children safe.
- The importance of using history and identifying patterns and trends to understand context, rather than responding to each incident in isolation.
- Rethinking non-engagement in child protection and early help to respond to resistant parents, when working without consent.
- Transitional safeguarding and the impact of trauma, poverty, additional needs, school exclusion and substance misuse on behaviour and choice.

### **5.2 Learning from National Reviews (AR: Page 52-53)**

#### **Safeguarding children with disabilities and complex health needs in residential settings**

In March 2021, allegations of harm to disabled children and young people living in 3 residential school settings privately run by the Hesley Group located in Doncaster, came to national attention. The alleged abuse included physical and emotional harm, cruelty towards children, sexual harm, significant levels of neglect and poor quality of care. The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel remained concerned that this could happen in other settings where children with disabilities and complex health needs live. In August 2022, all Local Authorities were asked by “The Panel” to initiate Quality and Safety reviews

of all children with disabilities in these types of settings, which are also registered as children's homes.

To provide the CSCP effective assurance of the quality of practise in relation to children with disabilities who also have an Education Health care Plan (EHCP), a deep dive audit was undertaken, in the summer of 2022. The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has since produced two reports in regards of the Hesley Group residential settings. The CSCP is committed to ensuring a local response to all national recommendations from the reports and integrated the recommendations into our Priority action plan led by Camden's multiagency Children and Young People Disabilities Service (CYPDS). The CSCP refreshed its multiagency guidance: Safeguarding children and young people with disabilities: multi-agency guidance 2023. The guidance provides professionals with the information they need to recognise the vulnerability of individual children, identify neglect, and abuse and respond appropriately and proportionally to safeguard their welfare.

### **Regional Learning - City & Hackney LCSPR - Child Q**

Child Q involved a 15-year-old, Black, female who was subject to an intimate body search on the school premises without an appropriate adult in the London Borough of Hackney, a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review was progressed through City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership (CHSCP). In Camden immediate actions were undertaken. As a partnership CSCP sought assurance from our local Police officers through a detailed briefing at the CSCP meeting to share, initial response, training available for officers, and assurance processes in place to prevent a similar situation in Camden. Assurance was sought on the robust relationship between our local Safer School Officers and Designated Safeguarding Leads and workshops delivered to Camden schools on stop and search and knowing your rights. To further support Camden schools, Camden's model drug policy for secondary schools has been updated to reflect areas of learning in Child Q. Work has also been undertaken with our CSCP Young Advisors to explore their views on how the partnership can learn from this case.

## **6. Camden's single front door** *(AR: Page 10-14)*

- 6.1 Key to safeguarding assurance is knowing the thresholds for the partnership are right and children at risk of significant harm are identified. Early Help and MASH are the first responders and make up the 'front door,' but the response is strengthened through the variety of multi-agency partners who are co-located. In 2022-23 reporting year, there was a total number of 6,953 referrals made to the Children's front door, this presents a 5 % increase from the previous year, and demonstrates an increasing trend analysis over 4 years. Whilst recognising a skilled and competent safeguarding workforce, in the identification and application, of local pathways, of early help and safeguarding issues, the data indicates that the number of children and families who need our support has risen year on year. Nationally, The Association of Directors of Children's Services, reported significant levels of need for help and support in local communities. They attributed the longer-term impact of the pandemic, and wider societal factors such as the cost-of-living to the spike.
- 6.2 The CSCP is uniquely positioned, to have an oversight on the quality and performance of the entirety of the safeguarding system, from identifying needs at the earliest opportunity, through the Early Help, pathway through to protecting children who are at risk of significant harm, and importantly in identifying emerging safeguarding risks and trends, leading and embedding a learning and improvement culture.

## **7. Early Help** (AR: Page 12, 13, 43, 44)

In line with Camden's vision of a "place where everyone has a chance to succeed and nobody gets left behind" and guided by the Resilient Families Framework, since 2015, Camden has invested significantly in early intervention and prevention. The focus has been centred on the importance of strong relationships between social workers, family support workers and families - with investment enabling lower caseloads. Camden early help services identify children, young people and families requiring additional support at the earliest opportunity. Contacts forwarded to the Early Help team increased by 23% cases in 2022/23, and the highest volume of assessments in the last 5 years.

