

Croydon Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2018/2019



Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility



You can read more about the Croydon Safeguarding Children Board at our website: www.croydonlcsb.org.uk

CSCB Contact details:

Telephone

0208 604 7275

Email

safeguardingchildrenboard@croydon.gov.uk

Independent Chair: Di Smith

di.smith@croydon.gov.uk

Board Manager: Maureen Floyd

maureen.floyd@croydon.gov.uk

Child Death Single Point of Contact: Lauren East

lauren.east@croydon.gov.uk

Approval process

This annual report is published in accordance with the guidance from Working Together 2015. The report has been approved by CSCP Executive at their meeting of 11 September 2019 and subject to scrutiny at the Scrutiny Children and Young People sub-committee on 17 September 2019 and the Cabinet meeting on 21 October 2019. It is also required to be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Well-being Board.

[Link to Working Together 2015](#)

Contents

INTRODUCTION

Foreword	4
Introduction	6
About Croydon	7
About Croydon Children	10

ABOUT THE BOARD

About the Board	13
Structure Chart & Sub-groups	14
Budget	16
Attendance	17
Child Death Overview Panel	18
Serious Case Review	20
Quality Assurance, Practice & Performance	22
CYP at Risk of Missing & Exploitation	24
Learning & Development	26
Health sub-group	29
Education sub-group	31
Section 11	32
Communication	33
Local Authority Designated Officer	35
Private Fostering	37
Progress on Business Plan	40

CROYDON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

New Arrangements	42
Structure Chart	43
Budget	44
Executive Group	45
Priority Groups	46
Partnership Groups & Relevant Agencies	47
Scrutiny	48

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE AND EARLY HELP

OFSTED	49
Early Help	50
Single Point of Contact SPOC	51
Referrals & assessments	52
Child Protection Plans	54
Looked After Children	56
Independent Visitors & Advocacy	60
Leaving Care	61
Children with Disabilities	62
Assessments analysis	64
Domestic Abuse- MARAC	65
Education	66
Housing	67

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

Health Visitors	69
School Nurses & Family Nurse Partnership	72

CROYDON HEALTH SERVICE

Vulnerable Women	73
Psychosocial meeting & Female Genital Mutilation	75
Contraception And Sexual Health Clinics	76
Teenage pregnancy	77
Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service	78

CROYDON POLICE & CROYDON COUNCIL

MASH	81
Child Exploitation & Missing Children	82
County Lines	86
Gangs & Youth Offending	87
Serious Youth Violence & Community Safety	90
PREVENT	92
Modern Day Slavery	94

VOLUNTARY & CHARITABLE SECTOR

Safer London	95
Croydon Voluntary Association & MENT4	97
Croydon Drop-in	98
NSPCC	99

GLOSSARY

	101
--	-----



Foreword from Di Smith

Independent Chair, Croydon Safeguarding Children Board

This year's Annual Report of the Croydon Safeguarding Children Board reflects a year when the partnership has focussed on securing and embedding further improvement whilst preparing for change and transition to the new safeguarding partnership arrangements which come into effect from 1st September 2019.

Each Local Safeguarding Children Board is required to produce and publish an Annual Report evaluating the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area. This report covers the period from April 2018 to March 2019 and examines how Croydon Safeguarding Children Board has discharged its statutory role and functions as outlined in 'Working Together 2015'. However, it is important to capture the work undertaken by the CSCB during the period of transition to the new arrangements and so this report also includes work undertaken between April and August 2019.

One of the most significant achievements for the CSCB this year has been the publication of the Vulnerable Adolescents Review. This is the largest piece of work undertaken by the CSCB and has been widely praised both locally and nationally for the insight it provides into the lives of vulnerable young people in Croydon. The review was established to understand the factors that contributed to the deaths of three young people in the Summer of 2017 and was broadened to include a further 57 vulnerable young people who were identified by all agencies as being of concern, including those particularly at risk from violence and exploitation. With young people's safety a national concern, this review has attracted widespread interest and will be used by partners in Croydon to develop a preventative approach to youth crime, strengthening families and helping our young people to make positive choices. This was a bold and innovative piece of work that now requires a concerted and cohesive partnership response and this will be led through the newly established Vulnerable Adolescents Priority Group.

Since the Ofsted inspection of 2017 there has been a concerted partnership approach to improvement with Children's Social Care, health, schools, the police and the Independent Chair of the CSCB all contributing to the work of Croydon Children's Improvement Board. The role of the CSCB has been pivotal in terms of securing improvement in multi-agency working and promoting and embedding learning from serious case reviews. Regular monitoring visits from Ofsted have identified and recognised promising signs of improvement but everyone recognises that there is still more to be done.



Foreword from Di Smith

Independent Chair, Croydon Safeguarding Children Board

One of the biggest challenges faced by partners relates to securing a suitably skilled, stable and permanent workforce. At a time of population growth and increasing demand this is essential to ensuring effective partnership collaboration and robust multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. Some progress has been made in relation to the recruitment and retention of frontline social workers and health visitors but this remains one of the most significant challenges across the partnership.

I have worked closely with the safeguarding partners throughout the year as they have developed the new safeguarding partnership arrangements in response to the 'Children and Social Work Act 2017' and 'Working Together 2018'. These arrangements will replace the Croydon Safeguarding Children Board from September 2019. The Executive Group has demonstrated clear leadership and a shared ambition for the children and young people of Croydon. They want them to grow up safe, happy and healthy, nurtured and protected by their family and the community around them. Working together the safeguarding partners are committed to supporting families and the local community to provide Croydon children with the very best support and opportunities.

Strong partnership working is essential to making sure that children and young people get the help and protection they need. I have been impressed by the commitment shown by partners throughout this year and I feel confident that there is a firm foundation for the new Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Di Smith
Independent Chair
Croydon Safeguarding Children Board





Introduction

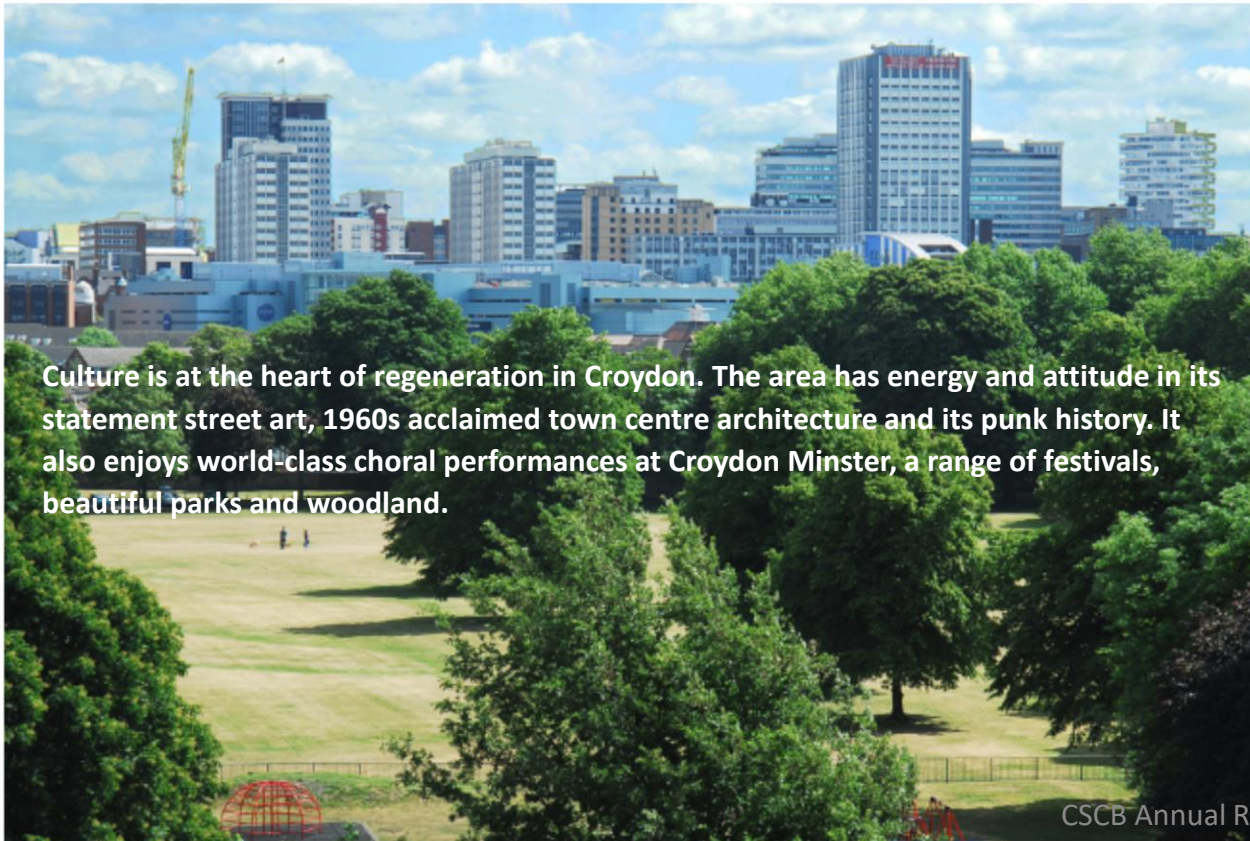
- Until 31 August 2019, Croydon Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB) is the local structure for ensuring the statutory objectives of safeguarding children and promoting their welfare are carried out. This is the final Annual report of the CSCB and covers activities of the Board and related partners for the period April 2018 to August 2019.
- **About Croydon** gives overview data of the large and diverse borough of Croydon. The borough is large in both size and population, with areas of considerable wealth and others amongst the most deprived in the country.
- The objectives and functions of LSCBs are set by legislation, **About the Board** shows how the CSCB is structured and how the statutory duties are discharged by the Board and the various sub-groups over the year;
- **About the Partnership**, provides the detail of the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership. The structure, budget, responsible agencies and partners that make up the CSCP are all noted within this section.
- **Service reports** provide the core safeguarding data about Croydon children and gives examples of actions taken to promote the welfare of Croydon children.
- **The voluntary and charitable sector**, gives information about a number of services, from small voluntary organisations to statutory bodies, which deliver services to children in Croydon.



About Croydon

Art & Culture

Croydon is redefining life on the edge of south London. Just 15 minutes from both central London and Gatwick Airport, and where the city meets the country, the borough is a hotspot of business growth and tech innovation. Confidence in Croydon has never been stronger: its £5.25 billion regeneration programme is the largest in London and is expected to create 23,594 new jobs and over 10,000 new homes.



Culture is at the heart of regeneration in Croydon. The area has energy and attitude in its statement street art, 1960s acclaimed town centre architecture and its punk history. It also enjoys world-class choral performances at Croydon Minster, a range of festivals, beautiful parks and woodland.



A multi-million pound makeover of Croydon's much-loved Fairfield Halls, due to complete September 2019, will be the centrepiece of the cultural quarter – creating a world-class entertainment venue in the heart of Croydon town centre. The proposed £1.4 billion redevelopment of the Whitgift Shopping Centre will bring over 300 shops, restaurants and leisure facilities, including a multi-screen cinema making Croydon a world-class shopping destination. The scheme by Croydon Partnership – a joint venture between Westfield and Hammerson – is due to complete by 2023 and will bring up to 7,000 jobs and 1,000 new homes.

About Croydon

Infrastructure

A partnership between Croydon Council, central government, the Greater London Authority and Transport for London is providing the infrastructure needed to support the extensive growth taking place in the town centre. Investment of £520 million will fund essential projects transport, public spaces and community facility projects, making sure the town centre continues to be a place that works for people. An ambitious Smart City programme will make the best use of technology to develop solutions that make Croydon a thriving city as it continues to grow.



Connectivity

Croydon really does have the best of both worlds. Home to one of the busiest train stations in London, East Croydon station serves over 26,000 travellers each year with fast transport links to central London, Brighton and the south coast.

The council continues to campaign for vital upgrades to train lines that connect Croydon to London and the south. Improvements would increase the number of trains into central London per hour and deliver a new station for central Croydon.

About Croydon

Enterprise

Croydon has nearly 15,000 businesses with strong clusters of digital, engineering, construction, finance, retail, public sector & government organisations, and is home to major new employers including HMRC, the Green Energy Network and EDF Energy who have brought thousands of jobs to the borough.

In December 2018 Croydon was named one of the Mayor of London's first Creative Enterprise Zones – bringing £1million investment to help creative industries flourish and grow. The development of Croydon as a music city, a pioneering new cultural internship programme and subsidised studio space for under-25s are just some of the projects underway.

Housing

Croydon's Local Plan sets ambitious targets for at least 32,890 new homes between 2016 and 2036, 40% of which are to be affordable and 30% to have three or more bedrooms to meet family needs.

Croydon Council set up development company Brick by Brick in 2016 to deliver around 2,000 much-needed new homes for Croydon residents, both private and affordable to buy and rent, and its first homes went on sale in February.

Around 300 Brick by Brick properties will be delivered for Croydon Affordable Homes (CAH), an independent charity set up by the council in July 2017 to provide affordable rented homes for local residents at 65% of the usual market rent. This includes a block of 90 new homes currently under construction on the site of the former Taberner House council offices.



About Croydon Children

Croydon has the largest child population in London at just over 93,000 aged 0-18, 57,500 of whom are of statutory school age (5-16).

The October 2018 census notes there were:-

- 33,649 primary pupils in Croydon primary schools and
- 19,840 secondary age pupils in Croydon secondary schools



Choose your Future

Croydon is incredibly proud to be home to more young people than anywhere else in the capital, with 32% of the population under 25.

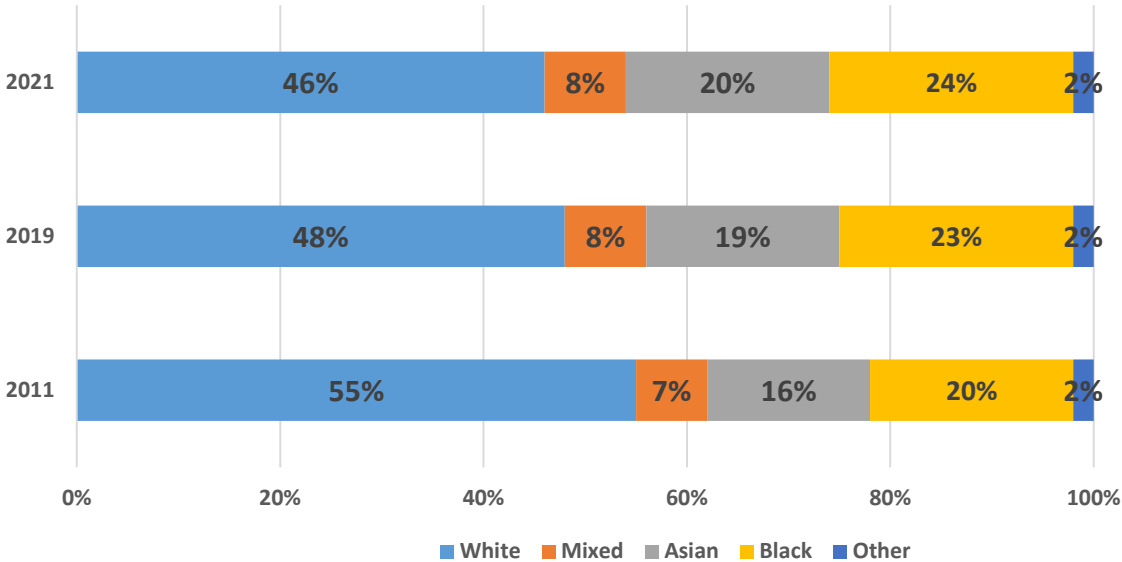
Croydon's ambition for them is that they will be healthy, happy and safe, and achieve and play an active role in our borough's future. The award-winning Choose Your Future campaign celebrates all Croydon young people and the positive choices they make.





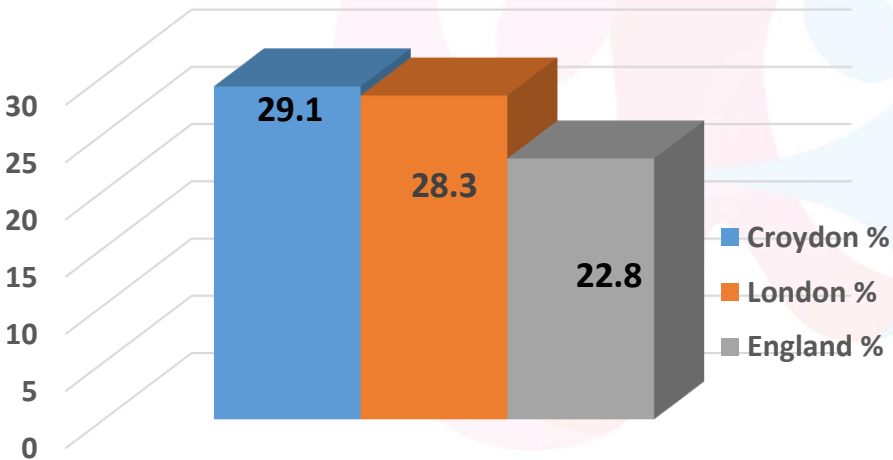
About Croydon Children

Ethnic Groups of Croydon Children
2011 to 2021 actual & predicted



Croydon has a diverse population. As with other London boroughs Croydon has a higher proportion of residents from black and minority ethnic (BME) backgrounds than the national average, with the younger population being more diverse than the older population in Croydon. This table shows the actual and predicted child population changes between 2011 and 2021.

Free School Meals



Pupils who have been eligible for free school meals in the last 6 years

The latest data available shows that 16% of Croydon children are living in low income families. The table above shows there is a greater proportion of Croydon children who have been eligible for free school meals in the last 6 years, than those in London and across England.

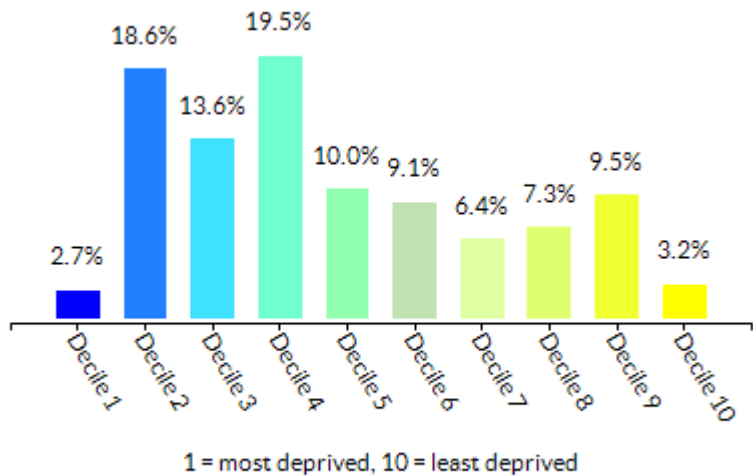
Children who are eligible for free school meals and Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) children do not achieve such a good level of development as all other children in Croydon.

By Key Stage 2, disadvantaged pupils reaching the expected standard is at 57% whereas all other pupils is at 74%

About Croydon Children

Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) 2015

The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index is an index that looks at the proportion of children in an area that are living in families affected by income deprivation. The index combines information from seven domains to produce an overall relative measure of deprivation. The domains are: Income; Employment; Education; Skills and Training; Health and Disability; Crime; Barriers to Housing Services; Living Environment. Each domain is given a weighting and is based on a basket of indicators.



Date: 2015 Source: DCLG

In 2015 23.2% of Croydon children were living in families affected by income deprivation. Croydon was ranked the 70th most deprived authority out of the 326 district authorities in England. It is noticeable that overall the north and east of the borough are relatively more deprived than the south west of the borough.





About the Board

The 2017 Children and Social Work Act replaced Local Safeguarding Children Boards with new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements which are to be effective from September 2019. [Link to Children and Social Work Act 2017](#)

During the transition period, the existing duties and objectives established by section 14 of Children Act 2004 remain. This report covers the Board's activities in 2018/19 under the 2004 legislation. [Link to Children Act 2004 Section 14](#)

The core objectives of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) are: to: -

- Co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority by which it is established;
- And to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose.



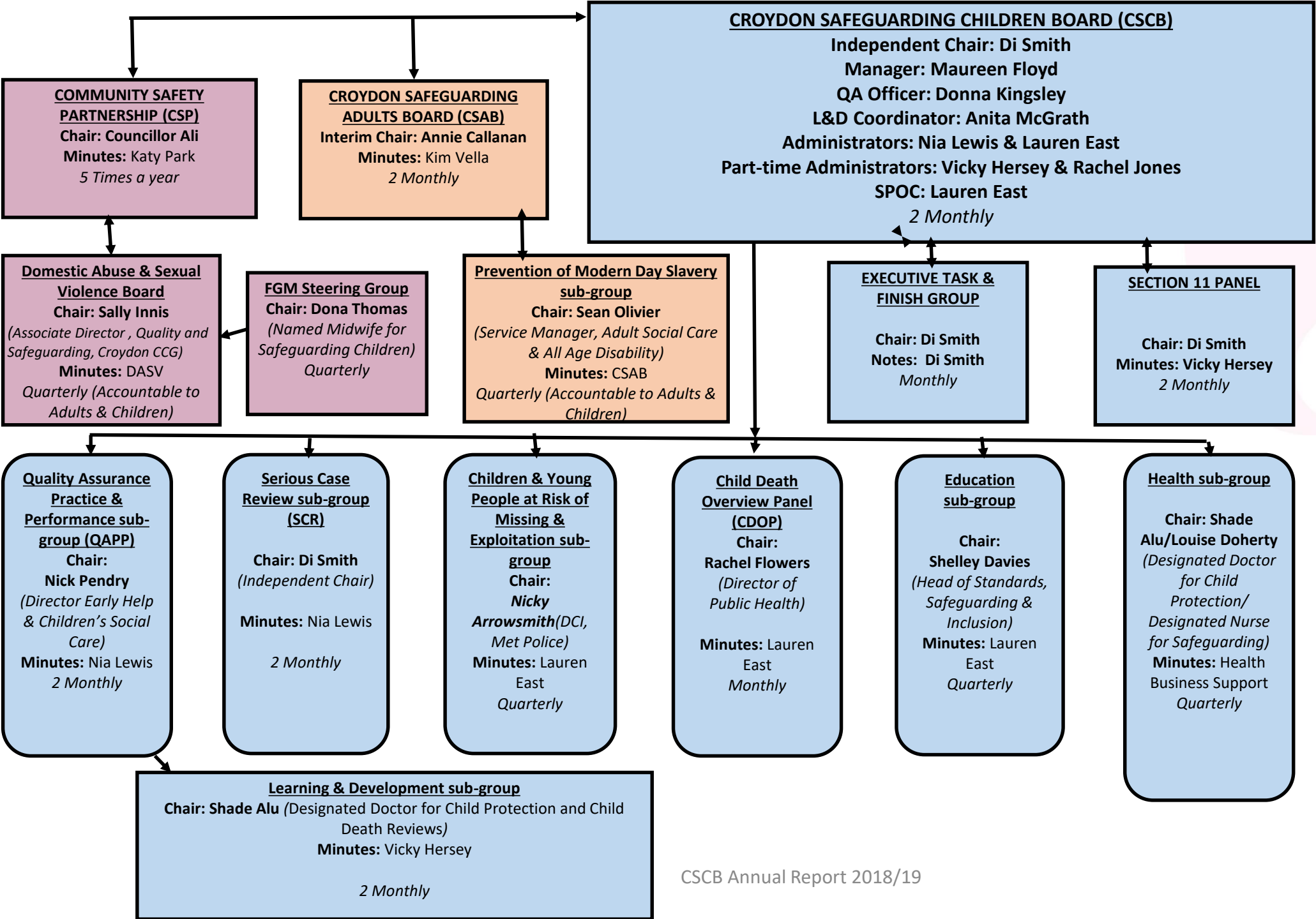
The LSCB functions set by Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 are to:-

[Link to 2006 LSCB Regulations](#)

1. Develop policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority,
2. Communicate to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so;
3. Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve;
4. Participate in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority; and
5. Undertake reviews of serious cases and advise the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.
 - Regulation 5(2) relates to the LSCB Serious Case Reviews function
 - Regulation 5(3) provides that an LSCB may also engage in any other activity that facilitates, or is conducive to, the achievement of its objectives.
 - Regulation 6 relates to the LSCB Child Death functions



CROYDON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD STRUCTURE CHART 2018-19





About the Board

CSCB Structure and Sub-groups – compliance with 2006 Regulations (see 2018/19 Structure Chart):

- **The Learning & Development sub-group** promotes the training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children.
- **The Section 11 Panel**, checks that agencies have the relevant safeguarding training available to their staff.
- **The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)** leads on investigation of allegations concerning persons who work with children.
- **The LADO and the Section 11 Panel** both give direction in respect of the recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children.
- **Children & Young People at Risk of Missing and Exploitation sub-group**, has oversight of Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing children
- **The Health and Education sub-groups** promote the safeguarding message across their disciplines and ensure that there is wider awareness and implementation of current safeguarding issues.
- **Private Fostering:** The safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered is monitored by a Children's Social Care Panel with annual reporting to the Board.
- **Participation in the planning of services** for children in the area of the authority; is generally led by the Executive, although can emerge in any sub-group and responded to, as required.
- **Cooperation with neighbouring children's services authorities** and their Board partners; is ongoing within SCRs, Child deaths, missing and exploited children.
- **Task and Finish groups** have been set up to lead on specific areas of work; this currently includes, Children with Disabilities, Early Help, Neglect, CSCB Dataset and Child Protection arrangements.



