

Meeting Information

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| Title: | Notes of the BHR Safeguarding Partnership Meeting | | |
| Date: | 18 June 2021 | Time: | 12:00 – 14:00 |
| Chair: | Det. Superintendent John Carroll, Public Protection, EA BCU, MPS | | |
| Secretariat: | Lesley Perry, RSCP & RSAB Manager | | |
| Online Platform: | MS Teams | | |

Attendance

| Name | Title | Agency |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Attendees: | | |
| John Carroll (JC) (Chair) | Det. Superintendent, Public Protection | East Area, BCU, MPS |
| Elaine Allegretti (EA) (from 12:45) | Director of People and Resilience | LB Barking & Dagenham |
| Jemma Breslin (JB) | Business Manager | B&D MA Safeguarding Children Partnership |
| Teresa DeVito (TDV) | Head of Service - Safeguarding & Quality Assurance | LB Barking & Dagenham |
| Mark Gilbey-Cross (MGC) | Deputy Nurse Director | North East London (NEL) CCG |
| Adrian Loades (AL) | Corporate Director of People | LB Redbridge |
| Eleanor Parkin (EP) | Partnerships and Programmes Manager | LB Barking & Dagenham |
| Robert South (RS) | Director of Children's Services | LB Haverling |
| Martin Wallace (MW) | Partnerships and Learning Manager | LB Haverling |
| Lesley Perry (LP) (Secretariat) | Partnerships Manager | Redbridge SCP & SAB |
| Guests: | | |
| Jane Corrigan (JCo) (13:00 – 13:20) | Det. Superintendent | S015 |
| Apologies: | | |
| Kate Dempsey (KD) | Principal Social Worker | LB Haverling |

Notes

- Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**
JC welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies from KD were noted.
- Notes of Previous Meeting – 7 May 2021**
The notes of the meeting held on 7 May, circulated on 24 May 2021, were agreed.
- Action Log 2020 – 2021**
An updated version of the Action Log was reviewed as follows:
 - 2020/08 – Prevent Referral Form – update to be provided by JCo (Item 6). Close.

- 2020/17 – Work with Care Homes LAC going missing – BCU now commencing phase two of Project Philomena with re-visits to those Care Homes with the highest level of missing. Will be absorbed into business as usual. Close.
- 2020/22 – Information has been drafted for insertion into procedure based on the national CDR guidance but this requires some localisation. C/F.
- 2020/33 – AL to share with EA and RS info on children placed in BHR by other boroughs. C/F
- 2020/40 – Redbridge SCR Baby T – Response from the Home Office still awaited. Chased in April, and again on 13 May and 14 June. C/F
- 2020/46 – Gangs and serious youth violence cross borough working – AL to follow up with Anna Watson, Manager of Services to Exploited Children. C/F
- 2020/51 – Development of obesity pathway – MGC had received an updated from Paul Archer to advise that the Working Group had now met twice since February. The pathway was now in draft and following consultation, should be ready to sign off within the next four to six weeks, then implemented across the NELFT and disseminated to partners. This will feed into the work in Havering a Neglect Strategy. Close
- 2021/56 – Capacity of Interact – conversations are taking place. MGC to seek further information and update at the next meeting. C/F.
- 2021/57 – JB to see whether work commission on a restraint audit for adults was extended to cover children. C/F
- 2021/58 - Provision of Section 136 data relating to schools – JC to follow up with GH. C/F
- 2021/60 – Out of Borough placements. AL noted that the [Independent Review of Children's Social Care](#) is now in progress. This issue is being picked up regionally with the Association of London Directors of Children Services (ALDCS) and locally within the new [Redbridge Community Crime Commission](#). The commission have asked for information on placements of LAC and Care Leavers in the Borough and the impact on crime rates and capacity. Close.
- 2021/63 – Havering and Redbridge participation in B&D's DV initiative. HNS has now left the Borough. New action to be opened. Close.
- 2021/82 – EP to follow up on current position with LBH and LBR joining the DV initiative and what contributions are required from each.
- 2021/65 – Propose appointing the principal social worker from Redbridge to the BHR membership – AL advised that Judy Daniels, Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance/PCFSW would join from the next meeting. She is on Annual Leave today. Close.
- 2021/69 – Health inequality and impact of covid-19 on safeguarding across a range of protective characteristics – on the agenda. Close.
- 2021/71 – On agenda. Close.
- 2021/72 – On agenda. Close.
- 2021/73 – Discussion to take place. Close.
- 2021/74 - Meeting arranged. Close
- 2021/75 – On the agenda. Close
- 2021/76 – Item to be carried forward to the next meeting agenda. C/F
- 2021/77 – C/F
- 2021/78 – No update available. C/F
- 2021/79 – Close.
- 2021/80 – On the agenda. Close.
- 2021/81 – Agreed. TASP membership will be processed and re-charged by LBH (£450 per organisation). Close.