Over the past five years, there has been a consistent and notable increase of 65% in the prevalence of mental health as a presenting issue during assessments. Family in acute stress has seen a significant increase of 111% over the last 5 years. Black ethnic groups are the most overrepresented group with an assessment rate of 21% compared to the population of 13%. Over the next year our focus will be to strengthen our intelligence to investigate the links between wider societal factors and the increased demand for Early Help and statutory Social Care support and effectively use the data and evidence to drive system improvement.

In 2022/23, Youth Early Help received 565 referrals. The most common presenting needs identified amongst young people were Youth Offending issues, parenting issues, young people exhibiting problematic behaviour, drugs, and mental health. Using evidence-based analysis we understand that, for some children and families their cumulative adversities such as poverty, intra-familial difficulties, learning needs and negative peer relationships exemplify the risk of vulnerability.

## **8. Child Protection – Abuse and Neglect** (AR: Page 16-18)

In 2022/23 reporting year, Neglect was the highest category of abuse at 34.5 (%) which is keeping with the regional and national trend data, where Neglect is the highest category of abuse across England and Inner London. Emerging national research has highlighted the inter-relationship between child protection and neglect with wider contextual factors such as poverty, deprivation, poor parental mental health, and domestic abuse. The overall increase in the number of Neglect cases, can equally provide an indication that the workforce, are more attuned and skilful in the identification of Neglect. Last reporting year, an Independent multi-agency audit: Safeguarding children at risk / or from of neglect (and cross-cutting abuse) during the pandemic and social distancing measures was undertaken. This year the Quality Assurance subgroup conducted further scrutiny and impact of the audit. The data from audit findings has been integrated throughout the CSCP safeguarding system. Including publishing briefings for safeguarding partners to distil learning. A multi-agency toolkit and training programme is in development as part of the wider system learning.

This reporting year, Emotional abuse made up 35% cases of child protection cases. Physical abuse cases remain the same at 7%. In keeping with year on year, reports of sexual abuse this year reports a 1 % increase since last reporting year. This marks a lower than national and local average. Of new Child Protection plans in 2022/23, domestic abuse factor was identified in (52%) also had a parental mental health factor identified. Of 104 new child protection plans in 2022/23 where a parental mental health factor was identified, 54 (48%) plans also had a substance misuse factor recorded. Children of any other Asian, Black African, mixed (Black African and white), mixed (Black Caribbean and white) and other mixed ethnic backgrounds are most over-represented amongst children subject of child protection plans in Camden on 31st March 2023.

## **9. Looked after children** (AR: Page 19-22)

The number of Camden looked after children has been stable (between 180 and 210 children) since September 2014. The highest category of children becoming a looked after child was Abuse and Neglect at 53%. Absent Parenting ranked the second largest category at 24%, this can be attributed to Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking children (UASC). 62% of looked after children are male, due to the large intake of unaccompanied children in recent years, who are predominantly male. Camden has made progress in a series of initiatives to address the sufficiency and increase the availability of local placements. The multi-disciplinary integrated health services continue to focus on challenging health inequality and to consider children with complex health and emotional needs.

## **10. Vulnerable Adolescents - Risk and Exploitation** (AR: Page 36)

Extra-familial risks and harm (EFRH) can be defined as risks to the welfare of children that arise within their local community or peer group rather than from the home environment and includes a complex array of issues such as: children at risk of, or already experiencing, radicalisation, child sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, serious youth violence, peer on peer abuse, trafficking, and modern-day slavery as well as serious violence. The national landscape of the scale of EFRH is of increasing concern. The CSPC's Vulnerable Adolescents – Risk and Exploitation Strategy Group oversees and coordinates the multi-agency response to the multiple but distinct risks facing young people and young adults in Camden. The work of the group is across three key areas of exploitation which is mirrored in the Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy. They include:

- harmful sexual behaviour and child sexual exploitation (CSE);
- youth violence, child criminal exploitation (CCE) including trafficking/ modern slavery.
- radicalisation and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.