Arrangements for 2019 and beyond:

'Working Together 2018' reflects the changes in the 'Children and Social Work Act 2017' which sees the end of Local Children Safeguarding Boards with the responsibilities for safeguarding children passed to the three safeguarding partners from Health (CCG), Police and the Local Authority.

The Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) comes into full effect from 1 September 2019 – See CSCP Structure Chart

The CSCB remains using the existing legislation through transition arrangements until the new arrangements are fully effective from 1 September 2019. [Link to Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#)



CSCB Budget & Expenditure 2018/19

Income	
South London & Maudsley NHS Trust	13,540
Met Police	5,000
Croydon CCG	33,850
Croydon Health Service	33,850
National Probation Service	2,000
CAFCASS	550
Total Income	88,790
LB Croydon	205,000
Reserves from 2017/18	10,000
Sub-total	303,790
Overspend covered by LB Croydon	51,006
TOTAL	354,796

Expenses	
Staff Costs	178,669
Serious Case Reviews	140,805
Training	26,050
Website	1,000
Neglect Audit	2,337
Services recharge	5,935
(reprographics, stationery, mailroom etc.)	
TOTAL	354,796

CSCB Budget - The Safeguarding Board is jointly financed by contributions from partner agencies, with the largest proportion coming from the local authority. For the first time in 6 years the Board has had an overspend. The substantial overspend has been in relation to Serious Case Reviews and the Vulnerable Adolescent Review of 60 young people.

Attendance

Agency	Attendance	%
Independent Chair	6	100%
Director of Children's Services	6	100%
Executive Lead Member for children	4	67%
Lay Members	6	100%
Children's Social Care	5	83%
Youth Offending	4	67%
CAFCASS	2	34%
Schools (representatives from Primary & Secondary schools)	5	83%
Croydon Health Service	4	67%
Clinical Commissioning Group	5	83%
National Probation Service	3	50%
Community Rehabilitation Company	3	50%
Croydon Police	5	83%
Police Child Abuse Investigation Team	5	83%
Head of School Standards	5	83%
Director of Safety	1	17%
Adult Social Care	2	34%
Director of Public Health	5	83%
Voluntary Sector	6	100%

The Board is led by Independent Chair; Di Smith who has chaired the Board since September 2017. The Independent Chair has provided formal representation of the CSCB as a member of the Croydon Improvement Board. This role has provided dual functionality, keeping the Improvement Board fully apprised of the CSCB's progress and ensuring that there is a partnership dimension to the Improvement Plan.

The Chair has presented to the Council Scrutiny Committee, to the Local Strategic Partnership and given formal presentations to the Community Safety Partnership. Further she has attended the monthly Strategic Leadership Safeguarding Meetings. A joint meeting was held with Councillors and MOPAC in respect of the findings from the Vulnerable Adolescent Review.

Board meetings and sub-groups are well attended from across the partnership. Attendance is monitored by the Board and any irregular attendance from partners is challenged by the Chair.

Croydon Voluntary Action (CVA) elect representatives from local voluntary sector child organisations to most of the sub-groups.

In July 2018 the Board held a development day for Board members to consider the changes to 'Working Together 2018' and the implications for the Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements. In particular the cessation of the Safeguarding Board and the need to develop a new safeguarding partnership

The Board also agreed the introduction of the NSPCC Neglect tool, the Graded Care Profile version 2 (GCP2) to improve partnership recognition of neglect and to promote direct work with families about neglect.

Child Death Overview Panel - CDOP

Croydon CDOP to Sept 2019

From April 2008 the law requires that all children's deaths must be reviewed by the local Child Death Overview Panel.

The aim of the panel is to conduct child death reviews, collect and review information about the deaths of all children in a particular area in order to:

- Identify whether there are any patterns or trends of child deaths emerging locally
- Identify lessons that can be learned from these patterns or trends
- Take action to improve the safety and wellbeing of children in the local area

The panel meets monthly and all information is strictly confidential and treated with sensitivity and respect. The panel is chaired by the Director of Public Health and membership includes health professionals, representatives from the local authority and the police. The remit of the CDOP also includes a Rapid Response function, which should be held within 5 working days of the death.

The Rapid Response process includes a group of key professionals who come together for the purpose of enquiring into, and evaluating, the unexpected death of a child. Professionals involved in this process provide initial support to the family and help to inform the subsequent CDOP review process.

These arrangements will end on 31 August 2019 when the new Croydon Child Death Review Planned Arrangements come into effect in accordance with 'Working Together 2018'.

South West London Child Death Overview Panel from Sept 2019

Planned new arrangements – under the new guidance, Croydon is part of the South West London Child Death Overview Panel (SWL CDOP), along with neighbouring boroughs; Sutton, Merton, Wandsworth, Richmond and Kingston.

All children who are residents of Croydon (when they die) will have their deaths reviewed at the SWL CDOP. Prior to this they will have a joint agency response if the criteria is met, followed by a child death review meeting.

The joint agency response is the responsibility of the designated doctor for child death reviews, who will also chair the subsequent Child Death Review Meeting.

[View – Croydon Child Deaths Planned New Arrangements Sept 2019](#)

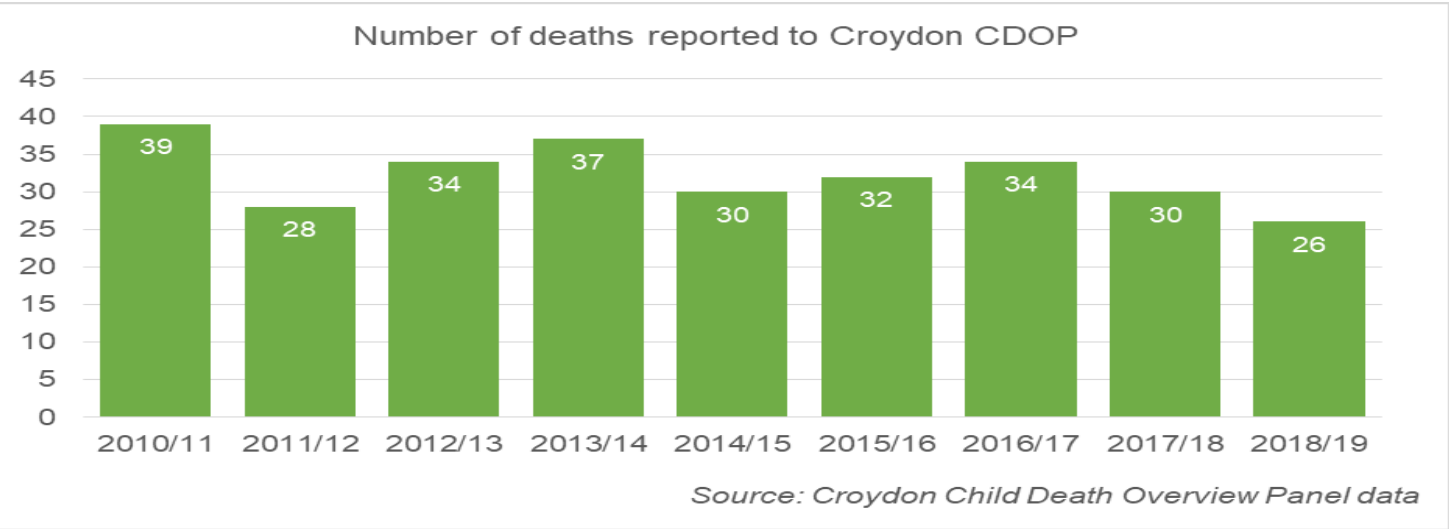
http://www.londoncp.co.uk/chapters/unexpected_death.html

[Link to CDOP-Annual-Report-201819](#)

[Link to Working Together 2018](#)



Child Death Overview Panel - CDOP



26 deaths of children resident in, or the responsibility of, the London Borough of Croydon were notified to Croydon’s Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) between April 2018 and March 2019 as per the CDOP’s terms of reference. Less than five of these deaths were of babies born below 24 weeks gestation and were therefore not reviewed by CDOP as per the panel’s terms of reference.

Rapid Response meetings were convened for six deaths of children notified between April 2018 and March 2019.

32 CDOP reviews were completed during 2018-2019. The following information in this report relates to cases reviewed in 2018-2019, regardless of the year of death. Deaths that occurred in 2018-2019 but have not yet been reviewed will be included in a future report following CDOP review.

Of the deaths reviewed in 2018-2019, 14 cases had required a post mortem and none were subject to a Serious Case Review.

Of the deaths reviewed in 2018-2019 less than five of the cases were identified as Children in Need at the time of their deaths and / or had a previous or current statutory order. Less than five had previously been subject to a child protection plan and less than five were identified as an asylum seeker.



Demographics - Because of the small numbers no inferences can be drawn from this data.

Place of Death - Three quarters of all deaths reviewed in 2018-2019 occurred in hospital (24 of 32).

Gestation date and age at death - Nine of the children who died as neonates (0 to 27 days) or infants (28 to 364 days) were born prematurely (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation).

Age - Two thirds of the child deaths reviewed in 2018-2019 were less than one year old when they died (21 of 32).

Gender - 19 of the deaths reviewed were male and 13 were female.

Ethnicity - 31% (10) of the deaths reviewed in 2018-2019 were of white British ethnicity. This is a change from 2017-2018, when 21% of deaths reviewed were of a white British ethnicity.

Deprivation - There is a strong association in the literature between deprivation and poor mortality: rates are lowest amongst the most advantaged families and highest in the most disadvantaged. The index of multiple deprivation (IMD) is a method of ranking areas according to their level of deprivation by combining different indicators into a single score. It is calculated by combining different scores on a range of indicators relating to income, employment, health, education, housing and access to services. The most deprived fifth (quintile) of all areas is described as “quintile 1” and the least deprived fifth of areas is described as “quintile 5”.

In 2018-2019, just under half of the children whose deaths were reviewed were living in areas in the two most deprived quintiles nationally.



Serious Case Review (SCR) – sub-group

Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Board Regulations 2006 require the CSCB to undertake reviews of serious cases in specified circumstances.

A serious case is one where:

- (a) abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; and
- (b) either —
- (i) the child has died; or
- (ii) the child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the authority, their Board partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child.

The decision to undertake either an SCR or Learning Review (LR) follows a referral and recommendation from the multi-agency SCR sub-group to the CSCB Chair who makes the ultimate decision.

The SCR sub-group considered 3 referrals for Reviews in 2018/19, of which 2 reviews were agreed, one SCR and one Learning Review

The CSCB has completed and published three Reviews in 2018/19

Child L – published in conjunction with Lambeth LSCB August 2018; [Link to Child L SCR](#)

- **Child L ingested cocaine at the age of 11 months and suffered 3 cardiac arrests.** He survived. Although he had been subject to a Child Protection Plan, the risk that he was exposed to from parental drug misuse was not fully recognised. It was concluded that whilst this sad incident could not have been predicted, more could have been done to promote his safety and wellbeing. The challenge of multi-agency working across three boroughs was recognised in the review as was the finding that some child protection standards were not met.

Child A and Baby N – published January 2019; [Link to Child A & Baby N SCR](#)

- **Baby N died age 3 weeks as a result of a traumatic head injury.** The older sibling had suffered two different head injuries as an infant. The case review identified a number of issues relating to information sharing, record-keeping, compliance with child protection procedures, and professional curiosity. In addition, the case emphasised the significance of head injuries in pre-mobile children, which need to be recognised and acted upon.

The Vulnerable Adolescent Review - published February 2019: [Link to VA Review](#)

- **3 teenagers died in a 4 week period in the summer of 2017.** The CSCB took the unprecedented step to undertake a Thematic Review of 60 adolescents, 5 of whom had died in 2017/18. This is the largest piece of work undertaken by the Board to date and it demonstrated the determination of partners to improve and deepen their understanding of the lives and experiences of vulnerable young people, their community and the services they received.
- The review brought together information from their families, social care, schools, health, police, youth offending, community organisations and, where possible, the young people themselves. The review considered the support they received and the effectiveness of multi-agency working.
- The findings highlight a high proportion had experienced paternal absence (72%), exposure to domestic abuse (42%), homelessness (28%) and maternal absence (27%). All 60 were known to social care – more than half of them by the age of five – and 70% had been referred to child and adolescent mental health services.
- The review particularly emphasised the pivotal importance of education in young people's lives. It also highlights the impact of exclusion. Of the 19 young people in the cohort who received a fixed term exclusion in primary school, all went on to receive a criminal conviction.



Serious Case Review (SCR) – sub-group

The purpose of undertaking SCRs is to gain an understanding of what happened to inform learning and improve practice. The SCR sub-group has overseen changes to practice as a result of the SCRs and Learning Reviews undertaken.

Neglect

Reviews have repeatedly identified the inconsistency of recognising neglect. As a result the CSCB introduced the NSPCC Graded Care Profile tool (GCP2) which has been rolled out across the partnership with more than 100 social workers and early help practitioners having successfully completed the training. The GCP2 tool is in active use and has been recognised as a positive intervention in helping families recognise neglect for themselves and being significant in helping them to engage and redress that harm.

A Neglect Strategy has been developed and agreed and Neglect remains a priority for the CSCB & CSCP in 2019/20.

Vulnerable Adolescents

The VAR has had a significant impact in Croydon and has been nationally recognised. The findings of the VAR have been instrumental in changing local practice, in conjunction with influencing processes, systems and structures.

Community Safety have created the Violence Reduction Network in response, Children's Social Care have developed an Adolescent Service, bringing together all services for adolescents and employing staff to directly engage with the young people. It has influenced education and supported challenge in respect of Fixed Term Exclusions, managed moves, which is overseen by the Fair Access Panel.

Vulnerable Adolescents remain a priority group for the CSCB & CSCP in 2019/20.

Child Protection Plans

A multi-agency panel has been put in place to review all child protection plans of 18 months duration plus, which is helping to address issues of drift.

Parental issues

Several of the SCRs and Reviews have related to parental issues, Domestic Abuse, Drug or Alcohol Misuse, mental health, so a Joint protocol relating to these has been in place since 2017. It has become evident that this protocol was not widely known or used so it is being updated and will be subject to full formal dissemination across the partnership.

Action Plans

The SCR sub-group requires each agency to provide updates on progress in respect of SCR & Learning Review recommendations. This is to ensure that the learning from each review and any collective issues are actively addressed.

Learning

The SCR Themes Briefing Note has been published on the website and actively shared with partners. This identifies the learning from each review and highlights the common elements within them. This has been a powerful visual tool to reinforce learning across all agencies.

An **SCR Tracker** is shared at all sub-groups and the Board so that all can be kept appraised of developments and progress with SCRs and learning reviews. Also noted are any Domestic Homicide Reviews which involve children and reviews undertaken in other boroughs and authorities which relate to Croydon families.



Quality Assurance, Practice & Performance sub-group

QAPP is the sub-group where scrutiny, multi-agency policy and procedures and audit take place on behalf of the Board. These are some examples of the work covered by the QAPP sub-group

- QAPP reviews the CSCB dataset and introduces challenge, for example:
 - Dataset updated via Task & Finish workshops
 - Moved from Huddle to SharePoint
 - Issues re caseloads & capacity addressed
 - Growth in Contacts, Referrals, CP Plans & LAC all raised
 - Health assessments for LAC
 - Age-related HV checks
- QAPP plans the multi-agency (m/a) audit programme for the year, this included ;
 - Child Sexual Exploitation
 - Neglect Thematic Review
 - Child Protection Conference Audit
 - Summary of recurring themes
- QAPP notes single agency reports
 - Children's Social care
 - Probation
 - Health
 - Multi-agency attendance at LAC reviews
- QAPP oversees practice development
 - Following the Neglect Learning Review, QAPP set up a Task & Finish group to lead and develop the use of specific tools
 - Train the trainer sessions & roll-out in the NSPCC Graded Care Profile
 - Develop a Neglect strategy and Multi-agency Child Protection Review Panel formed to review all CP case with plan 18 months plus
 - M/A workshops with external facilitator to collectively address CP processes 3 work streams;
 - Strategy meetings
 - Referrals & Thresholds
 - CP Conferences
- QAPP develops and implements new policies and procedures.
 - Escalation & Resolution Policy updated
 - Task & Finish group to review Joint Protocol
 - Child Protection Conferences: Guidance and Practice Standards for Professionals published
- QAPP shares new processes
 - Child Protection Information System (CPIS) implemented – provides information on those children who are subject to Child Protection Plans or are Looked After, accessible by acute health services
 - Advocacy arrangements & literature/s
- QAPP provides challenge in respect of Voice of the Child and how this has informed agency working
 - All about me health assessment tool
 - Support to the Choose Your Future campaign
 - Turning Point Young People's Satisfaction Survey
 - CSC established an advocacy service for all children over 11.
- The Learning & Development sub-group also report into the QAPP (see separate L & D pages)

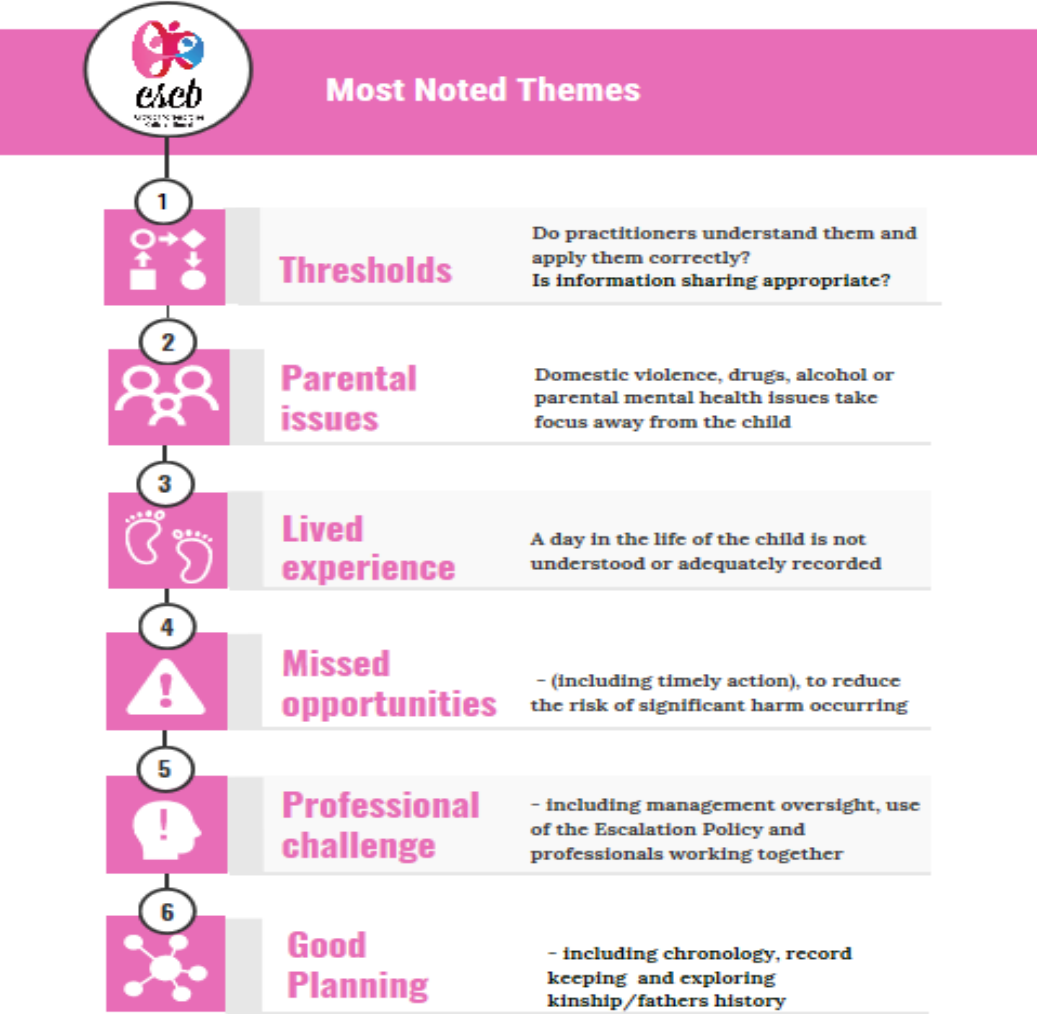
New for 2019/20

Quality Improvement Group (previously QAPP sub-group)

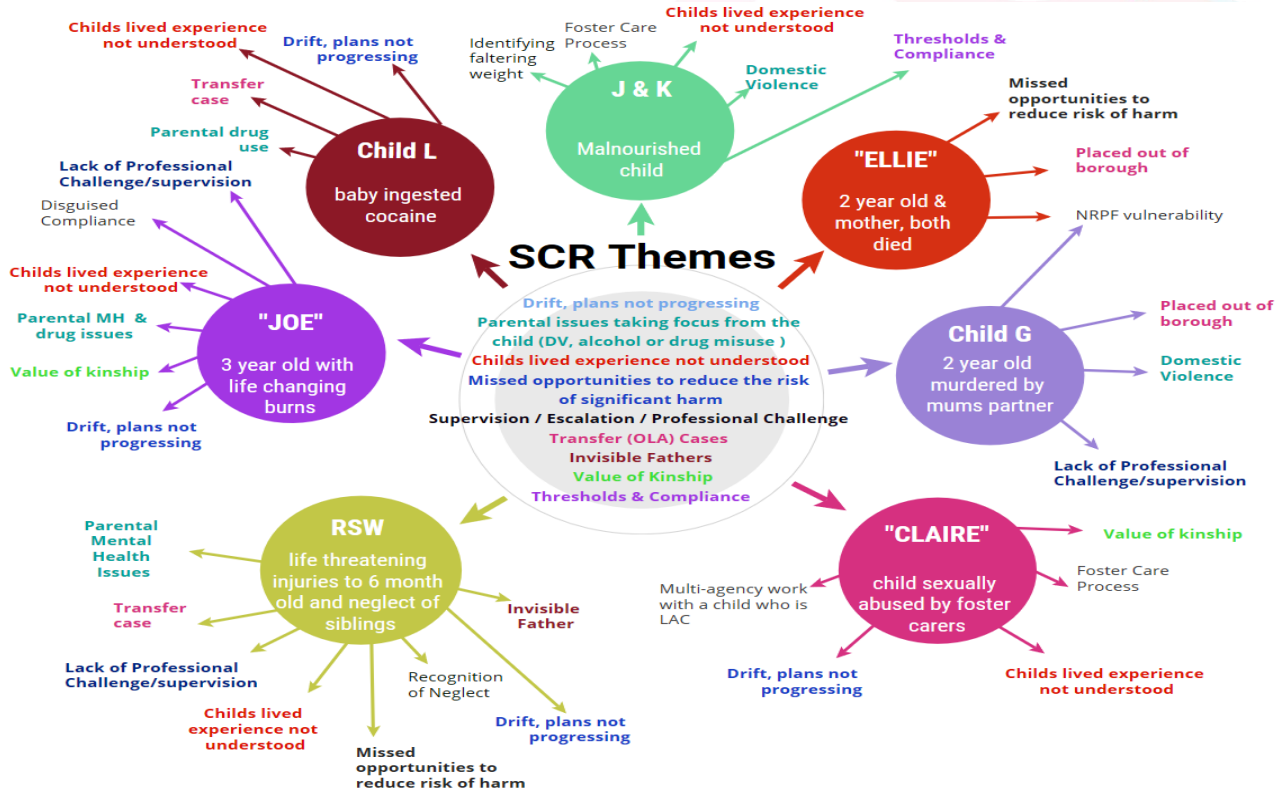
Regular multi-agency data challenge meeting, which reports into the QI Group

QAPP sub – group - Audits

Audits on Neglect and CSE were completed in the year. Single page [Briefing Sheets](#) were circulated to help the workforce recognise and respond to the findings. The most noted themes across all audits were circulated and included in subsequent audits to try and track shift against these highlighted areas.