4. COVID-19

(a) Update from Partners on impact and response to COVID-19

LB Havering

RS advised that demand has continued, with a number of peaks but no levelling out. The issues previously raised remain the same. The biggest challenge relates to delivering consistency with workforce turnover issues, which have been more significant over the last six to nine months, as has been discussed by DCSs in other forums, including the ALDCs. This has an impact on wider safeguarding potentially. Issues are materialising from schools around the general well-being of young people, including self-care, pressures within families etc. and these are being reported back to the local Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP), SEND Board and Early Help Partnership.

LB Redbridge

AL advised that there continue to be increased levels of demand and complexity. Workforce turnover is causing stability issues. One impact on the new ways of working have resulted in social workers being able to seek employment further afield as they can work from home the majority of the week, which is a trend that needs to be caught up with. A key concern is the mental health of children and young people. Public Health have just completed a useful piece of work on reviewing services and responses to self-harm and work is going to be taken forward with Children's Social Care, Early Help and Education Psychology Service develop this.

LB Barking & Dagenham

TDV advised on a similar increase contacts and complexity, with the main topics of concern being Domestic Abuse, physical abuse and physical chastisement, which are on the rise. There are 800 cases across the Children's Social Care system, a 35% rise in the same week last year. Social Workers and other staff are tired and managing high caseloads.

North East London (NEL) CCG

MGC advised that across NEL there had been a 25% increase the number of GP presentations. The LAS has moved to a category 4 operation plan as of yesterday due to the increasing numbers of call outs across London. Presentations at ED and Urgent Treatment Centres (UTCs) have increased since lockdown has lifted and across BHR there is a high level of 'unwellness' not related to COVID. The NHS is preparing for a potential third COVID wave but it is unclear what the numbers will be like. Nationally 77% of hospital COVID admittances to hospital have not been vaccinated. Vaccination is the priority for the next four – six weeks. There is a mass vaccination event taking place at the Olympic Stadium this weekend. The aim is to vaccinate 15,000 to 19,000 18 years old plus on Saturday, with their first vaccine. Appointments do need to be booked. The main carriers are currently those aged 18 – 29 years.

Action 2021/83: all to publicise the vaccination opportunities across agencies and with service users – including the London Vaccination Event being held at the Olympic Stadium on 19 June for 18+ 1st Vaccine – bookings via [Eventbrite](#).

East Area BCU, MPS

JC: Domestic abuse is still above what it was last year by around 8-9% as opposed to peak at 25% increase during the high of the pandemic. There is a higher level of abuse and coercive control. There may be a correlation of higher rates with the European Football Championships, although the relationship is not as significant as many think. Child Protection referrals are increasing whilst the BCU teams are under resourced, staff are moving around and are fatigued.

(b) Health inequality and impact of COVID-19 on Safeguarding across a range of protected characteristics

RS introduced this item and said that it relates to 2021/69 9 on the Action Log. EP advised that she was waiting for EA to respond to the request to share the template. A report had been presented to the LBBB Health and Wellbeing Board this week on the structural inequalities and population analysis. A list of indicators was not yet available. AL said that he was looking at the disproportionality of certain groups in a number of services. It would be helpful to compare by pulling together the data by ethnicity, age and other protected characteristics on referrals during COVID and identify the extent to which they are disproportionate to the population and contrast with pre-COVID times.

Action 2021/84: AL to develop a template and the item to be taken forward in a substantive agenda item at the July meeting.

Action 2021/85: EP to share the LBBB Health and Wellbeing Board report.