The strategy has a pillared approach; Prevent, Identify, Support, Disrupt and Enforce/Prosecute.

This year the strategy has been refreshed, to include child and adolescent mental health.

## **11. Child exploitation** (AR: Page 37)

Camden's Multi-Agency Child Exploitation panel (MACE) continues to consider children at risk of criminal (CCE) and sexual exploitation (CSE), and effectiveness is evidenced through 100% of young people discussed having a bespoke safety plan. In 2022/23, children risk assessed for Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) ranged in age from 11 to 18 years, with an average age of 15.7 years. Males represented 82% of the cohort. We have seen a decrease in exploitation through youth violence, and an increase in drug related exploitation, compared to the previous year. This links to the importance of utilising the National Referral Mechanism pathway to support victims of Modern Slavery. Children risk assessed for Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) ranged in age from 11 to 18 years, with an average age of 14.9 years. Females accounted for 88% of this cohort. Peer exploitation was the most common model of exploitation in 2022/23. Ethnic disproportionality continues to be recognised within this cohort within the CSE and CCE cohort. 24% of the CCE cohort and 30% of the CSE cohort identified as Black or Black British, compared to 9% of the general Camden population (2021 Census data). In addition, Camden continues to embed the Reducing Criminalisation of Looked After Children protocol within service delivery, in recognition of the overrepresentation within the Children Looked After cohort.

## **12. Child trafficking and modern slavery** *(AR: Page 40)*

The National Referral Mechanism is the framework for identifying adult and child victims of human trafficking and modern slavery through referrals. Camden and Islington are serving as joint pilot site for devolved decision making through multi-agency panels to assess children at risk of human trafficking or modern slavery. Through dialogue with the Child Exploitation Analyst, the CSCP has kept abreast of progress made in enabling improved identification of those at risk, in order for them to be seen as victims and safeguarded accordingly. This has had a positive impact for young people, significantly reducing the decision-making time from an average of 512 days to around 45 days. In addition, lead professionals attend the panel and advocate for the young person, sharing their lived experience.

## **13. Children going missing** *(AR: Page 41)*

In Camden we are acutely aware of the correlation between missing young people at risk of CSE and CCE. In 2022/23 there were a total of 634 missing episodes relating to 167 children, who were recorded as missing from home or care. This reflects a 13.5% reduction in missing episodes but a small 2% increase in missing children compared to 2021/22. Overall, this illustrates fewer repeat missing episodes for young people. In November 2022 Camden introduced a new in-house missing service offering return home interviews to children reported missing from home or care. This service provides an opportunity for young people to speak to someone independent from their professional network, including children not currently working with services, to discuss the push and pull factor which impacted on their missing episode. A partnership event was held in December 2022 with our local Camden police team to discuss our partnership approach to responding to missing young people.

## **14. Youth violence and knife crime** *(AR: Page 38, 39, 43)*

The response to reducing youth violence is built on the strategic steer of CSCP. The effective sharing of information and joint thinking through daily risk briefings, allows for the most appropriate response and intervention to be utilised to protect young people. Our local Police are trained to have a dual role of enforcement and diversion, with the criminalisation of children being the last resort, recognising the impact of trauma on risk taking behaviour. Camden have been sighted as an area of good practice as the average child remand population was lower than that of other London boroughs. Impact of Camden's preventative approach and impact of the youth safety taskforce is shown in the significant reduction of young people aged 0-17 years for first time entrants of young people in custody. During the pandemic there appeared to be significant drops in knife crime, however, post pandemic there has been a steady increase, whilst figures remain lower than 2018-19 the upward trend is of concern. The effective sharing of information and joint thinking through daily risk briefings, allows for the most appropriate response and intervention to be utilised to protect young people.