A Themes From SCR summary sheet highlighted the similarities between cases, enabling the workforce to consider these key areas when developing plans.



- As a result of the findings from the Neglect Audit. The partnership has implemented the use of the Graded Care Profile 2 Neglect Tool. One of the 3 priority groups for 2019-20 is for Neglect which will circulate and review the newly created Neglect Strategy document.
- The tools and process for audit activity have been refined to ensure the activity is planned. As a result, partner engagement throughout the year has improved
- Audits planned for 2019-20 include an Early Help & Threshold Audit as well as the completion of the Neglect Audit Program and the Child Protection Pathways Audit.
- As part of Children's Takeover Day activity, a CSE case was audited by young people – the findings from the young people were similar to the multi-agency practice and their views were included in the report.



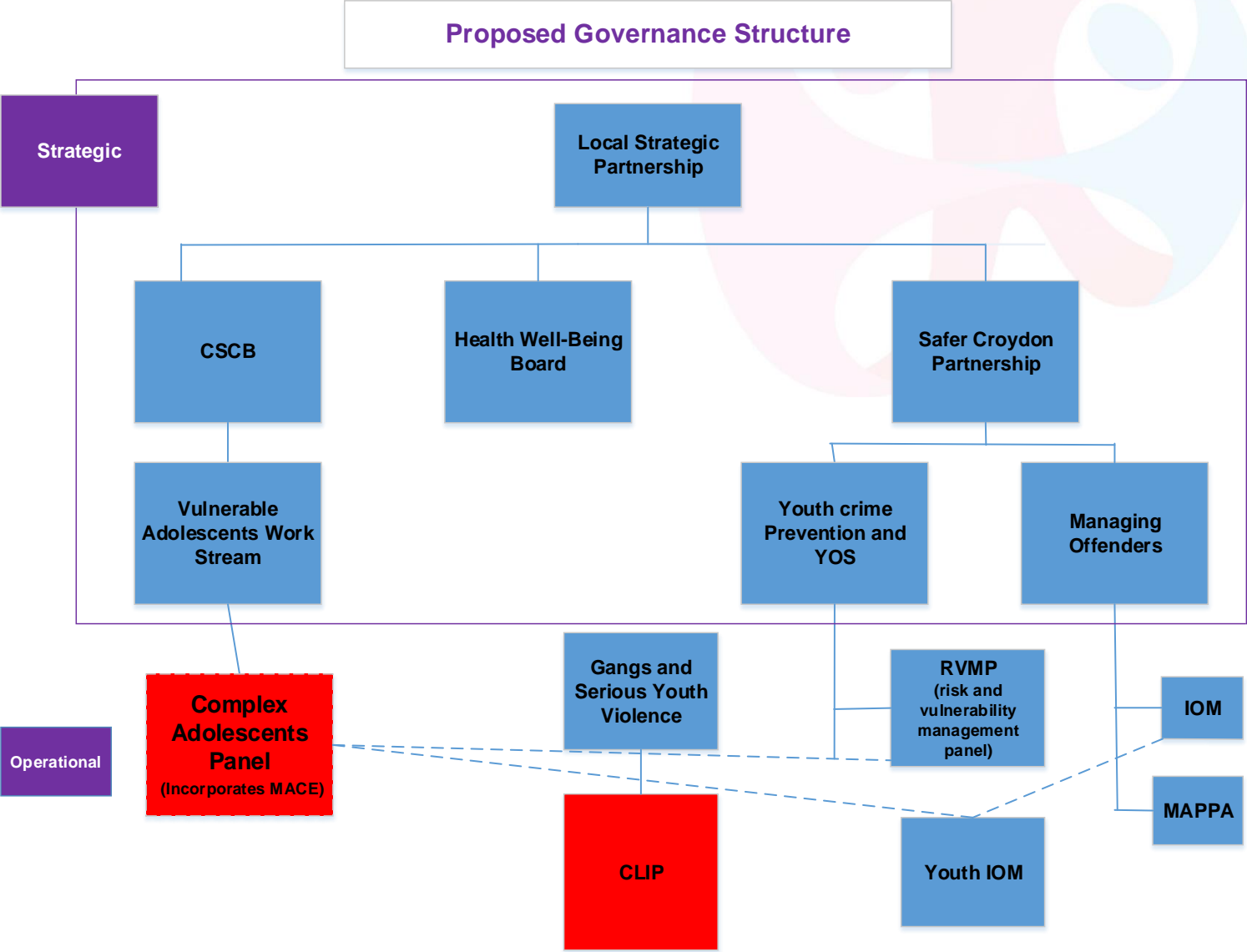
Children & Young People at Risk of Missing & Exploitation sub-group

The CYPARME sub-group used the findings of the VA Review in addition to the regular data provision being shared to implement a review of Adolescent Services and subsequent proposed structural changes. The sub-group has been superseded and replaced by the new Vulnerable Adolescent Priority Group in conjunction with 2 new Adolescent Panels and the restructure of Adolescent Services. The new renamed Adolescent Services includes Targeted Services, Youth Offending Service, Child Exploitation and Missing Intelligence Team, Gangs Team, Two Adolescent Support (statutory social work) Teams and Edge of Care pilot (Family Action)

Adolescent Support Teams, changed from Young People’s Care Planning Teams to be renamed Adolescent Support Teams, changed structure from six social workers in each team to four social workers and three adolescent workers (other qualified i.e. youth work) to enable the best possible chance of engaging adolescents where there is risk outside of the home. Teams are focussed on engaging and working in partnership with parents/carers, using Family Group Conference and looking at things like places of safety.

Return home interviews, all posts are now fully recruited to and RHI rate has improved considerably. All children who go missing for the first and second occasion are being offered a short intervention.

Performance data has improved and developed to enable sub-groups to understand the cohort and the children who are most at risk in the borough.





Children & Young People at Risk of Missing & Exploitation sub-group

New Panels: CAP weekly & CLIP monthly

Within Croydon there were 9 different operational and strategic multi-agency panels and meetings held to discuss children where there are concerns about risks which are outside of the home. The majority of these children are adolescents and they are open to statutory services, including Children's Social Care (CSC) and the Youth Offending Service (YOS).

Those most complex and at risk of harm were being discussed in more than one of the panels. The structure of meetings was determined by the concern e.g. missing, exploitation etc., which meant that practitioners and managers were attending a range of forums to discuss the same adolescents. This was time consuming and did not always consider the full complexity of the lives of those adolescents.

There was no forum to identify children early within local communities who might be at future risk. (Learning from VA Review).

This resulted in a 2 part proposal which was agreed and implemented:.

Croydon Local Intelligence Panel which provides effective help at the earliest stage and to stop children progressing into statutory services, including the Youth Offending Service

This is a formal element of the early help and prevention strategy, with Governance provided under the Safer Croydon Partnership

- Criteria for referral are early indicators of anti-social behaviour
- Referral pathways include specific information about locations of concern
- Links and support from local voluntary organisations are an integral part of this meeting

Complex Adolescents Panel:

A referral based weekly panel considering adolescents open to statutory agencies (non-statutory cases to be referred into CLIP)

- Governance is through the Local Children Safeguarding Board, with performance reports which will include exploitation and missing data with analysis going into the bi-monthly Vulnerable Adolescents Priority Group, this incorporates the MACE functions of VOLT (victim, offender, location and themes)
- Chaired by the Head of Adolescent Services, LBC with a deputy chair from the police (senior officer)
- intelligence and attendance from the CSE/Missing Police and CID/gangs unit
- Cases are given a risk level and reviewed by the lead agency operational manager as appropriate
- A risk reduction plan is determined which incorporates into any other agency intervention plans
- Cases can be re-referred if there is a significant event and an escalation in concern (with the exception of MACE protocol cases)
- Referrals will be accepted for children who are open to other local authorities and placed within the borough (for information)
- There will be referral pathways to the Joint Agency Group if this specific information about locations of concern



Learning & Development sub-group

The Learning and Development sub-group has responsibility for overseeing the learning and development activity of the CSCB L&D programme including governance of the associated L&D business processes, evaluating impact of learning on practice and ensuring that single-agency safeguarding learning is in place. The group is represented by multi-agency partners and reports to the Quality Assurance Practice & Performance sub-group. The following is a summary of the L&D’s activity during 18/19.

Introduce improved booking system	The system Croydon Learning was introduced to give access to multi-agency practitioners self-serve booking, cancellation, training feedback surveys and certificates. It has not yet been able to operationalise a charge for ‘no-shows’.
CSCB L&D Programme 18/19 Delivery & Engagement	The L&D sub-group agreed a range of face-to-face, e-learning and conference activity, which supported local safeguarding priorities. Full details of the CSCB L&D programme offered can be seen in the Learning and Development section of this report
CSCB L&D Programme 18/19 Evaluation	The L&D sub-group oversees use of an evaluation framework. Across all activity feedback shows positive feedback on training provided (96%) and of those surveyed about application of learning, almost all said that the safeguarding training had significant-to-good influence on their practice

Going forward we will focus on:

- SCR Learning – provide learning resources and briefings
- Safeguarding spotlight seminars – topic specific seminars
- Increase e-learning completions in specific sectors to increase safeguarding awareness

CSCB Learning and Development



The CSCB Learning and Development Programme supports a range of multi-agency practitioners to develop knowledge and skills to effectively safeguard and protect children. The content of the programme is informed not only by national frameworks and best practice, but also by local serious case reviews and findings of multi-agency audits; and it reflects local priority areas. This is in line with the current [Croydon Learning Improvement Framework](#). The programme is fully-funded and accessible to the statutory and non-statutory children’s workforce in Croydon. This includes multi-agency group learning, conferences, workshops and e-learning. By offering mixed multi-agency learning sessions, the programme supports the practice and ethos of working together through shared learning, promoting understanding of other professional roles and functions, and supporting professional networking.

All L&D events are evaluated through surveys post-event and to identify evidence on impact of practice, some of the main findings can be seen on the next page.

Multi-Agency group learning	E-Learning	Conference	Workshop
Child Sexual Exploitation	Graded Care Profile2 Awareness Sessions	Impact of Parental Substance Misuse	Referral & Thresholds
Domestic Abuse	Gangs	Level 3 Safeguarding	Sexual Violence & People
Early Help	Harmful Practice Event	MARAC & Claire’s Law	Working Together in Child Protection
NSPCC Graded Care Profile2	Impact of Parental Mental Health	Child Neglect	
E-Learning Basic Safeguarding Adults & Children Awareness	E-Learning Safeguarding Children Level 1	E-Learning Safeguarding Children Level 2	Vulnerable Adolescent Conference
E-Learning Child Sexual Exploitation Level 1	E-Learning Child Sexual Exploitation Level 2	E-learning PREVENT and FGM (free national resource)	Child Protection Processes Review - workshops



18/19 L&D programme engaged over 1,000 multi-agency practitioners – including school staff, early years, social workers, early help practitioners, health professionals and community groups.



In support of learning from serious case reviews (SCR ‘Joe’ and local audits), a series of multi-agency workshops were arranged to review and identify improvements at key phases of the child protection process. These workshops identified specific areas for improvement and the introduction of the [CSCB Child Protection Partnership Framework](#) which holds the core principles, standards and behaviours of working together with Croydon.



Over 4,000 safeguarding e-learning courses completed



NSPCC Graded Care Profile2 introduced and in support of Neglect Strategy. Over 200 practitioners trained.



The Vulnerable Adolescent Conference shared learning from the [Croydon Vulnerable Adolescent Thematic Review](#) and promoted local and national practice developments to help respond to issues facing older vulnerable children

CSCB Learning & Development Programme - Impact



Feedback across all courses

93% Knowledge Improved or better

88% Confidence Better or significantly improved

87% Skills Better or improved

96% Content Good or excellent

Top 10 feedback themes

- Keep focussed on child's needs
- Increased awareness of indicators of neglect and abuse
- Having a view of a child's life in 24hrs
- Sharing learning with colleagues
- Sharing learning resources to use in teams
- Being more curious, asking different questions
- More confident to challenge other professionals
- Willing to escalate matters when needed
- Knowing roles and responsibilities of other agencies
- Knowing where to sign-post for support

CSCB Annual Report 2018/19

How has your training been applied to your practice?

"more curious about what is happening asking different questions" (Domestic Abuse)

It has given me more confidence ...to be able to stand strong in my views in a neglect case when other professionals may not necessarily agree" (Child Neglect)

"...Promoting child's voice in partnership with parents and services" (Safeguarding Children)

...liaising with colleagues to know what they have done before submitting referrals" (Thresholds & Referrals)

Health sub-group

What has been achieved?

- The Health sub group has continued to be active during 2018-9 with a busy work plan and a full agenda; this group is co-chaired by the Designated Doctor and Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children.
- The health sub group work plan is based on the CSCB priorities and learning from serious case reviews. Key achievements include:
- Safeguarding assurance received from General Practice to demonstrate they have appropriate training, policies and procedures in place to safeguard children.
- Contribution from the health sub group members in the multi-agency work undertaken to strengthen involvement in child protection processes. A significant achievement is the substantial involvement paediatricians contribute to child protection strategy meetings. Contribution to the multi-agency audits, themed – Neglect and Sexual exploitation, learning from these audits have been included in training programmes across the health economy
- NHS England have funded a pilot project (provided by Croydon Health Services). This is a community clinic for women who have had FGM.
- Croydon Health Economy received a Children Looked After and Safeguarding Review by CQC in February 2019. There were numerous areas of good practice identified alongside recommendations to improve outcomes for children and young people in Croydon

What difference has been made?

- During the CQC Review parents and carers were asked to comment on health services, comments included:

“Communication between CAMHS and the social work looked after children team was very good. They told us that they had not been involved in planning the current care plan for one of the children, but that the service was good at obtaining the child’s views.”

- One of the cases reviewed by CQC identified a good proactive approach to co-ordinated care which means that the pregnant woman and her baby were safeguarded well.
- There is an effective multi-disciplinary psycho-social meeting takes place monthly at CHS Croydon University Hospital, which involves a discussion about all pregnant women where safeguarding concerns have been identified. The attendees work together to produce good plans.

“They [midwives, health visitors and the GP] have been really effective and supportive in getting the care right for me and my children. The health visitor is really flexible, and we work round each other.”

Health sub-group

- The CQC Inspectors visited GPs in their practices and substance misuse practitioners in Turning Point were observed by the CQC to recognise the risk implications of;
 - children and young people missing appointments.
 - children and young people subject to a child protection plan, not brought to GP appointments
- The most vulnerable children and young people with mental ill-health benefit from good joint working arrangements between the services supporting them.
- An application has been made by the CCG mental health team commissioners to become a trailblazing site for the implementation of the government green paper on Improving Young People's mental health



Priorities for 2019/20 include:

- Implementing the robust action plan developed in response to the recommendations made by CQC.
- Embed the Early Help Model developed by Croydon across the health economy
- Increase the number of health practitioners trained to use the Neglect GCP2, to support the implementation of Croydon's Neglect strategy – "Seen, Heard, Helped"

Education sub-group

What has been achieved?

- 100% response to Section 11 audit of schools.
- Unannounced safeguarding visits have followed up on safeguarding concerns and impact of these visits is that culture and procedures have been improved.
- Schools are seeking safeguarding advice appropriately as a result of our work with the LADO
- Greater understanding of off-rolling procedures, with an increase in Children Missing Education (CME) referrals. These have risen from 906 in 15/16 to in the region of 1200 per annum now.



What difference has been made?

- Schools held to account over safeguarding policies and procedures but also culture through safeguarding visits to individual schools.
- Safeguarding now a standing agenda items at the Heads meeting – this ensures that all heads are aware of the priorities.
- Views of CYP are captured at the Youth Congress, Youth Forums and CICC.
- Assured about safeguarding policies and procedures through section 11 audit.

Priorities for 2019/20

- Undertake 'deep dives' to assess the validity of the audit responses. Where the audit shows a school is not compliant with an area of practice they will be reminded either of the required standard or signposted to what is considered good practice. Those schools that have not submitted an audit return will be subject to an unannounced safeguarding visit.
- Investigate why some primary schools are not raising awareness of the thematic priorities with their students and to share practice from those schools that do.
- Explore the reasons for an increase in reported school referrals for domestic abuse and sexual violence and/or peer on peer abuse; and determine if it is worthy of further investigation to understand the reasons for this increase.
- Circulate the local authority model policy for assessing positive DBS disclosures to schools to ensure they have a basis for assessing any such disclosures in a consistent manner.
- Review the systems which capture information on pupils off roll to ensure the local authority is satisfied that it has a comprehensive picture of pupil movement in the borough.



Section 11

What has been achieved?

- A broad range of partners (27) have provided their evidence of Section 11 compliance. The CSCB knows the areas of strengths and weaknesses and has provided the partnership with examples of good compliance and areas of challenge to help influence their future work around Section 11.
- Most organisations are able to evidence compliance of Section 11 at 80% or above – some at 100%. Croydon schools have over 99% of appropriately trained Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) and have an excellent engagement rate with schools completing the comprehensive questionnaire delivered by the Learning Access team.

Areas of challenge across the partnership are:

- **Standard 4:** Service development takes account of the need to safeguard and promote welfare and is informed, where appropriate, by the views of children and families.
- **Standard 5:** There is effective training on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children for all staff working with or, depending on the agency's primary functions, in contact with children & families
- **Standard 6:** Safer recruitment procedures, including vetting procedures and those for managing allegations against staff are in place.



What difference has been made?

- The understanding and engagement of Commissioners & Contract Managers has increased. LBC Team Managers and individual Contract Managers have sought advice from the CSCB and amended their contracts to reflect the need to evidence and review the Section 11 compliance.
- It had previously proved difficult to adequately reflect the Section 11 compliance of those commissioned or contracted to work with Croydon children. In the past year Home Start and GLL Leisure (Parks and Leisure Centre provider for LBC) both completed the refreshed Croydon Section 11 Tool and presented at Section 11 panels.

Priorities for 2019/20

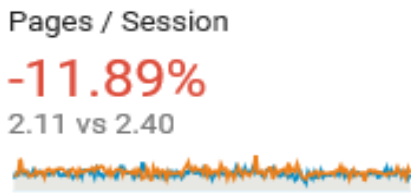
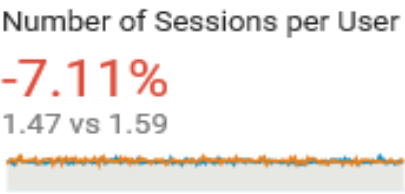
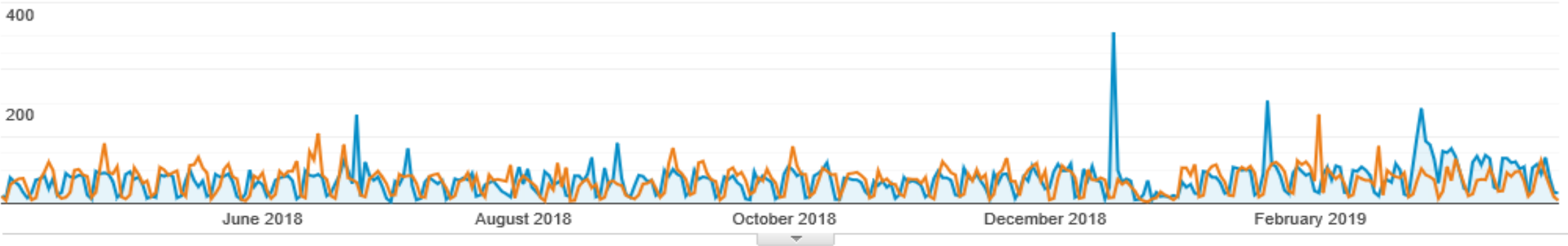
- Although the Challenge Event didn't take place as originally planned a Section 11 Awareness Session – specifically for Commissioners and Commissioned Services did occur instead (Oct 2018). The new arrangements allow for some flexibility in how the partnership will support and enable a system where **“organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively”** and the Executive Group will need to consider the most appropriate means of achieving this.
- Lack of evidence to support compliance, rather than systemic failure to comply is apparent. Partners should be supported to understand what good compliance with Section 11 standards involves and encouraged to use tools and processes which capture this information on a rolling basis. This will support better understanding of the current capabilities of partners, as well as an opportunity to influence service delivery and training offers to meet current and emerging safeguarding risks.



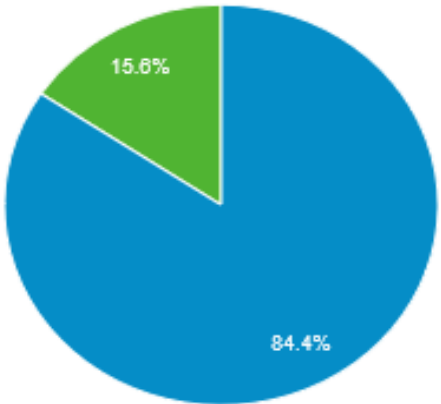
CSCB Communication

The website continues to be a source of information for both new and returning visitors. Users are up almost 10% on the previous year. Some of the spikes relate to the publication of SCRS (such as the Vulnerable Adolescent Review (Feb 2019)). The biggest spike (Dec 18) related to an article about the dangers of button batteries which was posted on the website and shared via the Schools Bulletin, encouraging schools to add the link to their own newsletters they were sending out just before Christmas

Apr 1, 2018 - Mar 31, 2019: ● Users
Apr 1, 2017 - Mar 31, 2018: ● Users



■ New Visitor ■ Returning Visitor
Apr 1, 2018 - Mar 31, 2019



CSCB Communication



The CSCB publishes a Communications Plan, detailing the activities carried out by the partnership to raise awareness of safeguarding news and events. Whilst considerably higher than the previous year, there were less (90 v 135) publishing activities in 2018-19 mainly due to the impact of planning for the new arrangements.

What difference has been made?

- In addition to the on-line activity, there were numerous events to raise the profile of the CSCB and the training opportunities it offers including:
- Stands at Community Events
 - Teenage Pregnancy,
 - International Women's Day,
 - Childhood Bereavement,
 - Best Start, &
 - Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Forum
- Attending partner agency Team Meetings in addition to external organisations such as AXIS working with the Rapid Repairs Housing Team and a joint presentation with Crystal Palace Football Club to the Premier League

What priorities have been identified?

- Following the publication of the new arrangements, priority will now be given to **ensuring the CSCP establishes effective arrangements for communication and engagement** through rebranding and establishing the website. The feedback on the website from Croydon children will be a helpful contribution to the website changes.





LADO – Local Authority Designated Officer

Over the last five years the LADO service has evolved and developed from a marginalised underused service into a coherent and supportive service, which feedback indicates is well regarded

- Consultations to the LADO remain at around 700 per annum with 34% converting to referrals which require oversight. This is comparable with figures across the London boroughs.
- 25% of allegations of harm to children were substantiated
- Almost 50% of consultations emanate from the Education Sector, 66% of which are from primary schools
- 31% of consultations, refer to serious standards of care concerns,
 - 22% being behaviour in private life,
 - 22% relate to allegations of physical assault.
- 75% of standards of care allegations were substantiated.
- 94% of investigations were concluded within 6 months of referral, (which is an improvement on 2017/18 of 74%)
- Training continues across Croydon with the LADO providing training to individual schools, DSLs, Nurseries and Early years and childminders, Fostering Panel, IFAs, and a wide variety of children's provision.

- LADO now jointly Chairs the National and London Wide LADO Networks and is involved in developing benchmarking and common policies and procedures across London and nationally. Presented a workshop on the SCR Claire at the national LADO conference and compered the event.

"is a good opportunity for me to be able to thank you for all the advice and guidance over the years.
Head Teacher

"Thank you so much for your time today and your guidance".
Deputy Head & DSL

"Your staff sessions were really useful thank you."
Associate Head

Thanks for your very helpful presentation at the Safeguarding Forum yesterday. We'll be making a few tweaks to our processes as a result."
DSL

LADO – Local Authority Designated Officer



Aims for 2019/20

- Review and refine recording systems within the Children's Social Care Recording system
- Develop use of Business Support to complement the LADO Service
- Complete Digitalisation of Historic LADO Records to improve retrieval and access
- Develop monthly induction workshops on role and function of the LADO to engage new staff and those who require remedial support on referring to and using the LADO service

Refine recording systems to better record

- Levels of concern
- Transferable risk vs behaviour in professional role
- assessment of future risk.