5. Wood Report – Sector expert review multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, May 2021

The awaited follow up [report](#) from Sir Alan Wood, consisting of his review of the implementation of the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements was published on 14 May 2021. JC said that what stood out for him was the obvious frustration around the lack of change or creativity in arrangements that the author felt, however, the legislation does allow for little change. Inspectorates were looked upon to drive changes but have responded that their role is to assess quality over whatever arrangements local safeguarding partners choose to adopt. AL agreed and pointed out the reference to the lack of equity in financial contribution from the Police that had been highlighted in the report. JC said that he agreed but this was overseen by the MPS. JC said that he hadn't seen any response by the DfE, although some other organisations e.g. NSPCC had commented, and no immediate impetus for further action or change. EA said that the arrangement in LBBB is different in relation to scrutiny. Annie Hudson, Chair of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) Panel, met with her to discuss the threshold for referral to the Panel as they had only undertaken two in the last two years. EA said that they have, however, got three Learning Reviews in track relating to neglect, youth offending and mental health. What occurred to her was that there was a lot of case reviews and scrutiny that was taking place across a number of forums and boards, that the Panel would not be party to. RS that it would be helpful to discuss the report at the meeting with the Independent Scrutineers.

Action 2021/86: Wood Review Report to be discussed at the meeting with the Independent Scrutineers.

6. Prevent Update

DS Corrigan (JCo), S015 Counter Terrorism, joined the meeting for this item. She advised that in a longitudinal Redbridge Prevent Partnership stands out positively in

relation to the both the number and range of referrals. There has been a 26% reduction in referral as over the last year across London. This was expected as a 1/3 of referrals (34%) come from education and children had spent a significant time out of school, learning remotely. There had been a 38% drop off in referrals from Counter Terrorism investigations and 4% from front line policing. However, the risk hasn't gone away but the nature has changed with more radicalisation now in the on-line space. JCo suggested that if the Counter Terrorism Local Profiles hadn't yet been read, that these are requested from the local Prevent Lead or Channel Chairs but should be treated as confidential. A toolkit had been developed in relation to returnees. There was a challenge for the Local Authority that if there is no criminal investigation then they will be left holding what are likely to be cases of complex needs in the long term. She recommended viewing of the [Sky documentary 'The Return: Life After ISIS'](#), featuring Shamina Begum, which highlighted how indoctrinated the ideology is and how children are becoming potential terrorist leaders of the future. Notifications on returnees should be received via the pan-London Counter Terrorism Group and Homeland Security Partners.

JCo highlighted a tolerance in London, with the cases that are referred already being a fair way down the radicalisation journey so require management. An example was that in London, children out unaccompanied at night was accepted and stabbings and murders don't always make the headlines. Referrals should be made at an earlier stage which was what Prevent was about.

JCo was looking to work with a couple of Boroughs to cost out Prevent case management, including intervention, meetings, service provision etc. JCo was looking to Redbridge as a Borough that had a good balance between managed and un-managed cases.

The National Referral Form, which was a recommendation that came from the learning review on the Parsons Green terrorist attack, where it had been found that information wasn't being shared at the earliest opportunity, had been piloted. HMIC had advised that there needed to be an improvement in the quality of referrals. This had involved LB Hillingdon; LB Hammersmith and Fulham; and LB Kensington and Chelsea. It was originally scheduled for February – April 2020 but had been delayed until later in the year. Boroughs are doing it differently across London and not always sharing with Counter Terrorism which means that the Local Authority is holding that risk. It was thought that the National Referral Form would provide consistency of approach. There were concerns that the Pilot was undertaken during COVID and that the number of referrals had dropped so it wasn't a true test. However, it evidenced that the quality of referrals using the form had improved and the proportion that went to Channel was higher, as what those that had a positive outcome. On the whole, it had been positively received, although she was aware of two Boroughs who were reluctant to adopt the form and JCo would be liaising with them further to understand the barriers and challenges. In London, the NPS and NHS had adopted the form. The next stage would be to extend the roll out and this can be undertaken as soon as a Borough is ready, hopefully from August. Once completed, the Form goes to the CT Police, the Local Authority MASH and the Prevent Team. No action can be taken until CT have taken it through the deconfliction process. If suitable for Prevent, the normal process kicks in.

AL said happy to work on costing exercise. He advised that Redbridge had a Specialist Radicalisation social worker in the MASH which is very helpful. He said that if there is any sense that a case is being held too long, an alert would be helpful,

even retrospectively. With regard to the National Referral Form, the main concern was the time the deconfliction process takes. JCo said that this should be virtually instantaneous. There is five days to turn around an initial assessment from referral then 20 days in the multi-agency space for the case to go to Channel or to close.