## **15. Gangs** *(AR: Page 42)*

The Camden Gangs Partnership describes the collaborative multi-agency work between the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), the Probation Service and the Reducing Youth Violence and Exploitation and Community Safety Services from the London Borough of Camden. The aim of the partnership is to reduce gang-related violence and safeguard those exploited by



gangs. The Partnership is focussed on the children and young people who are on the MPS Gangs Violence Matrix (gang nominals). A multi-agency approach increases the range of tools available to meet the aims of the Partnership, allowing professionals to explore how best to reduce risk. In 2022-23, a term of reference was created and agreed by Partners to formalise the purpose and responsibilities of the meeting. In 2022-23, 39 young people were brought to the panel. This is an increase of 54%, meaning even more young people received a tailored response from partners prior to their resettlement back into the community. Greater partnership working has also had a positive effect on the use of recall – where gang nominals on custodial licence are recalled to custody for breaching the conditions of their release. This enforcement work is important for the disruption of criminality and exploitation and as a public protection measure.

## **16. Transitional Safeguarding** *(AR: Page 48)*

Transitional Safeguarding is an approach to safeguarding adolescents and young adults fluidly across developmental stages which builds on the best available evidence, learns from both children's and adult safeguarding practice and which prepares young people for their adult lives. It focuses on safeguarding young people from adolescence into adulthood, recognising transition is a journey not an event, and every young person will experience this journey differently. To date a significant amount of work has been done to refresh and progress approach to supporting adolescents. Work began in 2021 to think about the ways in which Transitional Safeguarding can support this ambition, and as we emerge from the pandemic there is an opportunity to put this thinking into practice. Some examples include, evolve service and Redthread, supporting young people at risk of youth violence and exploitation, New Horizons Youth Centre, supporting 16-24 year olds who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including young people who have recently come out of custody, Brandon Centre, responding to the psychological, sexual and social needs of under-25s and Trauma Informed Practice in Camden (TIPiC) as part of Camden Learning's CPD offer.

## **17. Partnership's response to safeguarding and supporting asylum seeking families** *(AR: Page 40)*

Camden's multi-agency commitment to safeguarding those most in need is evident in the robust support offered to asylum seeking and refugee families arriving to the UK with complex needs. Many of these families have often travelled from countries which have experienced significant challenges and therefore require increased support from local services. The CSCP was assured, through feedback from frontline workers and respective safeguarding designates, that joint working with social care and Early Help is robust. Data analysis of school census and families in temporary accommodation for asylum seeking and refugee families took place. Findings evidenced that the majority of primary-school-age children were enrolled in school, and that a more targeted approach was needed to engage enrolment of secondary-school-age children. This resulted in the provision of outreach surgeries and information sessions about importance of school enrolment.

## **18. Progress against our priorities**

### **Priority 1: Relational safeguarding that carefully considers identity, whole family, including the impact of trauma** *(AR: Page 8, 9, 34, 35, 53)*

As a partnership we understand that supporting children and their families who are in crisis or in difficult or dangerous situations to be safe, to cope and take control of their lives requires a highly skilled multi-agency workforce. It is often our relationships between the

practitioner and the child and family that are critical in holding solutions for families overcoming adversity. The work of CSCP is to take an intersectional approach to ensure our work, is based on the understanding that individuals and communities have dynamic, fluid identities and diverse circumstances. To ensure we develop a culture across all agencies of the partnership to deliver trauma informed and relational approaches to safeguarding, the CSCP have delivered training on 'Building Effective Relationships with Families' to help develop a shared language and culture across all areas of our work.

**Priority 2: Effective challenge and addressing professional differences** (AR: Page 51-53)

As a Partnership, we recognise that safeguarding children, young people cannot be achieved in isolation. At the heart of any good safeguarding system is a strong culture of constructive challenge and our ability to question, and assure ourselves of the effectiveness of our systems, policy, and practice. This also allows agencies to raise concerns about practice so that they feel confident that their concerns will be taken seriously and appropriately addressed. Relational safeguarding is also modelled in our partnership working with each other. This year new guidance was issued and disseminated across all organisations working with children that supported the process of dissent in regard to the decision of a Child Protection Case. The dissent guidance compliments an escalation policy that was also been refreshed and disseminated across multi-agencies.