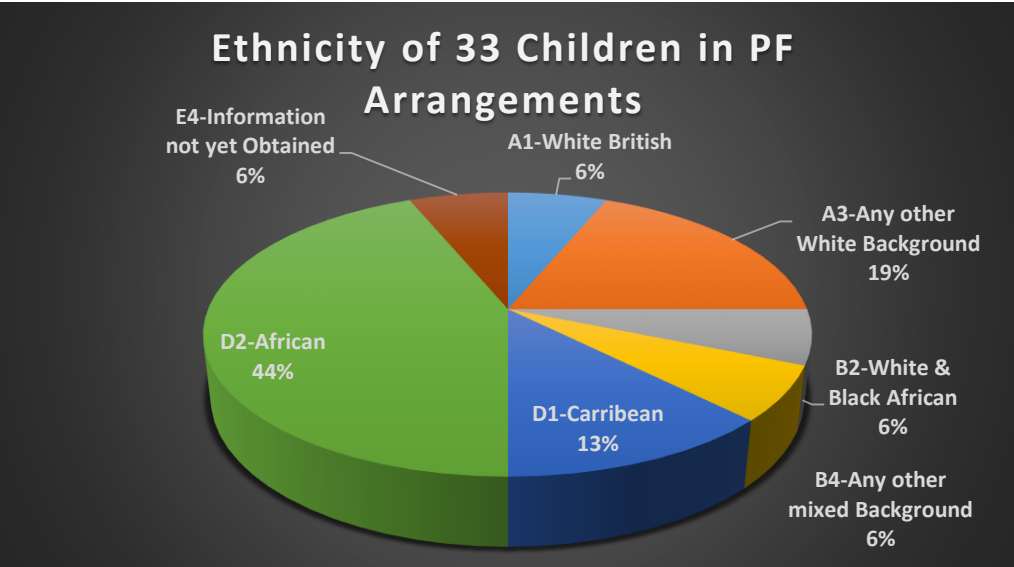
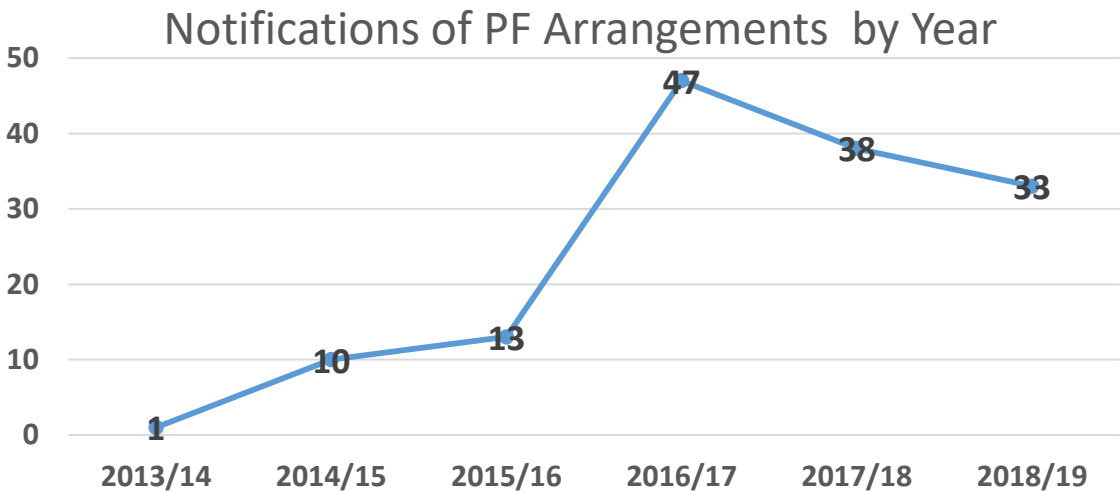


Private Fostering

Private Fostering Arrangements - The LSCB has a statutory duty to report annually on children who are Privately Fostered.

Private fostering is an arrangement made between the parent and the private foster carer, who then becomes responsible for caring for the child in such a way as to safeguard and promote his/her welfare. The Local Authority is not involved in the making of this arrangement.

- A privately fostered child is a child under the age of 16 (18 if a disabled child) who is cared for more than 28 days and where the care is intended to continue and provided with accommodation by someone other than:
 - A parent; | A person who is not a parent but has parental responsibility; | A close relative; | A Local Authority.
- If a period of care is less than 27 days but further periods are planned which total more than 28 days, then the child is privately fostered.
- A relative is defined as a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt (whether of the full-blood or half-blood or by affinity, i.e. marriage or a step-parent). There is no stipulation as to the age of the relative.



Private Fostering

- During 2018/19 achievement of visiting within seven days of notification was at 30%, and decision upon the suitability within 42 days was at 33%.

Panel Oversight

- The PF panel meets on a monthly basis and is attended by representatives from Health, Education and Children's Social care. Assessments are received for consideration and Panel makes determinations on the suitability of arrangements.
- During the course of the last year, covered by this report, the Panel has considered 20 new cases/assessments. Of these assessments 4 have been deferred for further information, and a further 5 have approved arrangements with additional requirements for action by the allocated worker.

Immigration Status

- Of the 52 current active cases within the PF team, 9 currently have issues relating to the immigration status of the young person. In some cases parents are no longer able to enter the UK and therefore their ability to exercise PR effectively is questionable.

Summary

The Private Fostering Service continues to develop and grow within Croydon and is providing a social work service to a group of potentially vulnerable children within the Borough.

Numbers of notifications have remained steady while the number of active cases has risen. The Resources made available to the service has increased in line with this.

Achieving a timely response to notifications needs to further improve and it is recommended that a management review is undertaken to improve performance.

Update

Following the recommendation of the annual report a management review took place in June 2019. The review audited 24 cases and recommended that assessments of Private Fostering arrangements are improved to ensure that where issues, such as those identified within the annual report are identified, a full assessment of the child's circumstances is undertaken and their status as a Child in Need or Looked After Child is fully considered.

The review recommended strengthening the panel arrangements for privately fostered children and raising awareness of practice requirements, to ensure that children's arrangements are regularly reviewed and the quality of assessments receives greater scrutiny.



Progress on 2018/19 Business Plan

Four 4 key areas were identified as priorities for 2018/19

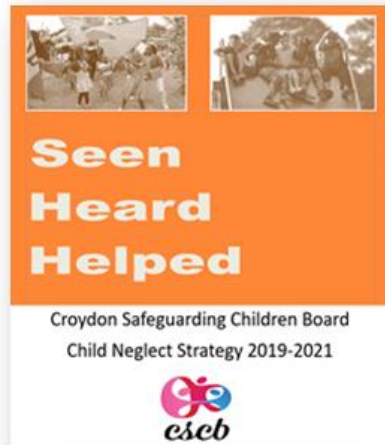
1. Neglect
2. Early Help
3. Vulnerable Adolescents
4. Children with Disabilities

Neglect.

Children at risk of neglect are seen, heard and helped. They are effectively protected from harm of neglect by a robust and coordinated multi-agency intervention and support.

The CSCB has led a comprehensive programme to address the issues of neglect in Croydon:-

- Commissioned a Neglect Thematic Review, which looked at the cumulative findings of recent neglect audits, learning review and serious case reviews.
- Researched and subsequently commissioned a specific neglect assessment tool, the NSPCC Graded Care Profile 2.
- Increased awareness of neglect, specific neglect training provided to multi-agency workforce
- NSPCC GCP2 Neglect Tool – approx. 250 multi-agency practitioners trained in how to use the tool and implement in their day to day work with children and families
- Challenged the multiple categorisation used in Child Protection Plans, which has helped account for a rise in the number of plans for neglect.
- Neglect is now one of the 3 priority groups for the CSCP going forward into 2020, which is chaired by the Director of Children's Services
- Neglect Strategy devised, agreed and implemented
- [Link to CSCB-Neglect-Strategy](#)



Early Help

- Children receive effective early help and appropriate interventions when needs are identified. Evaluate the effectiveness of early help arrangements across Croydon. The Early Help Steering Group is chaired by the Director of Children's Services
- Whilst Early Help was originally the domain of the CSCB, this was transferred to come under the auspices of the Children & Families Partnership.

Milestone successes are:

- Integration at the front door of Children's Social Care and Early help as one Single Point of Contact.
- Compilation of resource directory of early help services
- [Link to Early Help Strategy](#)



The Early Help Strategy has been developed and published;

- Early Help has been decentralised and relocated into 3 localities across the borough. The Strategy supports the 'effective support providing the right help, right time' offer collectively delivered by all partners with a commitment to:
- Working better together in an open, honest partnership approach with consent of the child and their family
- Identifying strengths and needs and working together to find practical and achievable solutions
- Providing the right information and advice to enable children and their families to make positive changes themselves with support tailored to their need
- Help children and their families to build protective factors and family resilience to prevent situations recurring

Progress on 2018/19 Business Plan

High risk vulnerable adolescents

The CSCB has completed a ground-breaking review into the lives of 60 Vulnerable Adolescents, which included the lives of five children who died in the latter half of 2017. The headline findings were:

Finding 1. Early help and prevention is critical.

Achievements:

Realignment of Youth Engagement Services to the Early Help Directorate, the team will deliver services by developing youth work in 6 key areas;

Edge of Care; Targeted Youth Support; Engagement & Participation; Locality Detached & Outreach; Programmes & Specialist delivery; Mentoring

- Early help has moved to 3 localities across the community to be able to provide localised service.

Finding 2. Greater recognition and response to children's emotional health and wellbeing is needed.

Achievements:

- Trailblazer MH resource in 16 schools.
- Trauma-informed approach training – collaboration currently underway between the CSCB, Public Health, Children's Social Care and Community Safety.

Finding 3. An integrated whole systems approach is needed across agencies, communities and families.

Achievements:

- Development of Violence Reduction Network (Community Safety)
- Realignment and creation of Adolescent Service
- Recognition and understanding of contextual safeguarding.
- Review of multiple panels discussing adolescents, into 2 Panels; Complex Adolescent Panel (CAP) and Croydon Local Intelligence Programme (CLIP)

Finding 4 Schools should be at the heart of multi-agency intervention.

Achievements:

- Education task & finish group leading change (includes commissioners)
- Engaging schools with awareness raising, exclusion issues & taking views about solutions.
- Pilot teams around the school in place.

Finding 5 Disproportionality, linked to ethnicity, gender and deprivation, requires attention and action.

Achievements:

Data in respect of broader disproportionality is being collated. Community partners are engaged actively in the VA Priority Group. This finding has not yet had the full attention of the group

Vulnerable Adolescents are a priority of the CSCP and the VA Priority Group is chaired by the CSCP Police Executive representative.

This has really helped to formulate ways in which services are structured and delivered, for example:-

Join up with the Community Safety Violence Reduction Network, and the Public Health approach to violence reduction.

Collaboration on the bidding processes for relevant funding bids.

Commissioning lead on developing Power BI Dataset which will give a broad range of summary data as well as providing individual child data to ensuring early identification of those children most at risk



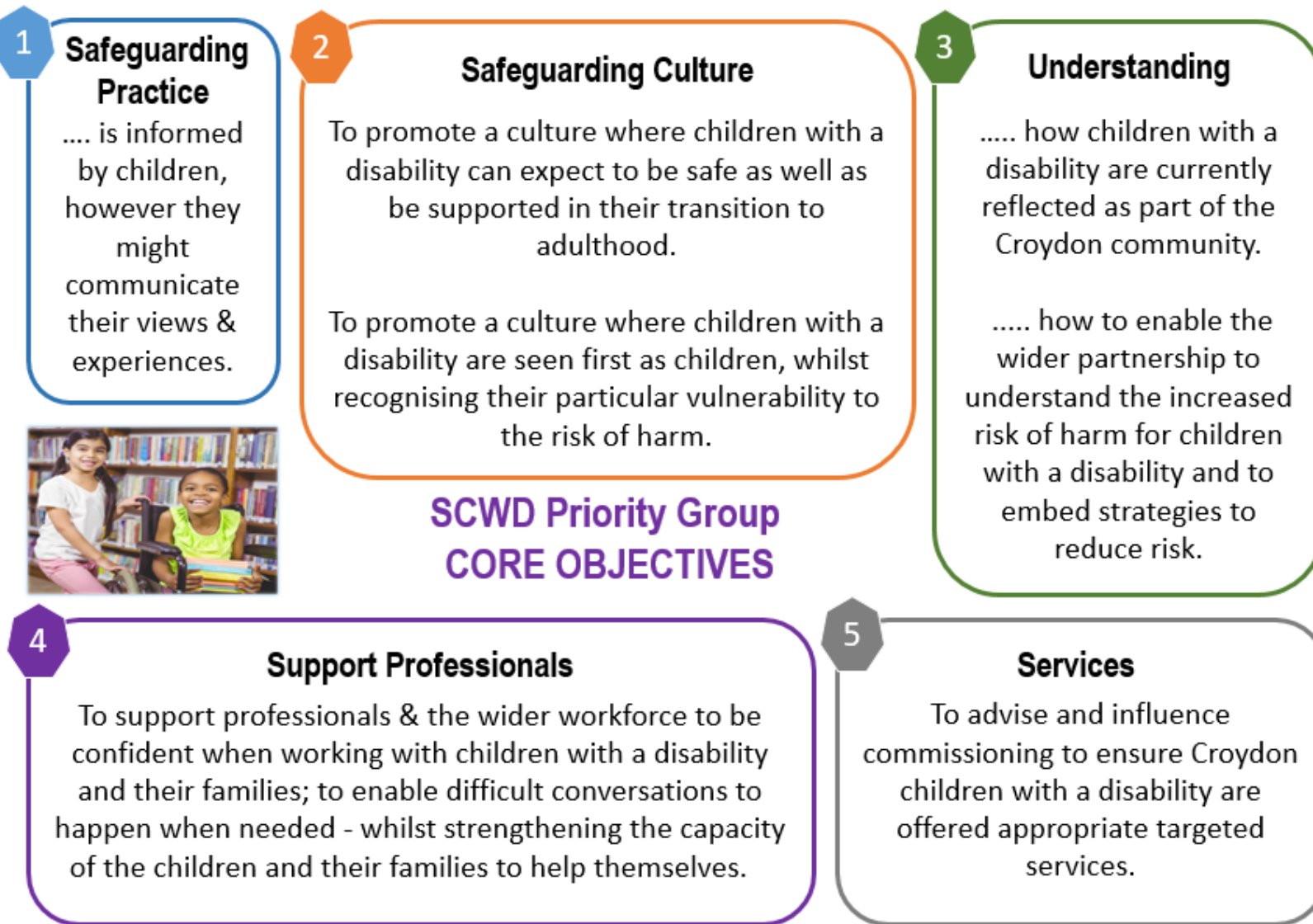
Progress on 2018/19 Business Plan

Children with disability are seen and heard. They are effectively protected from harm by robust and coordinated multi-agency intervention and support.

A Task & Finish Group was convened and completed with recommendations presented in November 2018. These have been used to shape the work programme of the Priority Group **Safeguarding Children with Disabilities** from 2019/20.

Achievements:

- Local offer website published.
- SEND Strategy in development.
- Clarifying pathways for profs & families to access appropriate services for CWD.
- Influencing commissioning in respect of targeted services.
- Mapping exercise of CWD across the borough.
- The Core Objectives and Business Plan have been agreed



Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP)

New Arrangements

Background to the new arrangements

The new safeguarding partnership arrangements have been developed in response to the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together 2018 and will replace the Croydon Safeguarding Children Board from September 2019.

In developing these arrangements consideration has been given to the extensive work undertaken to improve the effectiveness of partnership arrangements for safeguarding in Croydon since the Ofsted inspection of 2017. The aim has been to:

- build on the positive work already undertaken to improve the effectiveness of partnership arrangements for safeguarding following the Ofsted inspection in 2017;
- use the new arrangements as an opportunity to further improve the partnership focus on safeguarding priorities and the effectiveness of multi-agency working;
- identify the opportunity to improve effectiveness through joint working with other partnerships e.g. Safeguarding Adults Board and Safer Croydon Partnership;
- reduce unnecessary bureaucracy and simplify the structure;
- engage with all relevant agencies in Croydon, including schools and the voluntary sector, to build strong and effective multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and families.

Developing the new arrangements

The Executive Group of the CSCB has worked together over the past 12 months to determine how the three safeguarding partners (Croydon Council, NHS Croydon CCG and the Metropolitan Police Service – South Area Basic Command Unit) will meet the requirements of Working Together 2018.

These arrangements outline how they will co-ordinate their safeguarding services; act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others; and implement local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents.

The proposal for the structure and format of the new partnership has been put before the CSCB for comment at regular meetings of the Board over the last twelve months. The arrangements have been approved formally at a cabinet meeting of Croydon Council, by the CCG board and by the South Area BCU.

The current CSCB arrangements will cease and the Board will be replaced by the Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership from September 2019. The CSCP will meet three times a year and include broad representation from relevant agencies and stakeholders across the partnership, including the current CSCB membership. The meetings will not be business meetings but events designed to support multi-agency learning, sharing of best practice and also opportunities for scrutiny and challenge.

The Executive Group will provide regular progress reports on the three partnership priorities at these meetings and there will be an opportunity for the broader partnership to challenge the three strategic partners, shape the future partnership agenda and inform future priorities.



Croydon - Multi Agency Safeguarding Children Arrangements

Lead Representative Partners - oversight and accountability group
Meets 3 times a year; Croydon Council CE, CCG Accountable Officer,
Borough Commander South BCU

Croydon Safeguarding Partners Executive Group

Three Statutory Safeguarding Partners: Croydon Council,
Police, CCG
Meets monthly
Independent Chair – Di Smith

Local Child Death Overview Group

(feeding into
SW London
CDOP)

Chair – Rachel
Flowers

Serious Child Safeguarding Review Group

Independent
Chair – Di Smith

Quality Improvement Group

(including
multi-agency audit
and performance
management)

Chair – Nick Pendry

Learning and Improvement Group

Chair – Shade Alu

Priority 1 Neglect

Meets bi-monthly
Chair - Rob
Henderson
(Croydon Council)

Priority 2 Vulnerable Adolescents

Meets bi-monthly
Chair – Neil
Matthews (Police)

Priority 3 Children with Disabilities

Meets bi-monthly
Chair – Elaine
Clancy (CCG)

Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership
broad multi-agency membership – meets three
times a year.

Links with other
Croydon Strategic
Partnership Boards:

- Children and Families Partnership
- Safer Croydon Partnership
- Croydon Safeguarding Adults Board
- H&WB



CSCP

Croydon Safeguarding
Children Partnership



Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership Budget 2019/20

Income 2019/20	
SLAM	14,000
Met Police	5,000
Croydon CCG	34,000
Croydon Health	34,000
National Probation Service	2,000
CAFCASS	1,000
Sub-total	90,000
LB Croydon	283,000
TOTAL	373,000

Budget 2019/20	
Salaries	263,000
Staff Training	1,000
Serious Case Reviews	60,000
Learning & Development	28,000
Premises Hire	6,000
Annual Conference & Catering	4,000
Audit	5,000
Miscellaneous	3,000
Services Recharge	3,000
Total	373,000



The salaries have increased on 2018/19 to reflect the move of management costs back to this budget, they had been moved in 2018/19 for one year only

Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP)

New arrangements – Role of the Executive Group

The membership of the Croydon Safeguarding Partners Executive Group includes the following:

- Executive Director for Children, Families and Education, Croydon Council
- Chief Nurse, NHS Croydon CCG & CHS
- Detective Superintendent – Safeguarding, MPS South BCU

Under the new Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership the Executive Group holds collective responsibility for the new safeguarding arrangements and forms the ‘engine room’ of the partnership where the statutory partners set the safeguarding agenda. The Executive Group has an Independent Chair and meets monthly to focus on key strategic multi-agency decisions and actions impacting on safeguarding across the partnership. The core membership is the three strategic partners but other relevant agencies will be drawn in as part of the planned cycle of meetings throughout the year. The Executive Group will meet with the Safeguarding Adults Board Executive twice a year to ensure coherence on joint issues and priorities. Engagement with other strategic partnerships e.g. Safer Croydon Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board will be central to the development of a coherent approach to promoting the safety and wellbeing of Croydon’s children and young people.

Although the functions of the safeguarding partnership have been delegated to the Executive Group the lead representatives remain accountable. A Lead Representative Safeguarding Partners Oversight and Accountability Group will meet three times a year to ensure the safeguarding partnership arrangements are robust and effective and to hold the Executive Group to account.

The lead representatives are:

- Chief Executive of Croydon Council;
- The Accountable Officer for NHS Croydon CCG
- Borough Commander for MPS South BCU



Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP)

New arrangements – Priority Groups

The three **Priority Groups** will focus on the priority themes for development for twelve months from April 2019 and then be reviewed. These priority groups will build on the priorities of the CSCB but with added focus and leadership. Each priority group is chaired by a member of the Executive Group and is responsible for the development and implementation of a delivery plan and for the promotion of effective multi-agency practice. The priority areas are:

- Neglect
- Vulnerable Adolescents
- Safeguarding Children with Disabilities.

The **Neglect Priority Group** will work to ensure that children at risk of neglect are seen, heard and helped. The group will be responsible for the implementation of the new multi-agency Neglect Strategy and ensuring robust and coordinated multi-agency intervention and support together with the roll out of the NSPCC Graded Care Profile 2 across the partnership.

The focus of the **Vulnerable Adolescents Priority Group** will be the development of a coherent multi-agency response to the findings of the CSCB's Vulnerable Adolescents Review into the lives of 60 vulnerable young people in Croydon, including five who have died. This priority group will also take on the responsibilities previously undertaken by the C&YP at Risk of Missing and Exploitation sub group. The group will ensure active engagement with the Safer Croydon Partnership to take account of developments relating to Croydon's Violent Crime Reduction Network.

The **Safeguarding Children with Disabilities Priority Group** will work to ensure that children with disability are seen and heard and that they are effectively protected from harm by robust and coordinated multi-agency intervention and support.



Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership

New arrangements – Partnership Groups & Relevant Agencies

Partnership Groups

Quality Improvement Group

The Quality Improvement Group (QIG) will focus on improving multi-agency practice and performance and will report up to the Executive Group on what is working well and what is not so that there is clear line of sight on the quality and effectiveness of practice. The QIG will oversee a multi-agency key performance data set, single and multi-agency audits and ensure the Voice of Children and Young People is part of the quality assurance process.

Serious Child Safeguarding Practice Review Group

The Serious Child Safeguarding Practice Review Group will manage the arrangements for commissioning and publishing national and local child safeguard practice reviews.

Learning and Improvement Group

The Learning and Improvement Group will lead on multi-agency training and development across the Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership. During the next twelve months consideration will be given to the benefits of amalgamation with the Safeguarding Adults Board arrangements for learning and development.

Relevant Agencies

The three safeguarding partners have identified the relevant agencies and organisations they will work with to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. Listed below is the full list of partner organisations that form Croydon Safeguarding Children's Partnership:

- Croydon Council
- NHS Croydon CCG/Croydon Health Service NHS Trust
- Metropolitan Police Service – South BCU

- South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLAM)
- Education/Schools
- Public Health
- Lead Member
- CAFCASS
- National Probation Service
- Community Rehabilitation Company
- Voluntary Sector

The Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership will meet three times a year and include broad representation from relevant agencies and stakeholders across the partnership, including the current CSCB membership.

Representatives attending CSCP will be expected to be of sufficient seniority to:

- speak with authority on behalf of the organisation they represent;
- take decisions on behalf of their organisation or agency and make commitments on policy, resourcing and practice matters;
- hold their own organisation or agency to account for how effectively they participate and implement the local safeguarding arrangements

A full list of members of the Croydon Safeguarding Partnership is included on the CSCB website.



Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP)

New arrangements - Scrutiny



There is a statutory requirement to outline how the effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements will be scrutinised by an independent person. To ensure continuity and safe transition from the current CSCB to the new arrangements the partners have decided to maintain the role of the Independent Chair. To ensure alignment with the statutory guidance the role will be developed into that of Independent Chair/Scrutineer and will involve:

- Chairing the Executive Group and Serious Child Safeguarding Review Group
- Reporting regularly to the Croydon Children's Improvement Board
- Attending the Local Strategic Partnership and liaising with other Strategic Partnership Chairs to ensure opportunities for joint working are pursued to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in Croydon.
- Providing support challenge and scrutiny to the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements with a focus on outcome and impact
- Engaging with stakeholders (including children and young people and families)
- Supporting partners in the development of their Annual Report and provide evaluative comment and challenge
- Attending and supporting the oversight and accountability meetings with the Chief Executive of the Council, the Accountable Officer from the CCG and the Borough Commander.