RS said happy to raise the profile of the new approach in Havering, which would need to include timeframes and be discussed with the local SCP. He advised that there had been an increase in right-wing terrorism activities during the pandemic which had been reported via the Havering Community Safety Team. JCo said that there had been an increase in right-wing referral across London. She felt that some people were more comfortable reporting right wing concerns than Islamist, possibly due to potential accusations of racialism or criminalisation, but the focus needed to be kept on it being a safeguarding process. RS said more work needed to be undertaken on giving people the confidence to refer and a key way of doing this was to build relationships with communities and partnerships. We need to genuinely listen to the difficult messages that communities have. JCo said that work has been done internally with staff and suggested that happens across the BHR Safeguarding Partnership. She referred to the [Independent Review of Prevent](#), being undertaken by William Shawcross. He has presented at the CT Advisory Group and at the London Prevent board with a call for evidence. JCo asked for continued promotion of the [Act Early Campaign](#) and advice line, aimed at friends and family. Work had started with NetMums, again to increase family referrals which tend to come in too late and have a higher chance of escalating.

TDV advised that she was the Channel Chair in LBBB, and also line managed the Prevent Co-ordinator, who had been part of the Working Group on the National Referral Form. She said that there were concerns from schools and colleges, where the majority of referrals come from, of making a referral direct to the police and how that may appear to criminalise a young person. She said that schools value being able to discuss a concern first with the MASH. Use of the form is a shift. JCo said that the last thing that was wanted was to criminalise or stigmatise a young person and that if the criteria for a Prevent referral is not met, that will be advised and that the work is aimed at preventing an escalation to 'pursue'. She reflected that feels like failure if someone involved in a terrorist attack, such as Parson's Green, was previously on Prevent. 7% of cases in London due escalate. JC thanked JCo for joining the meeting.

Action 2021/87: AL to liaise with JCo for Redbridge to take part in costing exercise.

7. Police participation in Strategy Meetings

The issue of police participation in strategy meetings had been raised by EA with JC and discussions had also taken place with the other two Boroughs. JC assured partners that he was committed to full engagement. He advised that there is a review of the Public Protection strand of MPS, and within that a review of MASH, being led by Mel Dales. There is a view that the strand wasn't properly constituted, and the resourcing was based too rudimentary on the ratio of crimes to offenders, with little appreciation of the complexity of multi-agency working. CIAT were no longer aligned to social work hours as they used to be and were mainly being drafted into cope with the high volume of domestic abuse cases. JC said that he was aware that too much is sent in to MASH and not triaged. The Referrals Desks are not working as effectively as they could. There was a recommendation to Management Board of a specialist Child Abuse command, with its own Senior Leadership Team. This would have

implications on Domestic Abuse, and therefore a separate review of Domestic Abuse had commenced. JC admitted that participation in Strategy Meetings was not what it should be and was based more around suppressing demand. He said that he appreciated the feedback and the challenge. EA said that MASH was an area of improvement for LBBB and needed to move ahead, rather than waiting for the outcomes of the review. She had already raised concerns around behaviours and custom and practice with JC. TDV advised that there was also an issue in LBBB around police participation in LADO Strategy Meetings, and issues around information sharing in relation allegations against adults. There were also concerns around health involvement in sexual abuse investigations due to paediatric capacity. A wider look at how we resource strategy meetings in BHR was needed, including primary care involvement. MGC said that this was being looked at currently across NEL.

Action 2021/88: Discussions to be taken forward by individual Boroughs with JC on tackling risks and issues and agreeing a process around raising a challenge around non-attendance at Strategy Meetings.

8. **Presentation on the formation of the NEL CCG**

MGC provided a brief overview of a presentation 'Making sense of the new North East London CCG – A guide for CCG staff and system partners in Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge', April 2021, which had been circulated with the papers. The NEL CCG launched in April 2021 which joined seven CCGs. This would be further developed into the NEL Integrated Care System next year which would involve local authority and third sector partners working more closely. An area that would be examined was health inequalities. The safeguarding element would be

Overall responsibility for safeguarding currently sits with Henry Black, Acting Accountable Officer (see slide 19), but this will be delegated to Diane Jones, the new Chief Nurse, joining the NEL CCG shortly. MGC and his counterparts will align directly to Diane, with a dotted line to Ceri Jacob, Managing Director, BHR. At a Borough level, there will not be much change. The Designated Nurses for children and adults will remain in place. There may be some specific coverage of certain responsibilities across London and work streams.