**Priority 3: Violence against women and girls** (AR: Page 23-25)

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 identified children as the victims of domestic abuse that is perpetrated against their parent or carer. The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel briefing report, multi-agency safeguarding and domestic abuse, 2022 identified domestic abuse as a recurring key theme in Local Child Safeguarding Practise reviews. Collectively, across Camden Domestic Abuse remains a priority area across all statutory Boards. In early 2023, a Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Board was established, to ensure the work of the Board included children and young people member representation included Schools and the CSCP. The CSCP work in close alignment with the VAWG Board and Community Safety Partnership Board (CSPB) in cultivating a whole-system response to tackling domestic abuse.

The cumulative widespread negative impact of domestic abuse on children is well researched, and in response to this Camden invested in an evidence-based intervention model: Healing Together to enable teachers in all schools in Camden to deliver a bespoke 6-week programme on trauma and responding to domestic abuse. In excess of 1,116 staff and 8,401 children and young people have received the training. A multi-agency DVA training programme has been rolled out across agencies in Camden to cultivate a domestic abuse informed approach ensuring the dynamics of coercive control are fully understood. Operation Encompass has a high take-up across Camden schools and aims to reduce the long-term impacts of domestic abuse by providing early intervention and support.

## **19. REFLECTIONS AND PRIORITIES FOR 2023-25**

**NEW Priority 2023-25: Intersectional thinking and developing our relational, trauma-informed, and anti-racist safeguarding practice** (AR: Page 8)

Whilst much has been achieved the cumulative evidence within the report provides a compelling picture that significant inequalities for some of our children in Camden remain. The CSCP acknowledges that to fully understand intersectional inequalities and how it shapes the lives of the children and families we work with, we need to carefully consider the existence of formal and non-formal structural, institutional, and cultural processes that manifests inequity. This includes actively tackling racism, thinking about what anti racist

safeguarding practice means in reality to partnership working and relational safeguarding and tackling the drivers of family vulnerability. Progress to date has seen:

- Camden Council has invested in developing a 'culturally intelligent' workforce with most staff having completed anti-racist training as part of mandatory training modules for frontline staff.
- Race Equality Catalyst Group, sessions take place regularly with staff across varying disciplines with sponsorship from senior leaders.
- Development of a local action plan based upon the recommendations of the Child Q - National Child Safeguarding Practice Review.
- The CSCP's continuation of priority areas of work already underway to align with the Council's Race Equality Plan. This includes developing stronger intelligence and evidence of systemic, structural inequalities and race, to build a foundation for its actions, particularly in view of:
  - Children subject to serious incidents and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews
  - Children in receipt of Children's Social Care services.
  - Disproportionality of Black children in the safeguarding and youth justice and care system.
  - Addressing how and where there may be racial disparities in the experiences of children with additional needs, disabilities, and complex health needs.
  - Exploring how ethnicity, age, gender, sexuality, and other social factors such as poverty shape the identities and experiences of children and families.
  - Understand if services are configured appropriately to meet the particular needs, concerns and aspirations of different local communities and ensure that the commissioning of services is based on an informed understanding of the needs of Black and minoritised communities that is free from stereotyping and cultural bias.

As a Partnership over the next year, we will consider these issues. This ethos is reflected in the CSCP's shared values.

- *Listen and respect the voice of the child, their families and each other.*
- *Be courageous in making a positive difference to the lives of children and young people.*
- *Ensure shared responsibility and mutual challenge between partners to keep children safe.*
- *Involve, value, and respond to our diverse local community.*
- *Work together in partnership to reflect, learn, and continuously improve.*

## **20. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Service**

The Director of Finance has been consulted on the contents of this report and has no further comment to make.

## **21. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor**

The Borough Solicitor has been consulted and has no comments to make on this report.

## **22. Environmental Implications**

There are no environmental implications proposed in this report.

**23. Appendices**

**Appendix 1 CSCP Annual Report 2022-23**

**REPORT ENDS**