- Attending and supporting annual meetings with Croydon Council's Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel.





Children's Social Care and Early Help – Ofsted

Following the Inadequate Ofsted judgement in summer 2017, Children's Social Care and Early Help Services have been subject to regular monitoring visits, with a full inspection expected in autumn 2019. This is a summary from the Ofsted Monitoring visit undertaken in July 2019.

Overview

- The leadership provided by the executive director and the director of early help and children's social care has resulted in an acceleration of pace and progress over the last six months. They have a strong and clear understanding of practice in Croydon and are taking concerted action to address any barriers to progress. Senior leaders are confidently setting out a clear and ambitious vision for the future, while simultaneously addressing immediate areas for improvement. There is considerable political support for continued improvement, including significant financial investment to support wholesale change.
- Impact can be seen in the improvements to the overall quality of practice for children, including disabled children, as shown through accurate and insightful service reviews, individual case audits of children's experiences and stronger performance in measuring compliance. Leaders have a comprehensive understanding of what is happening for children and are leading by example, including being involved in individual case discussion when appropriate. Staff report feeling valued and well supported and caseloads have been reduced to a manageable level. Staff have confidence in the senior leaders and speak very highly of them, describing them as visible, available and acting on feedback.
- A safe and solid 'front door' service ensures that children receive a timely and appropriate response when their needs first become known. The quality of work in the assessment service has significantly improved since the first monitoring visit in December 2017. The majority of disabled children receive an appropriate and well-informed social work service. However, some variability remains and further developments are needed to provide a consistently strong service to all children.
- Children living in private fostering arrangements receive a poor service. The view of inspectors matches that of a recent local authority review of the service, and a dedicated improvement plan, which includes restructure of the private fostering service, is underway.

Summary

The local authority is now making sustained progress under the rigorous drive and direction of the current senior leaders, with some clear indicators of improvement. Pace has accelerated, practice for children is becoming consistently better and staff feel appreciated and supported.





Children’s Social Care and Early Help – Early Help

What has been achieved?

- The Croydon Early Help model is still developing and there is a growth in the number of families being supported.
- In 2018/19 there were 2,071 children aged under 18 from 1,003 families that were supported by the Council's directly delivered Early Help Services.
- There were 27% more children and 19% more families supported compared to 2017/18.
- There were 859 completed Early Help assessments in 2018/19.

What difference have we made?

- In 2018/19, there were 1,726 cases closed on children under 18. As shown in the table below over half (56%) were closed with the intervention plan being completed successfully. However, nearly a quarter (23%) were due to families disengaging with support. A sample of these cases will be audited to review why this is so high.

Reason for closure	Number	%
Intervention plan being completed successfully	965	56%
Family disengaging with support	389	23%
Intervention plan not being met	206	12%
Stepped up to Children’s Social Care (CSC)	166	10%
Total	1726	100%
Source: Early Help Module		

What priorities have been identified?

- Although Early Help is supporting more children and families year on year, there is still work to be achieved in having a significant impact on families being referred to CSC. Early Help recognises that a proportion of those families could be assessed as suitable for support at a lower threshold and therefore it is important in the forward plan that work with colleagues in the SPOC and CSC aims to build and improve confidence.
- Early Help needs to develop an auditing framework to ensure that service delivery is of good standard and is in line with the Strategy, operating model guidance and minimum standards policies.
- In view of Early Help being a partnership operating model it is important that engagement in joint exercises to assess the impact and quality of co-ordinated and joint service delivery is undertaken with key partners.





Single Point of Contact (SPOC)

What has been achieved?

- The Single Point of Contact has now been operational for 12 months. SPOC has worked with LB Camden, our Improvement Partner to complete an analytical and practice review of the single point of contact and assist in establishing a service which meets the needs of Croydon residents. There have been visits to Camden by managers from the Local Authority and partner agencies.
- From June 2018, the chairing of all Strategy Meetings / Discussions on all new referrals was taken over by the SPOC. Utilising dial-in facilities, more partners are now able to take part, ensuring their intelligence and observations play a part in planning for children and young people at risk of significant harm.

In September a range of multi-agency audits were completed by partner agencies focusing on:

- The SPOC Consultation Line;
- Consent
- Contacts into the SPOC where no further action was taken by Early Help or Children's Social Care.

The CSCB welcomed a number of recommendations from the audit programme including:

- The Education input into the MASH needs to be regular and information requests and engagement with schools need to improve;
- Create a system for logging 'poor referrals' and build a feedback mechanism to agencies.

- Where referrals into the SPOC are incomplete, MASH partners need to support and challenge their home agencies to improve referrals and their understanding of thresholds.
- Publish a Flyer for partners on the 'Consultation Line' to ensure partners understand its role and their responsibilities before calling.
- In September 2019, Senior Managers from Children's Social Care carried out a 'Mock Ofsted' of the SPOC. The focus of the Mock Ofsted:-
 - Status of actions from the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) of 2016.
 - Interviewing Partners.
 - Understanding the work processes of the SPOC
 - Early Help
 - MERLINS from the Police.
 - Case Tracking (20 cases where tracked and audited as part of the Mock Ofsted).
- The outcome of the Mock Ofsted was shared with the CSCB and concluded the Service is managing very high volumes of work and gathering information and making decisions on contacts and referrals quickly and within hours for cases of concern.
- Risks are identified accurately, through information sharing and assessment. There is evidence of unnecessary traffic into the SPOC, that with better discipline on the part of partner agencies would be eliminated and Managers within the SPOC need to support partners to take this forward.

Single Point of Contact

What difference has been made?

The SPOC is now established and is led through a MASH Operational Management Group and a MASH Stakeholders Group, with regular updates to the CSCB.

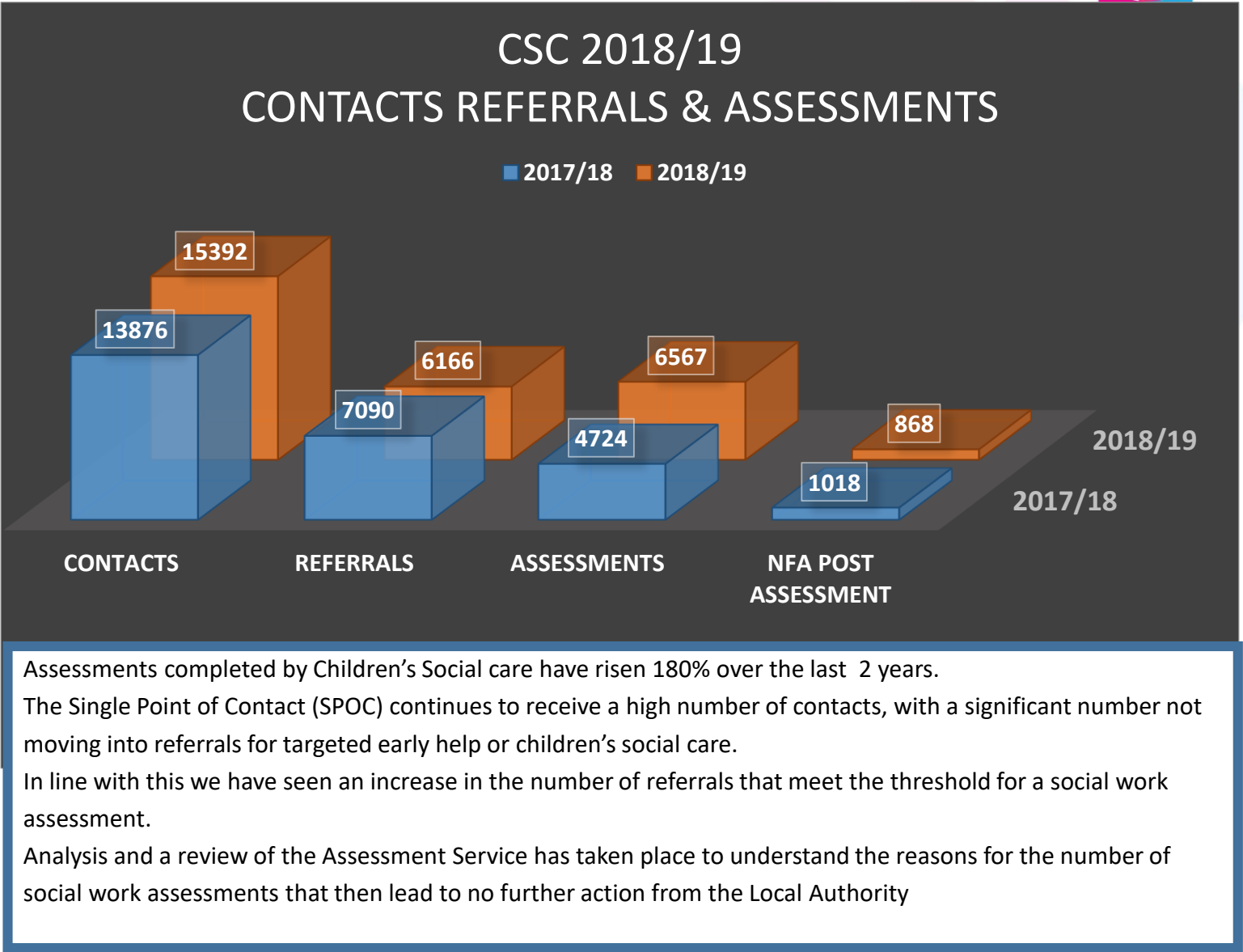
A revised single multi-agency referral form for Intensive Early Help and Children’s Social Care was launched.

Contacts are promptly processed within a multi-agency setting and the application of thresholds is appropriate and timely. Immediate child protection concerns are swiftly passed on to the Assessment Team on duty.

Families are contacted to support decision making and to support a strengths based approach to decision making.

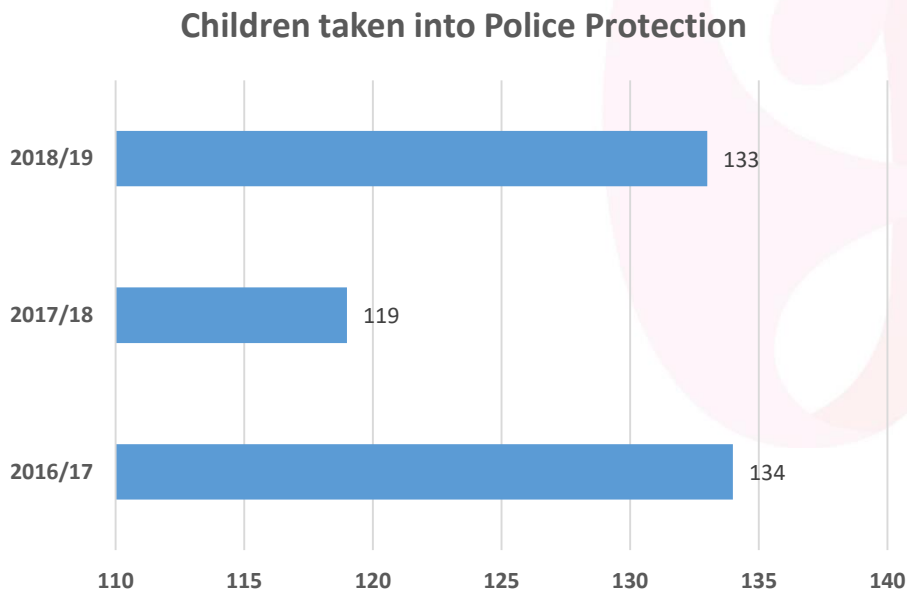
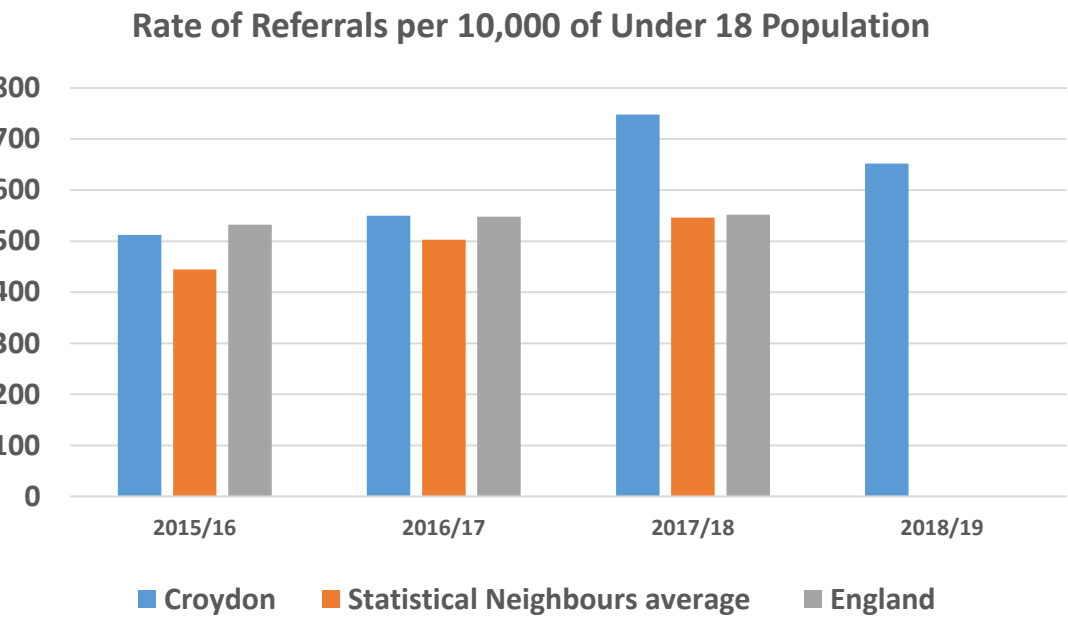
The management of Strategy Meetings/Discussions within the SPOC has ensured referrers and partner agencies are part of the discussions and planning for children and young people at risk of significant harm, this facility has been welcomed by partners.

Contacts and referrals to Children’s Social Care spiked significantly following the Inadequate Ofsted judgement in summer 2017. Staffing levels were increased to respond to the demand and the number of assessment significantly increased as a result.





Children’s Social Care and Early Help – SPOC, Referrals and Police Protection



Priorities identified for 2019/20

- A renewed focus on Early Help in the SPOC, ensuring where appropriate, families are supported through community based Early Help Services.
- The co-location of CAMHS within the SPOC.
- Reviewing the Early Help presence in the SPOC.
- Supporting and challenging partners in the quality of referrals and information sharing.
- Implementing the recommendations and findings from the Ofsted Monitoring Visit of July 2019.
- Working with partners to pilot a web based referral portal.
- A partnership Mock Ofsted of the SPOC is planned for summer 2019, with senior managers from the NHS, Education and the LB Camden.
- Children’s Social Care and Police to explore the recent increased number of incidents of Police Protection being used to safeguard children.

Children’s Social Care and Early Help

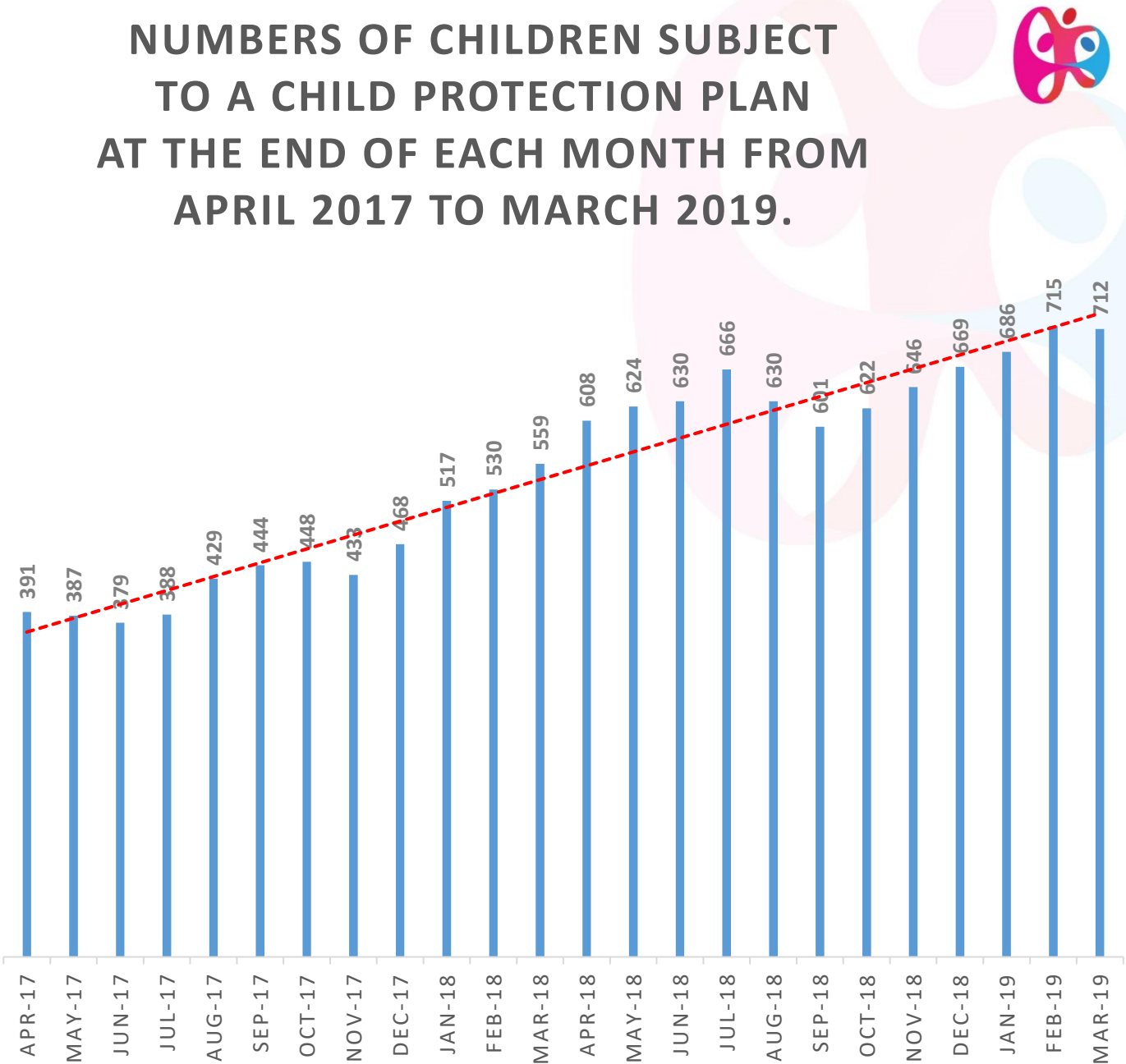
The numbers of children subject of a CP plan started to increase after the Ofsted SIF inspection in July 2017. This is not unusual after a local authority receives an inadequate judgement. This is due to an increase in referrals to CSC, a higher number of assessments and S47 enquiries and professionals being more cautious in their decision about thresholds.

The high referral rates and increases in numbers of children with Child Protection Plans seen in 2017/18 has continued with the number of CP Plans standing at 712 at the end of the March 2019.

The numbers continued to increase beyond the expected period so an audit of the threshold for an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) was carried out in April 19.

A new process was put in place to quality assure referrals for an ICPC to see if there could be social work intervention under a child in need plan and as a result of this a number of ICPC requests are being cancelled.

As a result of this, the numbers are now reducing, down to 644 at the end of June 2019; CSC advised **‘more emphasis on this is needed to increase the pace’**.





Children’s Social Care and Early Help - Child Protection Plans

- The graphs below show:-
- the disproportionate number of children per 10,000 to those averages in England and across statistical neighbours.
 - the higher percentage of Croydon CP Plans over 2 years duration compared to those averages in England and across statistical neighbours.

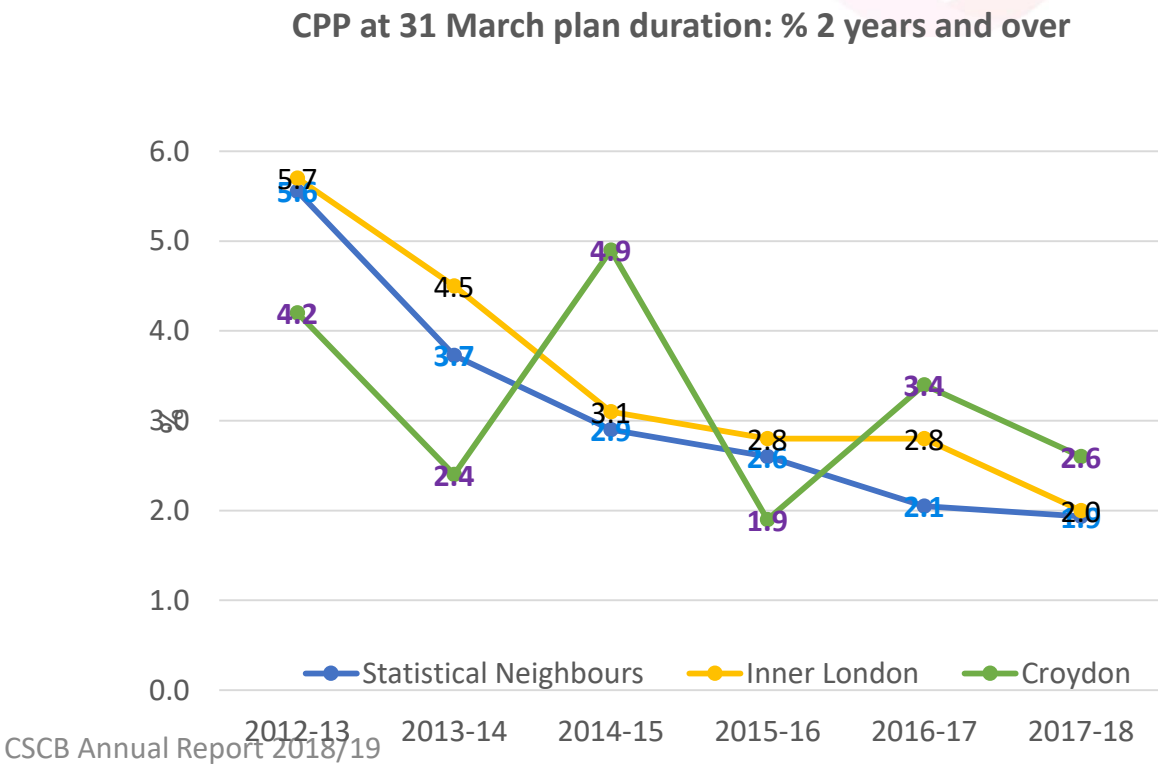
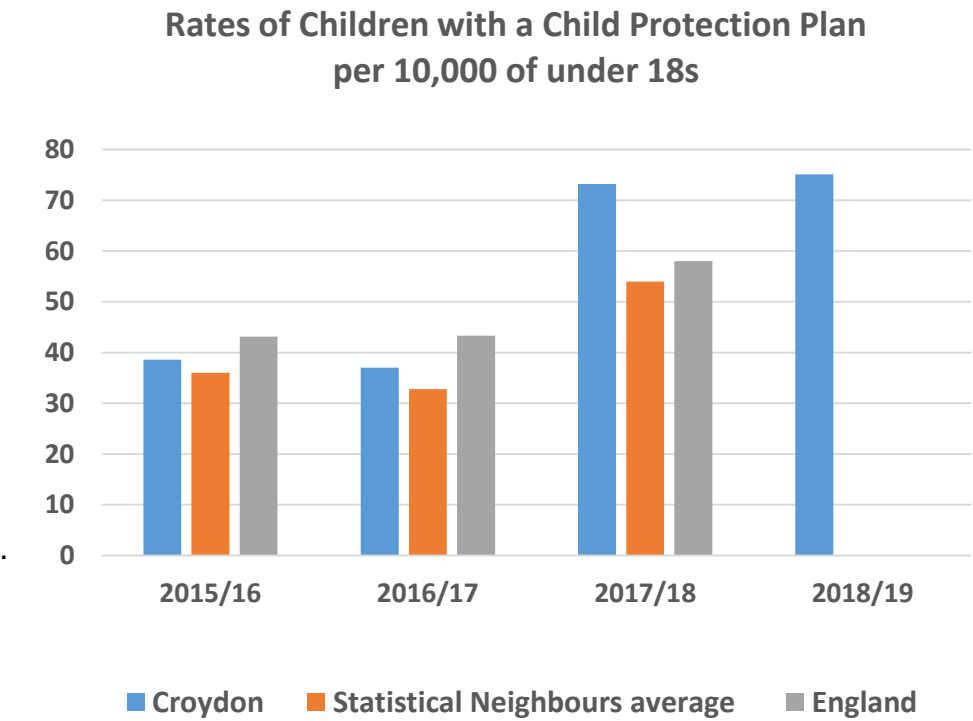
Following issues raised at Serious Case Reviews and at Learning Reviews Croydon has agreed to formal multi-agency review of all cases subject to a CP Plan for 18 months plus. The attendance at this meeting has dwindled, so the Director has offered to Chair this panel to give it renewed impetus.