EA said that the Directors of Adults Services (DASs) had seen a copy of the NEL Development Plan and it didn't mention safeguarding, LAC or SEND, and only included children and young people's mental health. She did feedback that children were not being given sufficient strategic visibility.

Action 2021/89: JB/LP/MW to share with local SCPs.

9. **Recommendations from LBBB Neglect Case**

TDV advised that this was a follow up from the presentation made earlier this year on a neglect case, expanding on the findings and actions taken.

Action 2021/90: LP to circulate TDVs slides and for any questions to be raised directly with TDV.

10. **Multi-Agency Audit – Suicidal Ideation – Report**

Due to time restrictions on the meeting, the report was not discussed. It was agreed that it could be shared by AL at the SOCG (System Operational Command Group) meeting next week as useful information relation to capacity within EWMHS/CAMHS. EA said that she would share with Jacqui Van Rossum, Executive Director – Integrated Care, NELFT, and ICEG (Integrated Care Executive Group) in a meeting

planned based on CAMHS (Tier 4) but to emphasise the stress across the mental health spectrum.

Action 2021/91: AL to share report with SOCG next week and for it to be added to the agenda for the July meeting of the Partnership.

11. Demographic projections across BHR and impact

At the request for RS, this is to be carried forward to the July meeting.

Action 2021/76: LP to add to the July meeting draft agenda.

12. Update from each Borough on local reviews of multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding babies

AL looked at activity involving babies in the safeguarding system focusing on CP activity and LAC and Redbridge hasn't seen a major change, as per the national concern raised by the Minister. CP rates are consistent with a slight rise in LAC. There are around 17-20 babies coming into the system each year. The main issues are emotional abuse and neglect.

RS said that there was a similar position in LB Havering, with no significant increase during the pandemic. If anything, there had been a slight decrease in terms of babies and young children coming to the attention of Children's Social Care which was being monitored and kept under close review. There had been a couple of cases of SUDI which had appeared to be related to living conditions and co-sleeping, not abuse. Those are being reviewed. MW said that there is work happening within Early Help with partners, with an aim of making prevention more robust.

EA said that there had been an issue of drift and delay in permanency but this had been responded to with a pre-birth team. The numbers in the cohort had remained static. Some refinements were needed and improvement work with health visiting and midwifery. A key risk is the constraint of the health visiting and the need to find additional monies in the Local Authority public health budget. There has been a 40% increase in safeguarding cases within HV and high caseloads. Having staff to spot and support the risk in universal services is a challenge. Children are now coming into care earlier, which is positive in terms of avoiding later neglect.

It was agreed that information should be developed on health visiting capacity and workload across each Borough, with a perspective on safeguarding risks as the result of the current situation. This would need to be produced by NELFT leads and involvement of Public Health for discussion at the next meeting.

Action 2021/92: AL to contact Jacqui Van Rossum, Integrated Care Director – NELFT, to discuss the best approach.

13. (a) Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) Panel Annual Report 2020

The [Annual Report of the CSPR Panel, 2020](#), was published on 14 May 2021. No comments or observations made.

(b) BHR Case Review Tracker

The tracker had been updated. A meeting had been held on 13 May between Redbridge statutory safeguarding partners, with a representative of the CSPR Panel, [Sarah Elliott](#), to provide additional feedback and have a discussion about the Rapid Review. Felt the RR was comprehensive but could have focused more on practice. The position going forward was that a CSPR would not take place but there were some actions that would be overseen by the RSCP relating to taking the learning into

practice. LP advised that the Panel had now allocated regional contacts and for London this was [Mark Gurrey](#).

Tracker to be updated to include the recent Rapid Review in Havering.

Action 2021/93: MW to update prior to next meeting.

14. Agenda Forward Plan Update

Forward plan will be updated to include new agenda items for July and those carried forward.

15. Any Other Business

- COVID-19 Vaccination – link to booking in the chat. Please circulate widely.
- NELFT review of LAC Health Services – ask for that review comes here.

Action 2021/94: EA to advise and agenda item for the next meeting.

16. Date of next meeting and confirmation of chair

Date: 30 July 2021 **Time:** 10:00 – 12:00 **Location:** MS Teams

Chair: RS – JC and AL on leave. **Secretariat:** EP