The rate of CP Plans post 2 years is decreasing, with the number at 21 in 2017/18 reducing to 17 in 2018/19.

The rate of reduction in those with 18 month CP plans is also downward but at a much slower rate; from 62 in March 2017 to 59 in March 2019

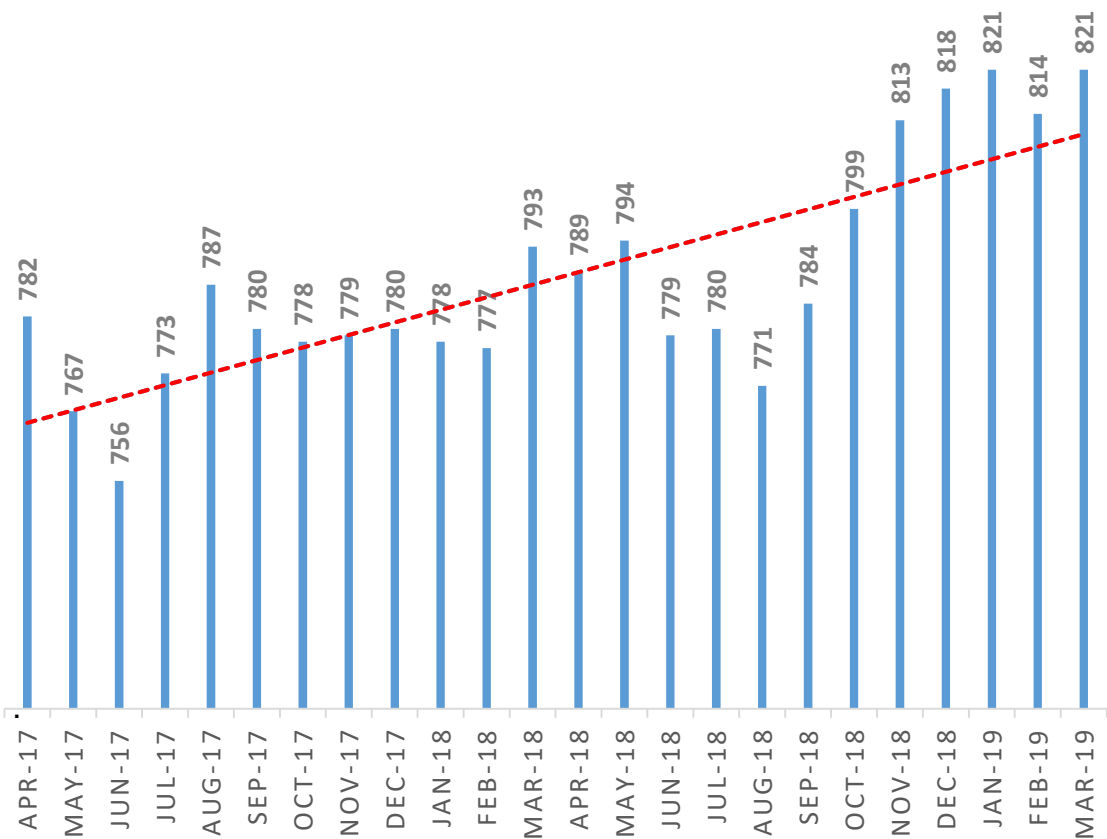
CSC advises: *‘There has been increased scrutiny of children subject of a CP plan over 12 months which has led to CPCs being brought forward and more cases stepping down to a CiN plan.’*

The emerging results of these new strategies and processes to reduce the numbers will remain scrutinised by the CSCP through the Quality Improvement Group.



CSC & EH – Looked After Children

NO. OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN APRIL 2017 TO MARCH 2019



The increase in Looked After Children is being driven by an increasing number of local children coming into Care.

Following the SIF inspection Croydon saw a significant increase in the number of children subject to CIN and CP plans.

The rise in LAC is linked to that increase in demand as children on child protection plans over the last 12 months now start to come into care.

Over the same period there was also a sharp increase in the numbers of cases in care proceedings:-

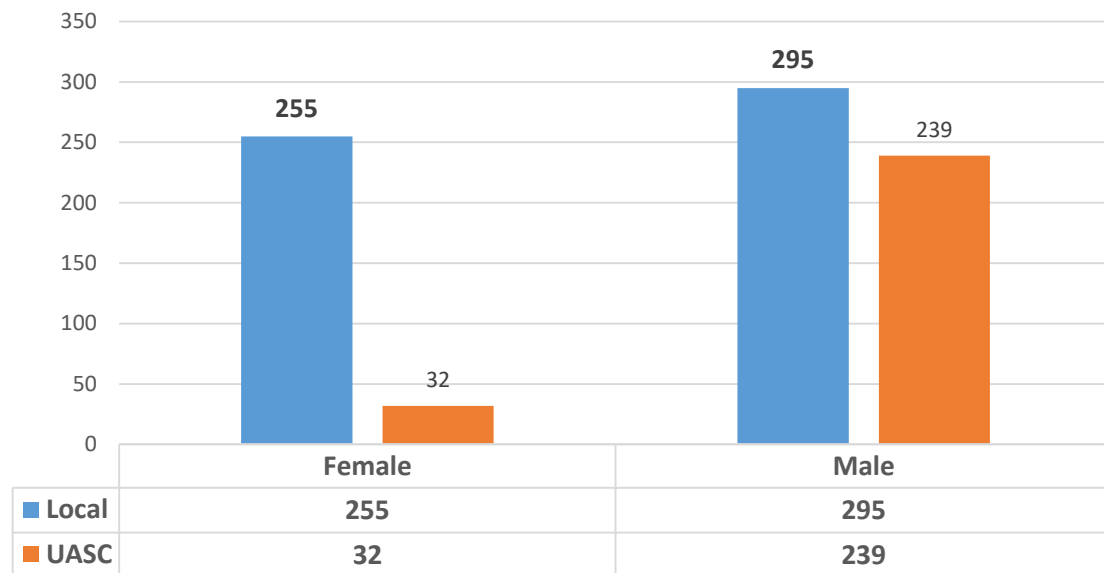
From 67 children in June 2017 to 126 children in March 2018, with an average of 70 children in Public Law Outline (PLO) at the same time.

At the same time the number of UASC has fallen from 381 in April 2017 to 280 in June 2019 as the national transfer scheme took effect, this drop has limited the overall growth of the LAC population to an increase of 40 in 2018/19.

CSC & EH – Looked After Children



Gender of 821 Looked After Children
Local & UASC



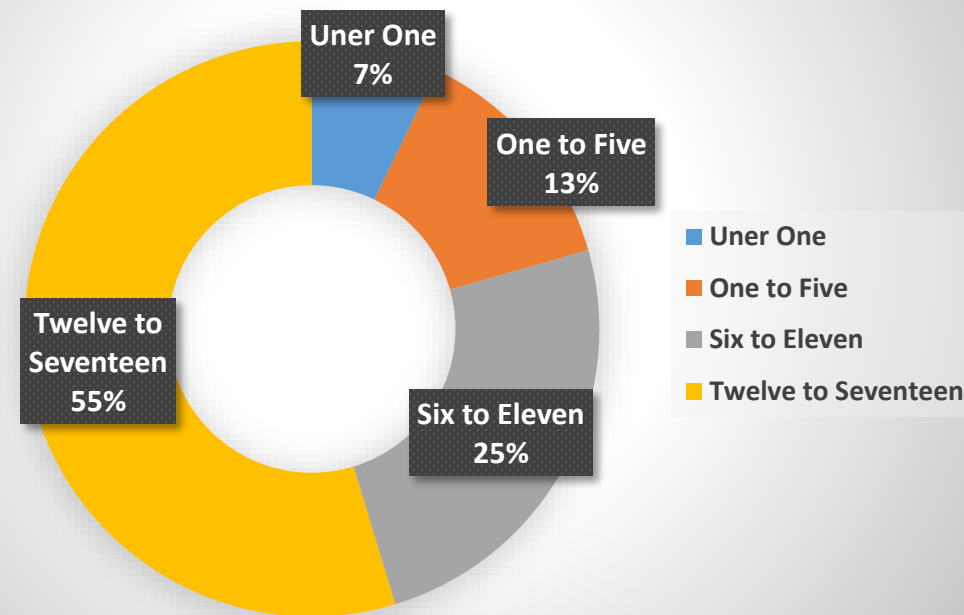
Q: The gender split, almost double the number of boys becoming LAC, why is that?

A: This has consistently been the case in Croydon due to the high proportion of UASC. 30% of the total LAC population are UASC males

Q: The age groups, why are such a huge % coming in as teenagers?

A: Again – the large proportion of UASC in Croydon mask this to some extent. 33% of LAC are UASC aged 15+.

The age-group of 821 children by % when they became Looked After

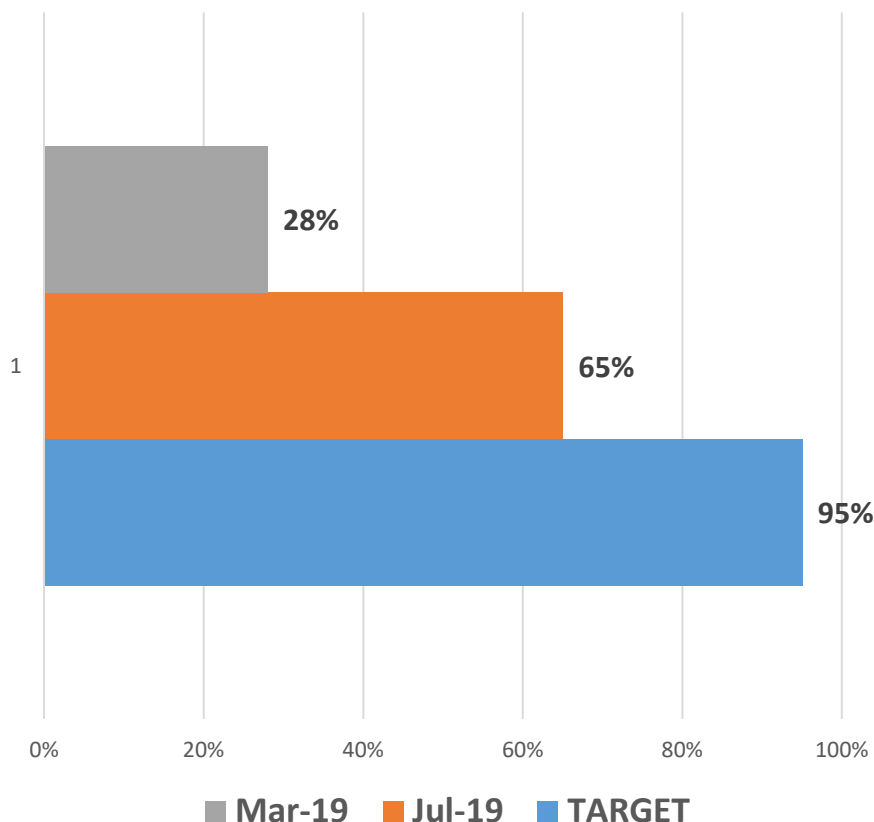


These issues will be considered in more depth by the
VA Priority Group

Children's Social Care and Early Help – Looked After Children



Initial Health Assessments for Looked After Children



Initial Health Assessments - Target 95%

28% achieved in March 2019 – 65% achieved in July 2019

- Appointments are booked with the health providers for initial health assessments to be completed within 16 working days.
- There is capacity for the IHAs to be achieved within the required timescales.

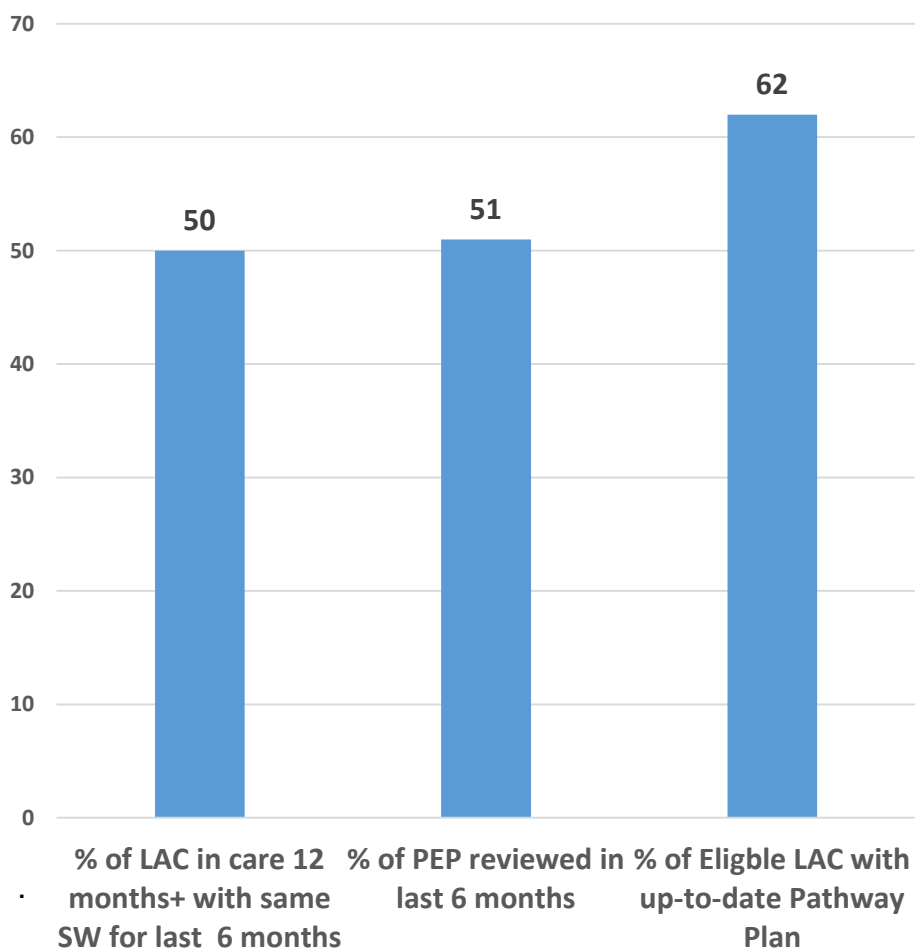
Reasons for non completion include: -

- Child or young person missing from care
- not engaging with professional
- refusing to attend appointment
- Foster carer cancelled or declined.
- The Health team is working closely with Social Care colleagues to encourage children to attend their initial health appointments and a DNA pathway is being utilised for those children who do not attend appointments.
- Social Workers are being notified when Foster Carers do not bring children to appointments.
- Work is in place to educate Foster Carers on the importance of attending health appointments.
- Discussions held at the Health and Wellbeing Board alert the Head of Corporate Parenting to the issues of non engagement who is able to reinforce the importance of engagement in the health process for the child.
- There has been an improvement in the numbers of referrals being made into health from Social Care within 3 working days of the child or young person coming into care.

Children's Social Care and Early Help – Looked After Children



LAC performance indicators below target



Same SW for 6 months – Target 65%

50% in March 2019

This is an area which needs improvement. The reasons for this are partly because the staff group is changing as permanent staff brought in to replace agency staff in keeping with the improvement agenda. The proportion of permanent staff is increasing, so it is anticipated there will continue to be short term disruption in order to achieve longer term stability.

Personal Education Plans (PEPS): Target 85%

51% in March 2019 – 86.6% in July 2019

Review of PEPS has improved from 17% in January to 51% in March. This has been achieved by doubling staff capacity, under a new Head of Virtual School. 4 additional advisory teachers have been recruited and every PEP for statutory school age children has been quality assured.

PEPs are a key focus of the team. Redesigning the process with standardisation in PEP approval and feedback to schools has been an important milestone in the improvement journey.

The team has liaised very closely with, and provided training to social workers and managers in children's social care to ensure full understanding and familiarisation of responsibilities and statutory duties in respect of the PEP completion process. This was supported with new guidance documents and training to schools.

PATHWAY PLANS – Target 95% -

62% in March 2019 - 83% in July 2019

There is a significant variance between the service areas and teams responsible for pathway planning. Investigation has established that Plans do exist for young people, but they are too often in the wrong format., i.e. care plans instead of pathway plans. Remedial action has included:

- A new pathway plan will be implemented in September 2019
- The new plan will be able to be reviewed or updated without causing IT workflow problems, which will assist completion rate.
- Where young people already have a pathway plan on the system, review performance is an improvement target.

CSC & EH – Independent Visitor Service & Advocacy for Looked After Children



Independent Visitor Service: (IVs)

This internal service was recognised by the OFSTED inspection 2017 as offering a valuable outlet for children and young people in Croydon. There has been substantial investment resulting in 3 full time Independent Visitor Co-Ordinators in post and the service is promoted in Looked After Children Reviews and across the services.

40 new IVs have been recruited and a further 70 IVs trained. As of the end of the reporting year there were 79 children and young people matched with Independent Visitors with 100 children and young people receiving the service through the year.

The team have aspirations to continue to grow their service to children year on year, and currently have the highest number of matched children with an IV nationally. The service is a valuable resource for children looked after in Croydon.

Advocacy:

The Advocacy Service is currently provided by Barnardo's. This service also provides Advocacy to children who are subject to Child Protection Plans. Barnardo's have provided advocacy reports to 47 children in the year 2018 – 2019. A broad range of issues have been addressed including;

- Children and young people's wishes and feelings about changes to where they will live
- Participation in meetings such as Looked After Children Reviews
- Transition planning for older children and the location of proposed future placements
- Savings and entitlements



'These are photographs from an Independent Visitor and young people trip to the forest in Pinewood Scout Camp. Every quarter the Coordinators plan a trip for the independent visitors and young people. It is a great opportunity for everyone to catch up, share stories and bond. The next trip is trampolining!'

Independent Visitor Volunteer Co-ordinator



Children’s Social Care and Early Help – Looked After Children & Leaving Care

LAC performance Indicators, achieving target



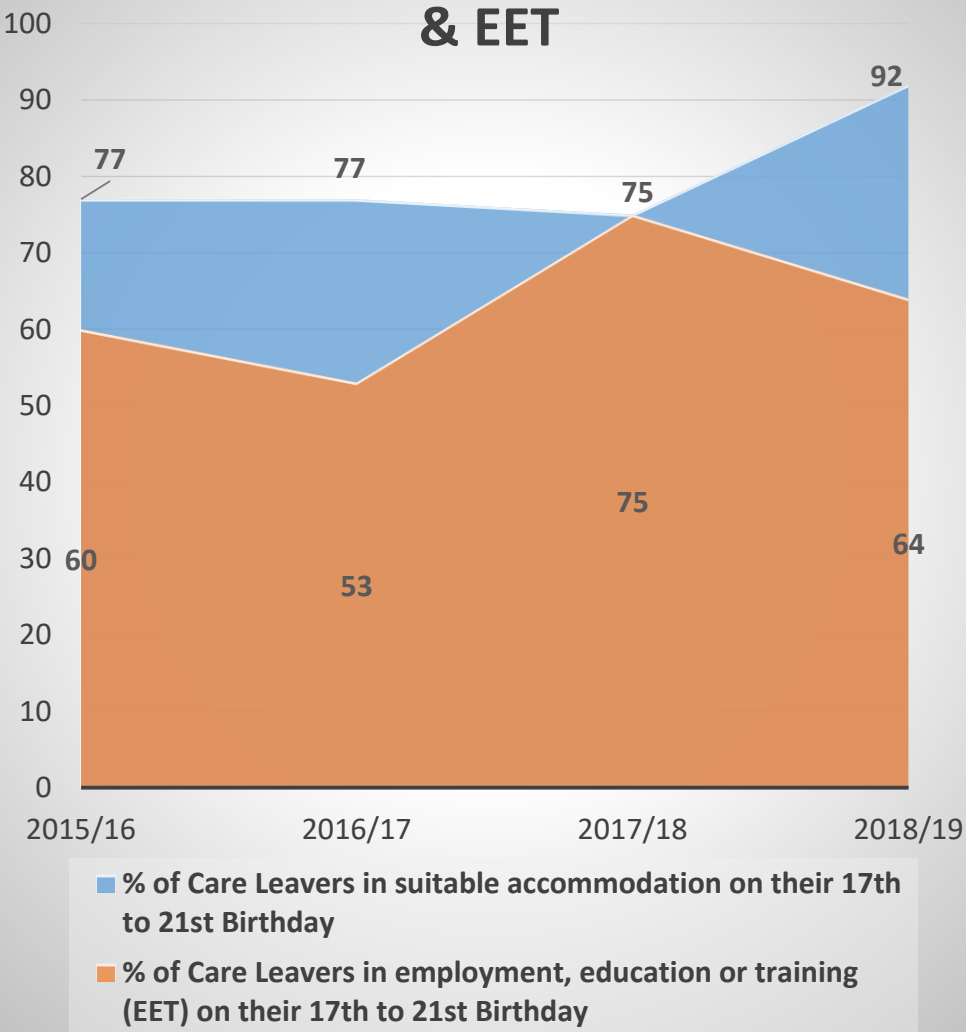
Leaving Care Accommodation: There has been a specific focus on accurate recording which has enabled the team to be cognisant of the true position of young people. The team is working in close partnership with Housing colleagues to ensure appropriate accommodation is available for Care Leavers. This has shown very good progress.

Education, Employment & Training: There has been a increased percentage of young people whose immigration status does not allow them to be in Education Employment or Training. These young people are signposted to relevant organisations which can engage them in voluntary opportunities.

Furthermore a number of young people have been imprisoned which again has impacted upon this figure. All young people in custody are visited regularly and liaison made with Offender Manager to ensure they are engaged in meaningful activity wherever possible. (These figures cannot be reflected in the EET data)

The Leaving Care Service advised: ‘We are creating a NEET Panel in late 2019 to ensure all NEET young people will be tracked so that there are clear plans promoting their re-engagement in Education , Employment and Training.’

Care Leavers: Accommodation & EET





Children with Disabilities

Improvements in practice are evident in the service performance over the year to April 2019 (please see table below).

The numbers of children with disabilities who are looked after has increased from 23 to 34 and visit performance remains good at 90%.

Children on child protection plans have increased from 8 to 26 and all have been visited within the required timescales achieving 100%.

The biggest improvement has been with children in need. CIN review timeliness has risen from a low base of 41% to 87% at April 2019.

Equally CIN visits have increased from 63% to 86%. Progress has been maintained and the quality of the work continues to be a priority.

CWD Teams Visits:	3 rd April 2018	1 st April 2019
CP Visits	93%	100%
CLA visits	78%	90%
CIN Reviews	41%	87%
CIN Visits	63%	86%

What difference has been made?

- Social Workers have demonstrated that they know their families and children well, are responsive to actions required and are working hard to improve outcomes for children. Safeguarding remains paramount and risks are identified and addressed appropriately. Improvement to the service has continued to have a positive impact. For example social workers now have lower caseloads and are therefore more able to spend quality time working with children and their families.

Priorities for 2019/20 and beyond

- Improvement in multi-agency joint investigations, especially with paediatric medical examinations is a priority for child protection, to promote multi-agency consistency in recognising the heightened vulnerability of CWD.
- Also more joined up work with SEND will contribute to the quality of plans and outcomes for children.
- Work is also required with the IROs to highlight how permanence and transition work can be consistently alerted and monitored for children in CWD.
- The quality of social workers' assessments to improve in relation to the needs of non-disabled children in the family. The determination of which children/child in a family need to be included in the CIN plan, should be determined in the C & F assessment. Not all siblings need to be included in a CIN plan, especially if they are not in receipt of a package.
- Transition work for children with disabilities will start at 14 years to better understand these young people's needs in preparing for adulthood. This includes Deprivation of Liberty (DOLs) and Mental Capacity Assessments (MCA) for 17+ in residential settings.
- A consistent approach will be developed in relation to the recording of care packages within the Children's and early help record systems and reviewing these packages.

Special Educational Needs

As at January 2019 approximately 3000 school age children in Croydon have an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP).

- 3% of the school population have an EHCP which is similar to national, regional and statistical neighbour rates
- Demand is expected to continue to rise; if underlying factors stay the same, around 3,700 children will need an EHCP by 2024 .
- Croydon has been allocated £2.9m for 2018-2021 in capital funding to increase and improve educational provision for young people age 0-25 with an EHCP.
- Approximately 36% (965 children) with an EHCP attend state run special educational needs schools compared to 35% for England.
- Approximately 32% (867 children) attend a mainstream school, compared to 34% for England. Just under 10% (264 children) attend an Enhanced Learning provider (ELP), whereas for England the figure is 5%.
- There are plans to increase school places for SEND by 10%
- 9.8% of SEND pupils had an autism spectrum disorder in 2017, compared to 9.5% in London and 8.7% in England.
- Croydon is about to launch a SEND Strategy.

Data provided by Public Health, Croydon

Croydon currently has a mix of maintained and academy educational providers – which include:

- 6 special schools,
- 3 special nurseries, and
- 17 Enhanced Learning Providers (ELP)





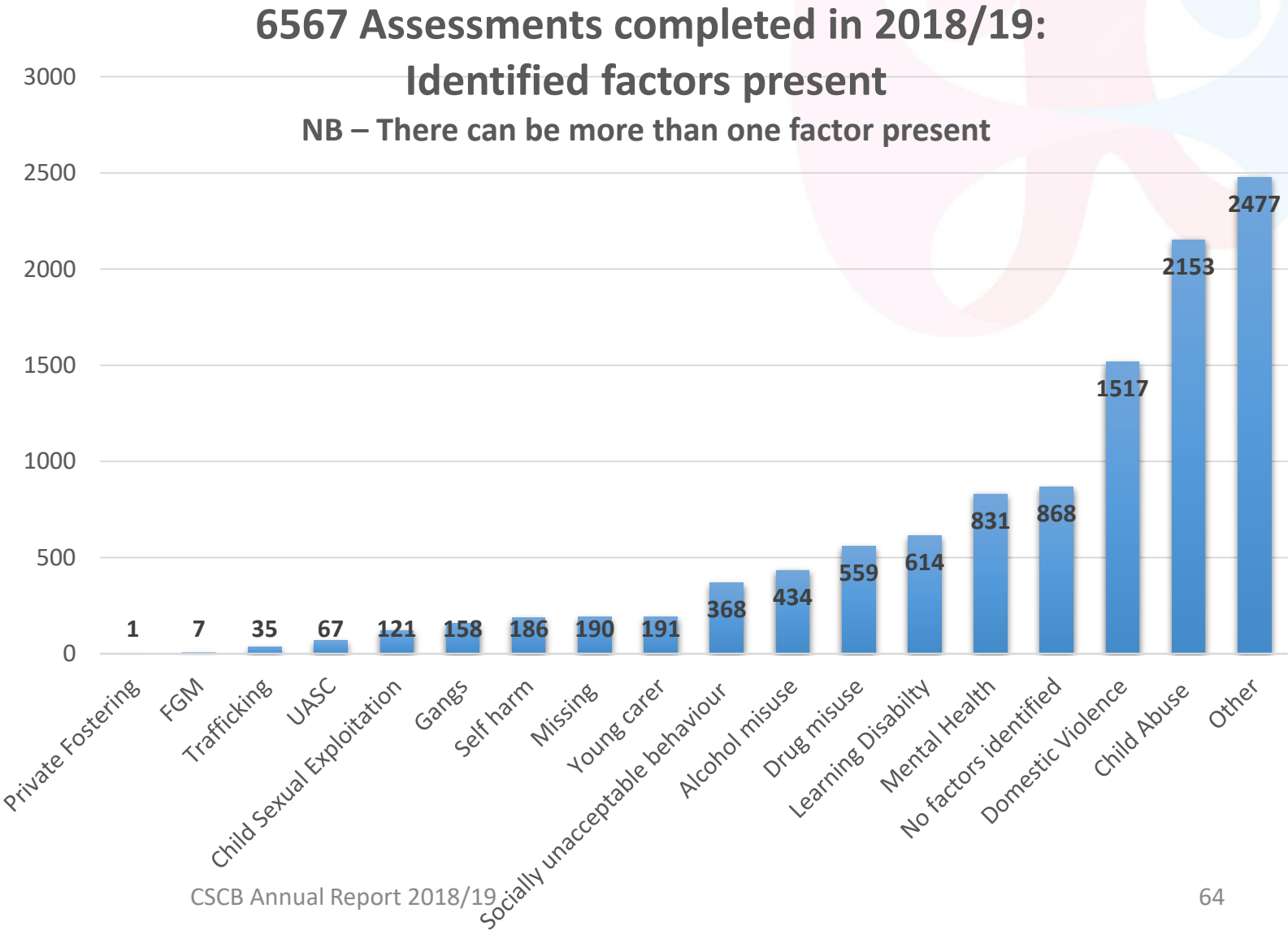
Analysis of Assessments completed by Children’s Social Care

Children’s Social Care have analysed referrals into SPOC and assessments undertaken during 2018/19.

The principle factors related to the parents of those children are: -

- Domestic Abuse,
- Drug Misuse and
- Mental Health

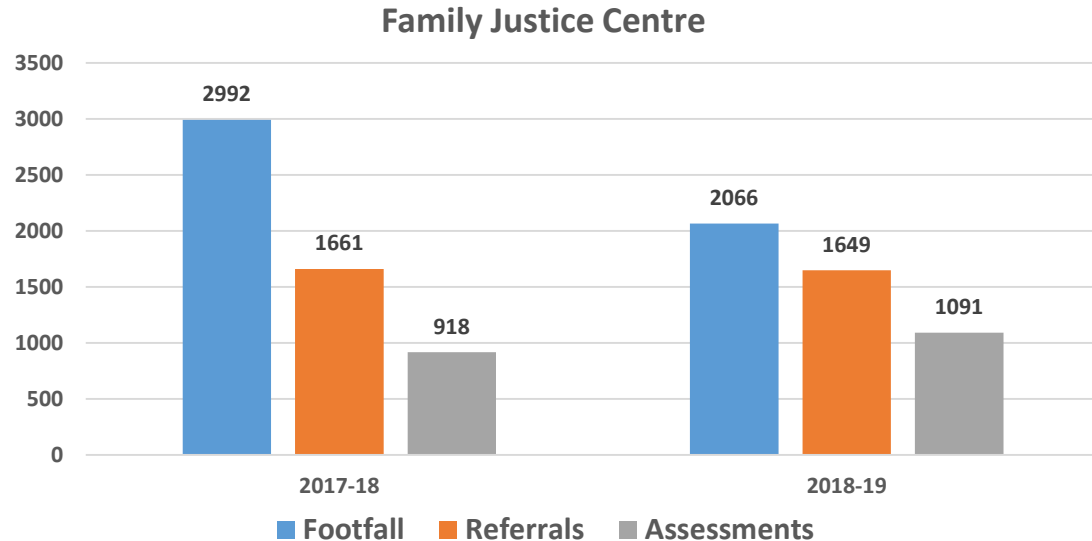
These make up 42% of the total number of assessments undertaken by the team in 2018/19





Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence

MARAC – Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference



What has been achieved?

- MARAC meetings continue to be held fortnightly. There remains a regular multi-agency attendance which results in a very robust, effective information sharing forum.
- From April 2018 – March 2019 we received 614 MARAC referrals which is an increase of 8% on last year's figures during the same time frame.
- Croydon was successful in securing funding from MOPAC to deliver a perpetrator programme – Drive. This launched in Croydon on the 4th July 2018. In addition to the MARAC a DAPP (Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Panel) was set up which also runs fortnightly, to discuss the high risk perpetrators and the main referral route for DAPP is MARAC. To date we have 112 active cases.

What difference has been made?

- An 8% increase in MARAC referrals indicates that we are identifying more high risk victims/families thus enabling us to put in place robust safety and protective measures.
- In securing funding for the perpetrator work we have been able to commission counselling for children whose parent is on the Drive programme.

Priorities for 2019/20

- From the MARAC referrals received from April 18 – March 19 only 36 referrals were made by CSC. Although this is an improvement of 140% (15 referrals 16/17) this remains a worrying figure as over ½ of the MARAC referrals received already had CSC/EH involvement.
- What needs to be considered is the emotional impact that witnessing/experiencing domestic abuse has on children and that crucial support for high risk families is not being made available at the earliest opportunity.
- RIC and MARAC training is now being rolled out monthly to equip workers with a better understanding of assessing risk and how it's managed.

EDUCATION

- The Learning Access team continues to work proactively with schools to secure places for 'hard-to-place' students and prevent permanent exclusions.
- Our rate of permanent exclusion, vis-à-vis our pupil population compares favourably with our statistical neighbour local authorities
- This is achieved through
 - brokering managed moves for secondary age pupils via FAP;
 - providing support and guidance for primary age pupils through the Primary Inclusion Forum;
 - and responding rapidly to schools when they have a pupil who is at risk of exclusion.
- The number of pupils registering as electively home educated has increased over the course of 2018/19. There has been a similar increase in numbers nationally.
- The number of children missing education referrals continues to be high at around 1200 per annum. There was a step change in referral numbers in 2016 as a consequence, in part, to a change in the regulations around reporting.
- The numbers of pupils registering for elective home education and the number of CME referrals is placing pressure on the resources to oversee these areas of work.

The Fair Access Panel discussed a total of

- **321 Secondary** aged pupils.
- **25 Primary** aged pupils.
- **43 children** received permanent exclusions.

Fair Access Panel oversaw **104** managed moves

There were **295** Electively Home Educated children at the end of March 2019.

1251 children missing education cases were received.



Housing

What has been achieved?

- New Children Safeguarding Co-ordinator post in Housing Assessment and Solutions (HAS) to provide advice and guidance on children safeguarding to all staff across Housing
- SPOC on children safeguarding and co-ordinate children safeguarding induction training for all staff, review policies and procedures, assist with audits and track safeguarding cases
- Housing officers have attended training in neglect, domestic abuse, children safeguarding awareness, CSE, gang awareness, prevent.
- Front line managers have attended practitioners events in SCRs, Vulnerable Adolescents and Neglect thematic learning reviews
- Collaboration across HAS and Leaving Care team to increase supply of settled accommodation for leaving care residents
- Data sharing and single view of the customer are key functional requirements in the re-procurement of the new Housing ICT system
- CSCB learning review and audit recommendations discussed at Housing DLT to discuss the learning and agree next steps
- Improved partnership data provided for CSCB groups
- Practitioner and strategic management engagement at CSCB neglect development day
- Housing strategic representation at Children with Disabilities, VA and neglect priority groups
- Housing supply discussion at Executive Group with agreed action plan and monitoring of complex cases/ suitable settled accommodation

CSCB Annual Report 2018/19



What difference has been made?

- Housing staff use the SPOC resource to improve case referrals. Better engagement in CP case conferences, team around the family meetings. Housing staff trained in children safeguarding policies and procedures. Housing officers have greater understanding and awareness of children safeguarding issues and risks
- Housing managers who took part in the audits have greater awareness and understanding of risk, the benefits of earlier intervention and impact of housing on the overall wellbeing and safety of our families.
- Increased multi agency working and preventative approach to reduce reactive service at crisis point e.g. avoid evictions,
- Increase in number of leaving care residents in suitable long term accommodation.

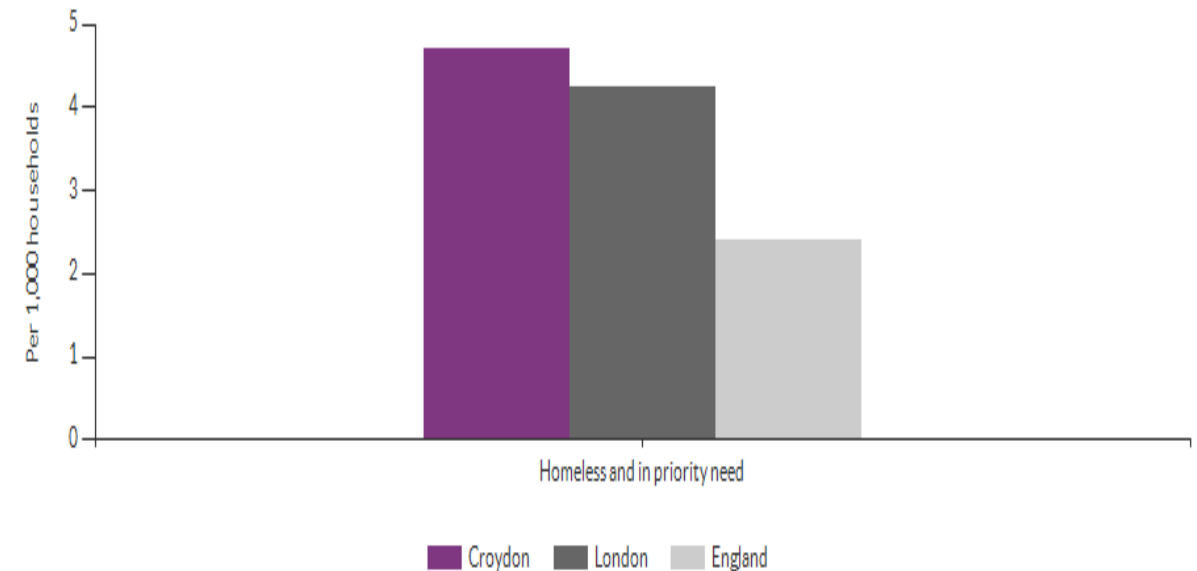


Housing

Priorities for 2019/20

- Risk of lack of supply of affordable housing, impact of Universal Credit and welfare reform, austerity, increase in families in temporary accommodation, lack of housing supply in borough
- Strategic review involving senior management across Housing and Children's Services to map current position regarding number of families in temporary accommodation and agree joint action plan to reduce these numbers and identify suitable settled accommodation
- Children Safeguarding Co-ordinator to set up lead safeguarding officer group across all Housing services to embed the change, review processes and procedures and agree action plans to implement audit recommendations
- Carry out single agency audits and deliver identified improvements
- Deliver safeguarding awareness training for local communities to increase promotion of early intervention and prevention, based in local community hubs
- Better signposting, referrals and tenancy sustainment to reduce homelessness
- Training for community leaders and community groups
- More early help outreach work in B&B accommodation

- Implementation of the new housing management ICT system to have information sharing and flags for CP plans as key functional requirement
- Managers to have training on supervision and professional curiosity
- Training for all housing officers on impact of domestic abuse, safeguarding procedures and referrals, County Lines and gang awareness,



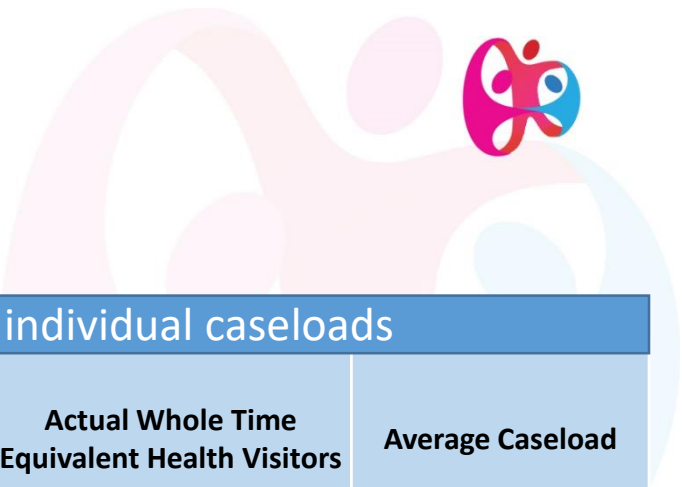
Date: 2017-2018 Source: MHCLG

Public Health Nursing - Health Visitors

One of the goals for 2018/19 was to increase the identification of vulnerable families and this is reflected in the increased numbers of the universal plus and partnership plus pathways. Public Health Nursing has supported the needs of vulnerable families and children and the increasing number of children with additional needs are being identified because of the increased number of checks being delivered.

Key Performance Indicator	YTD 2017/18	YTD 2018/19
Universal Pathway	27,206	28,078
Universal Plus Pathway	432	988
Partnership Plus Pathway	403	765
Total	28,040	29,830

Table: Average monthly total Number of children on the Health Visiting service caseload 2017/18 2018/19



Health Visitor individual caseloads			
	Caseload Numbers	Actual Whole Time Equivalent Health Visitors	Average Caseload
Mar-19	29753	56.16	530
Mar-18	28444	51.51	552
Mar-17	28456	44.3	642

Commissioners have been working closely with the public health nursing teams to deliver a HV transformation programme, this is in line with the CQC Children Looked After and Safeguarding inspection recommendation. There is an increased use of appropriate skill mix within health visitor teams. Band 4 community nursery nurses are an integral part of the health visiting team and have been assessed as having appropriate competencies to support the health visitors and undertake some of the 5 mandated health visitor contacts. The health visitor maintains accountability. As a result of the transformation and changes the weighting of health visitor caseloads has been changed during 2018/19 to account for skill mix

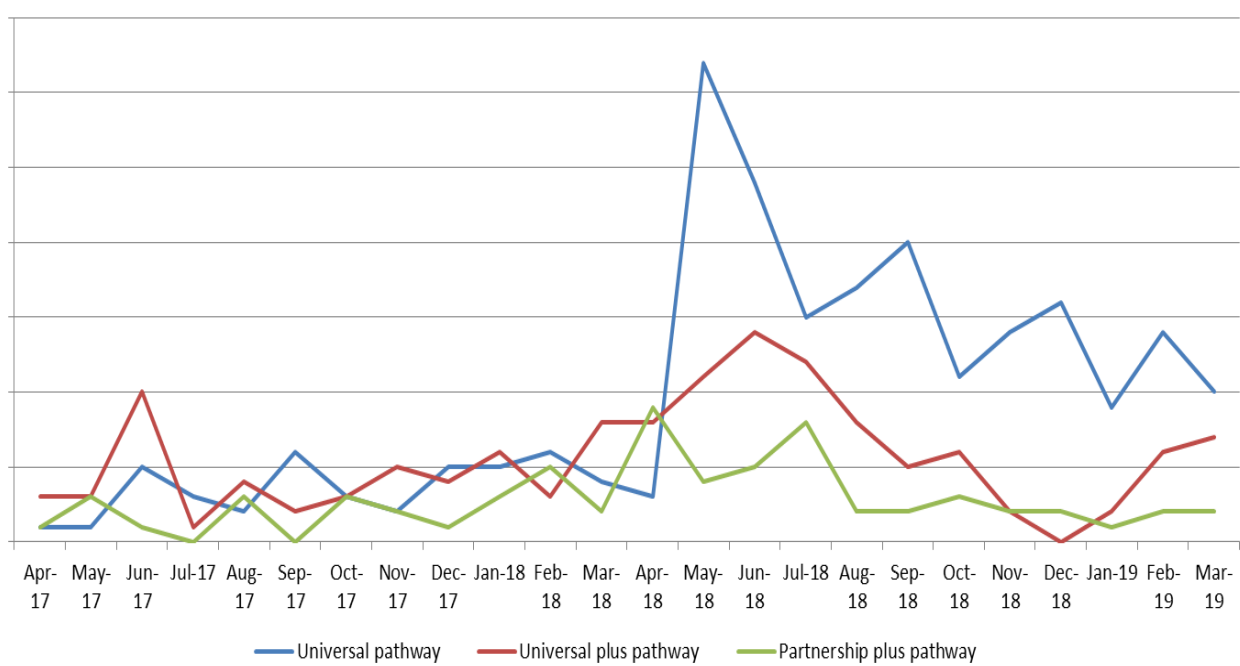
Public Health Nursing

Health Visitors, School Nurses, and Family Nurse Partnership

Overview of the Mandated Health Checks for 2018/19

- The check that has made least progress in the last year is the antenatal check. (See the graph below). There is no national comparative data for the percentage of antenatal checks completed. Public Health is creating a bespoke approach which will be included in the monthly health visiting performance reports as part of a wider redesign of the performance reports.

Antenatal Visits By Pathway

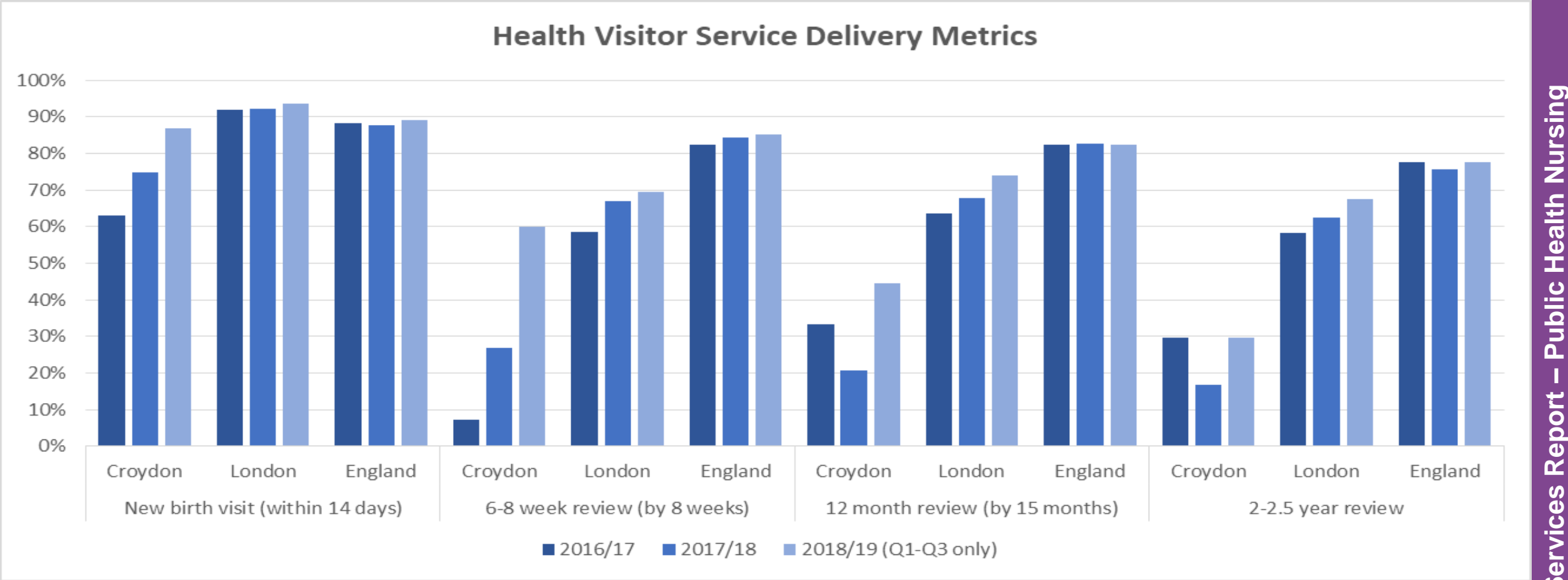


- The Director of Public Health has expressed concern that the mandatory antenatal checks are not at a level to provide assurance. In the last year public health specialists, commissioners and CHS have been working hard to look at good practice elsewhere and to significantly improve performance. The DPH 2018 recommendations included that the health visiting and midwifery clinical pathways are joined up. This is progressing and will also assist in the delivery of increased antenatal checks.



Public Health Nursing - Health Visitors

Public Health Nursing and specifically Health Visiting continue to improve performance on its mandated health checks. New targets which increased each quarter were set for 2018/2019. For 2019/2020 new and increased quarterly targets have been set to bring performance up to statistical neighbour levels.





Public Health Nursing - Health Visitors, School Nurses, and Family Nurse Partnership

- Family Nurse Partnership offered intensive support to over 120 vulnerable young women from pregnancy through to their child's second birthday, improving the life chances of both mother and baby.
- The reduction in the drop in clinics in children centres has resulted in more appointments being available for clients.
- In schools, the service are delivering increasing levels of immunisation, emotional wellbeing and health promotion sessions in schools, raising awareness and supporting change in the habits and behaviours of young people.
- Through the National Child Measurement Programme, the School Nursing service has completed checks for all children in Reception and Year 6 that attended local authority funded schools and academies in Croydon.
- In 2018 a digital text line "Chat Health" was introduced which is used both by the School Nursing Team and Health Visitors as an additional arm to engagement and service delivery. It is especially useful for young people in school and new mothers - a familiar communication medium that is fast and direct.

Identified priorities 2019/20

- The Care Quality Commission inspected the service in February and an improvement plan is being implemented based on the results of the inspection and include:-
- Ensure that referrals to the single point of contact (SPOC) for early help and the MASH, provide sufficiently detailed information and analysis of risk to inform effective decision making.

- Establish a service model that enables health visitors to complete all of the mandatory contacts required by the Healthy Child Programme, in order to identify and respond to additional needs, risks and vulnerabilities at the earliest opportunity.

The main action following CQC is the development of a new model of delivery for Public Health Nursing which is currently being developed. The recommendation to improve the quality of referrals to the SPOC is being led by the safeguarding team with the support of public health nursing

- Implementation of a locality model to align the health visiting teams with the Early Help localities. The health visiting service will go live in September 2019 across the 6 new locality areas.
- Changes to team composition will reflect the local population and develop closer working arrangements with partners and the local community.
- Development of the new service model that will address the need for increased two year checks and antenatal checks.
- Delivering 90% of checks to children on the universal plus and partnership plus pathways
- Increasing the quality of referrals to the SPOC as part of the CQC action plan
- Working with partners on the implementation of the NSPCC Graded Care Profile for neglect

Croydon Health Service – Vulnerable Women Meeting



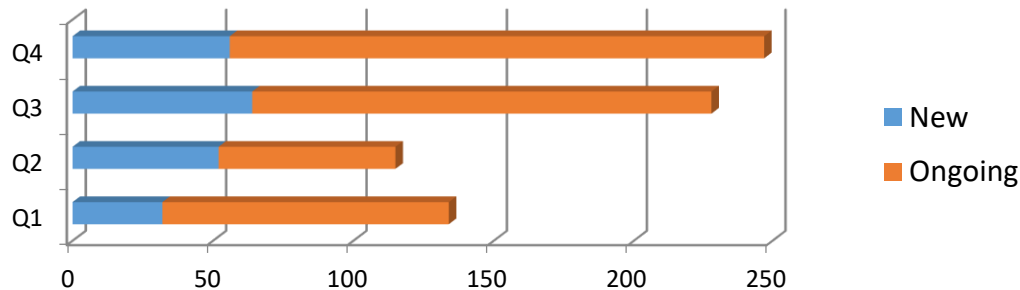
Maternity Vulnerable Women Meeting (VWM): -

The Vulnerable Women’s Meeting has the operational function of providing a multi-agency safeguarding forum for professionals working with pregnant women with social, psychological complexities and or those from disadvantaged groups, to safeguard vulnerable adults and their expectant child.

What has been achieved?

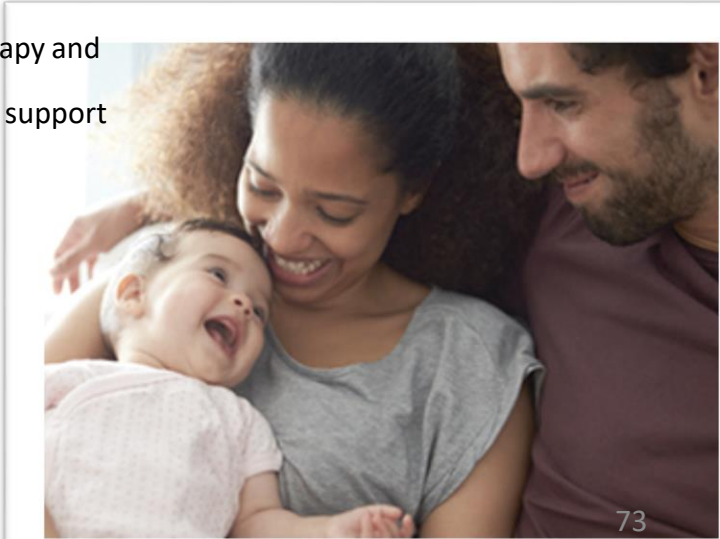
- The Maternity Vulnerable Women’s Meeting utilises a multi-agency approach to evidence the pre-birth journey of the child, offer risk assessment and reflective supervisory discussion to enable safety planning and reflective practice. The following chart demonstrates the number of cases presented and discussed during April 2018 – March 2019.

No. of cases presented to VWM in
2018/19



By Q3 there was a steady increase in the number of pregnant women identified with particular vulnerabilities which might increase the risks to the child. The increase in the volume of referrals demonstrates professional readiness in their ability to identify women and families with complex social needs in order that cases were discussed in timely manner during the pre-birth stage.

- The meeting occurs on a monthly basis and has a clear referral pathway used by professionals from children’s social care, early help, health visiting, mental health, midwifery and other allied health professionals. Information about the meeting was also shared with the Croydon CSCB to further increase awareness amongst professionals in social care.
- The vulnerable women’s meeting abides by the principle that practitioners who hold professional responsibility for that family take action in signposting women and their families to supportive services. The main achievements over the annual year resulted in women and their families receiving support in the following areas:
 - Access to domestic abuse/relationship based advocacy,
 - early help,
 - perinatal mental health services,
 - preventative interventions around substance misuse,
 - parent infant psychotherapy and
 - family nurse practitioner support





Croydon Health Service – Vulnerable Women Meeting

What difference has been made?

- The data suggests an increase in complex and challenging needs amongst childbearing women within the local population; namely, increase in migration and families with no recourse to public funds, severe parental mental illness, and vulnerable adolescents with significant mental health needs, substance misuse and domestic violence. The increase in the number of cases since Q3 data also reflects an increase in the number of neonates separated from parental care under child protection proceedings following birth and a growing trend in repeated pregnancies amongst women and often times their partners with a history of their own adverse childhood outcomes and long-term involvement with social care and previous child removal into local authority care.
- The vulnerable women's meeting offers a child centred approach by way of facilitating discussion to identify emerging problems and potential unmet needs of pregnant women and their expectant child. This demonstrates the multifactorial complexities amongst families within Croydon who require a shared multidisciplinary approach in order to support/address their needs.
- **Recommendations & Actions:**
 - Increase in proactive preventative management
 - Engagement in programmes across professional working to tackle issues around domestic abuse
 - Strengthen the quality assurance via introduction of a collection proforma to demonstrate outcomes from early interventions
 - Audit the outcomes of families with social complexities to evidence the findings within CHS maternity in order to address areas of need

Where we want to get to for Croydon's Children:

- The women and their families identified within the VMW forum were often below the age of 35 years old, from disadvantaged backgrounds often living with multi-layered psychological, social, environmental or health related challenges.
- Children born to women with social and complex needs are often born with short and long-term physical and psychological difficulties and many become vulnerable adults requiring significant interventions from public services throughout their life. This highlights significant risks and ongoing repeated cycles of adversity, in addition to ongoing rising cost implications. A consideration for a service innovation such as the Pause Project which has been introduced in neighbouring boroughs and evidenced to have improved outcomes for children and their families would be a suggested intervention to be introduced to the CSCB.





Croydon Health Service

Psychosocial Meeting Acute And Community Services

The psychosocial meetings offer intensive safeguarding supervision and support to frontline practitioners who are managing families with complex needs in the community and acute care settings.

Between April 2018 and March 2019 130 complex cases were reviewed.

What has been achieved?

- Early interventions and support for services users and patients.
- Safe discharge through effective discharge planning meetings
- Reflective learning and lessons learnt approach for frontline staff.
- Effective patient involvement in decision-making about their health needs assessment.

What difference has been made?

- Supporting practitioners to safeguard families effectively.
- Prioritising the voice of the child in health needs assessments
- Prioritising safeguarding in patient care.

Priorities for 2019/20

- To support the Safeguarding Board's safeguarding priorities to raise awareness about childhood neglect.

Female Genital Mutilation

What has been achieved?

There were 57 cases of reported cases all of which were to women over the age of 18 years old. This is a significant reduction in the number of reports since 2017-18 where there were 63 cases.

What difference has been made?

The figures for Croydon are below that of neighbouring boroughs, therefore demonstrating a need for increased awareness training around the detection and reporting of FGM.

Raised awareness about the issue of FGM across Croydon communities.

Support women affected by the issue of FGM to seek support.

Promote effective health social support for women.

Reduces complications in childbirth and women's sexual health.

Recommendations for 2019/20: (note Early Help have commissioned a specialist FGM worker to start in August 2019)

Continue to implement quarterly study days

Influence a Croydon based strategy for FGM via the FGM Steering Group

Increase involvement in conference based information sharing and education around prevention of FGM



Croydon Health Service: Contraception And Sexual Health Clinics

- Services are available at three sites across Croydon University Hospital, Parkway Health Center and Edridge Road Clinic and are generally open access walk-in, although appointments are available.
- The service provides health promotion advice and support in all aspects of sexual health and support for young people
- Health service data shows that, an estimated £11,000 is saved for every £1,000 spent on contraception. Ensuring that young people in the 16–19 age group can reach preventive health services easily is an essential public health investment
- 71,000 women aged under 16 attended family planning clinics in England in 2009–10. This represented 7.9 per cent of the resident population, a slight decrease from 2008–9(11).
- 281,000 or 21.5 per cent of the resident female population in England aged 16–19 years of age visited a family planning clinic in 2009–10, a slight increase from 2008–09(11).

Categories of young people seen at CASH	YTD 2018/19	Services Offered Includes
Child Sexual Exploitation referrals	50	Services Offered Includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long acting reversible contraception (LARC) including IUDs (coils), Mirena (IUS), and implants, available by appointment as well as at walk-in clinics • Tests and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), available at all clinics • Specialist genito-urinary medicine (GUM) service every day at the Waldron clinic by appointment • Pregnancy testing, advice and referral • Emergency hormonal contraception
Children under 13 seen	0	
Young People under 18 seen	1647	



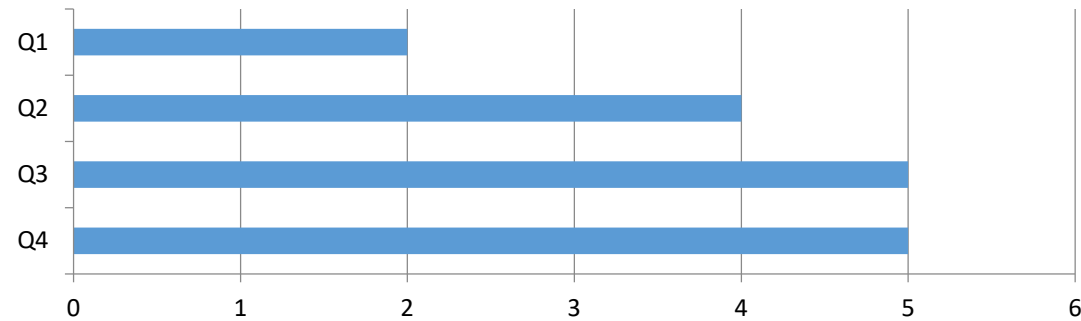


Croydon Health Service –Teenage Pregnancy

What has been achieved?

The numbers of pregnancies for those aged 16 and under has risen from 10 cases in 2017-18 to 16 cases over the past year.

Number of Cases 2018/19



What difference has been made?

- Of the 16 cases which occurred over the last year 56% of these children were under the care of or had previously received care from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (nine under 16 years old). Additionally a significant number of the young people had multiple vulnerabilities such as current social care involvement, parental domestic abuse/violence in the home, parental mental health concerns, at risk of or involved in gang related groups or being exposed to sexual exploitation.

Priorities for 2019/20

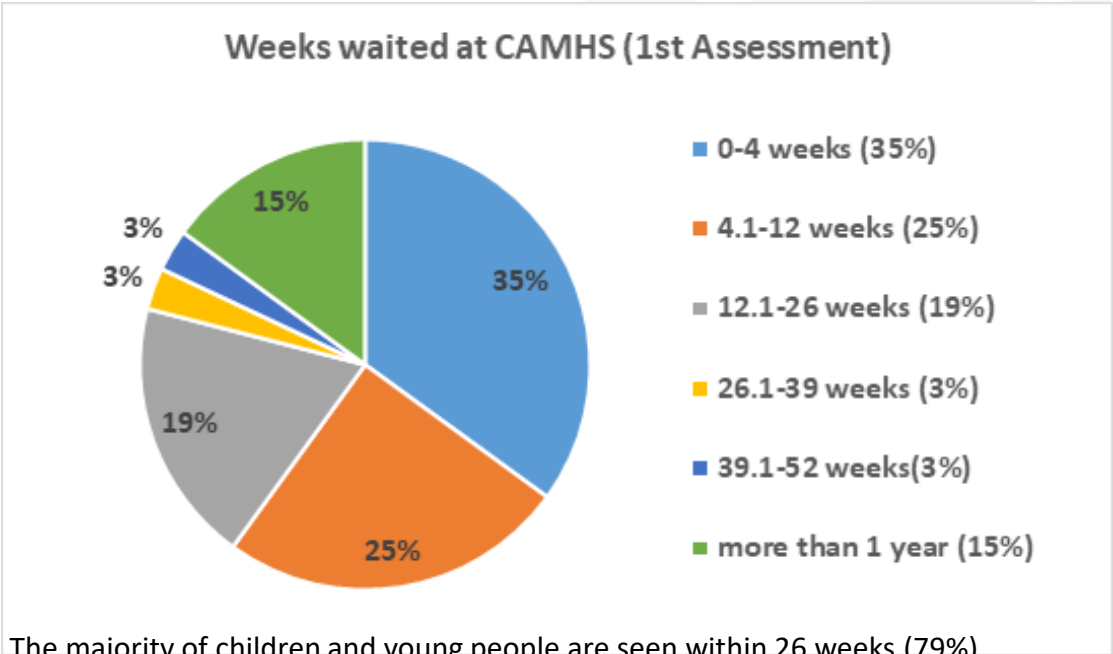
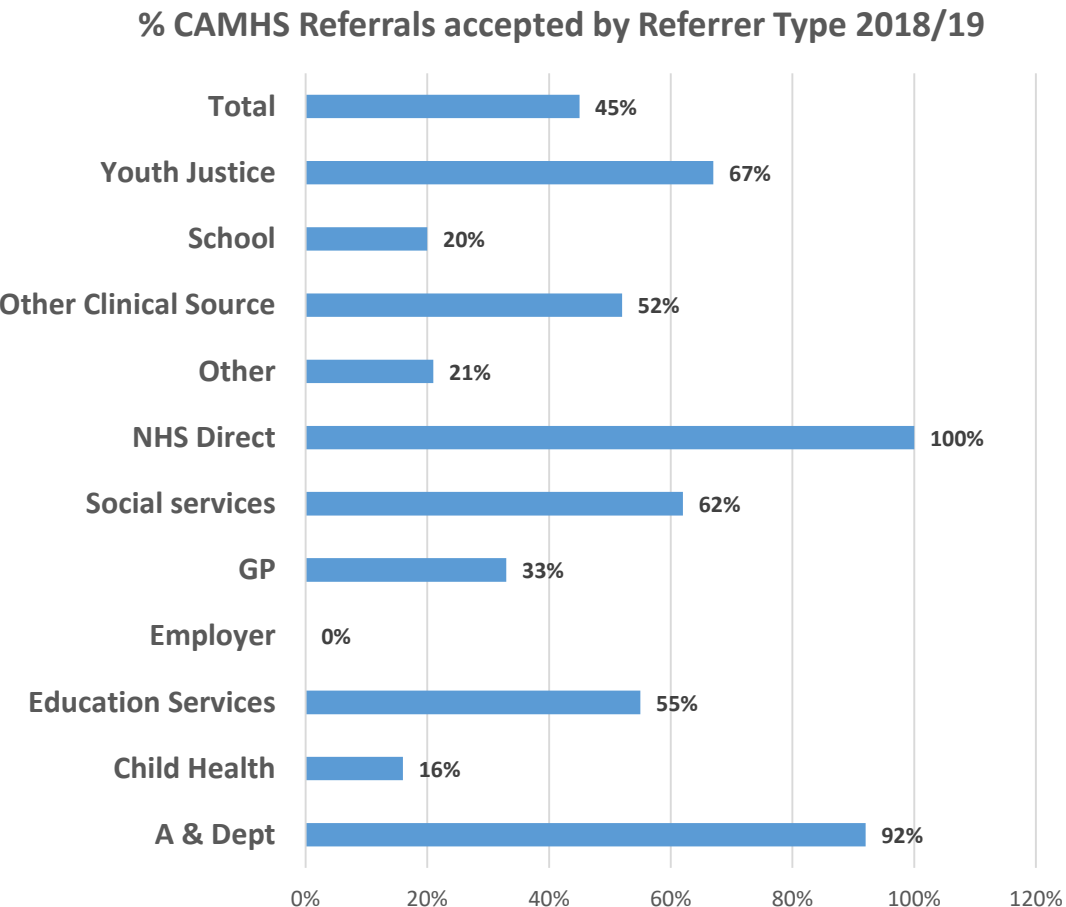
- Children identified in pregnancy will receive increased access to young person based support services such as
 - Family nurse partnership,
 - Young parent midwifery groups
- Reduction in the rate of sexual health risk and unplanned pregnancy.
Exploration of the link with previous CAMHS involvement





CAMHS – Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service

In 2018/19 624 Referrals were made for Croydon CAMHS, of which 279 were accepted, a rate of 45%. The Table below shows the percentage rate of referrals accepted for a CAMHS service by referral source.



The majority of children and young people are seen within 26 weeks (79%). However the waiting times for young people who need to be assessed by clinicians with specialist skills in neurodevelopmental assessments are unacceptably long, so that is being actively addressed.

In July, additional specialist training for 14 staff was put in place in order to expand the number of clinicians that are able to support those specialist assessments. Successful recruitment to a new Specialist Neurodevelopmental post and two further vacancies filled has had a positive impact on the number of appointments available. The expectation is that these two initiatives will help bring waiting times down over the next year.



CAMHS – Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service

What has been achieved?

- Croydon safeguarding children borough meetings established across all services including adult and CAMHS services. Meeting monthly. Supports Think Family work across the trust and provides opportunities to discuss relevant issues e.g. staff training, individual team matters, case presentations, lessons learned from serious case reviews
- Establishing young people's panels as part of CAMHS staff recruitment. Young people interviewing job candidates, to ensure their needs are taken into account and their voices heard.
- Centralised system of checks for all CP conference invites. Currently being piloted in Lewisham, but to be rolled out across SLaM boroughs in September 2019. Once trust wide data is established, audit of CP conference attendance trust wide, across adult and CAMHS services.
- Section 136 of MHA and young people – quarterly data now being collected across the trust of young people detained by police under section 136.
- Domestic Violence and Abuse conference to take place in November 2019 – theme 'Domestic Abuse - Thinking about the Family' aim to ensure that the experience of young people is heard by all staff.

What difference has been made?

- Positive feedback from young people regarding participation in staff recruitment.

Priorities for 2019/20

- Continue safeguarding children borough meetings, including invitations to external agencies to attend and present, to facilitate better multi-agency working
- Roll out across boroughs of central CP conference checks
- CQC action plan – provision of safeguarding children supervision outstanding, although named nurse has submitted a report to the Director of Nursing as to possible solutions. Further work to promote and facilitate staff across SLaM to Think Family when it comes to work with service users.





CAMHS – Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service

What has been achieved?

- CAMHS have established a Youth Advisory Group (YAG) to meet every 2 months. This was promoted to young people from age 12 + who are open to CAMHS or have used CAMHS in the past 2 years. Groups consist of approximately 8 young people.
- Croydon YAG regularly link in with the other YAGs in the Trust.

What difference has been made?

- Verbal and written feedback is taken and logged after each session. Young people have reported an increase in self-confidence, self-esteem and levels of self-efficacy since attending the YAGs.
- The YAG has given feedback on the design and content of the information leaflet that is given to young people who present in crisis (mental health crisis self-harming behaviours) at the A&E department of Croydon University Hospital which is in the process of implementation.

Priorities for 2019/20

- An idea generated from the YAG is to work alongside schools to setting up a project aimed at promoting mental health in young people.
- The YAG have also expressed an interest in creating links with Croydon councils to sit on any panels, in an advisory capacity, where youth mental health is part of the agenda.
- They have also generated ideas on updating the waiting rooms updates - poster design following debate on social media use.
- The have suggested a Manga Art Group for young people.

CROYDON CAMHS
YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP

What's it all about?

It's your chance to tell us what you think of CAMHS and help to develop the service. Also get the chance to meet new young people! We will meet every 2 months to get your feedback on service areas.

This group is open to young people who are:

- Aged 12 and over
- Currently open to Croydon CAMHS / have used CAMHS in the last 2 years

When?

Our first meeting will be on:
Tuesday 26th March 2019
4:30pm – 6:00pm

Where?

Croydon CAMHS,
Christopher Wren House,
113 High Street,
Croydon,
CR0 1QG

Free Food

Learn new skills (add to your CV!)

No experience needed!

£10 Gift Voucher for attendance - Payment if you're 16+ and on the PPI register!

To book your place please speak to your Care Co-ordinator
Phone: 0203 228 0000
Maximum of 8 participants per group. A waiting list will be created if places are oversubscribed



Croydon Police

The Metropolitan Police undertook a restructure of their service provision into 12 Borough Command Units, instead of the 32 separate London Boroughs. **The vision was:-** To provide a BCU SLT structure and HQ model that enables collaboration, coordination and drives operational efficiencies.

Purpose:

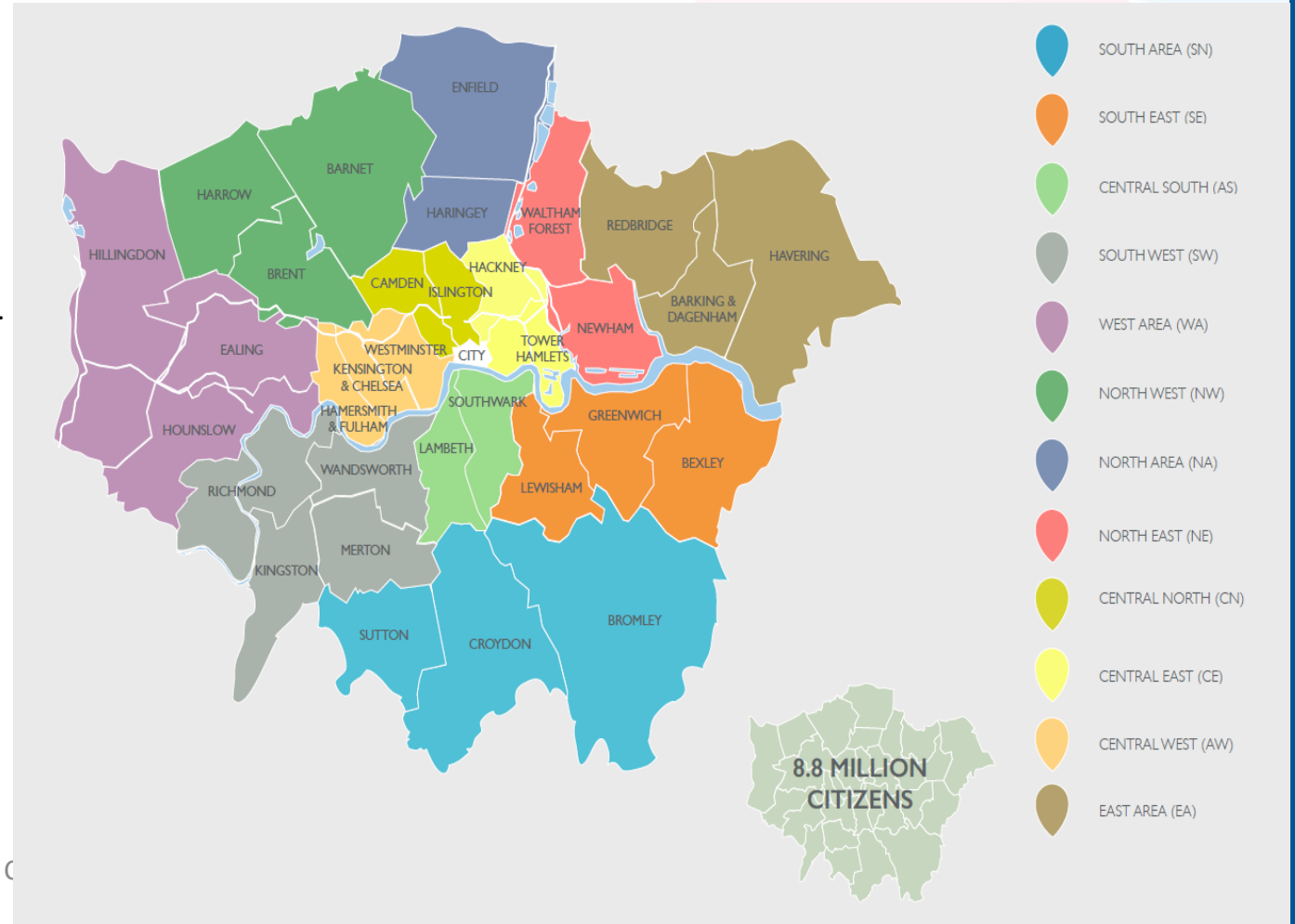
South BCU includes the boroughs of Sutton, Bromley and Croydon. An area of some 110,000 square miles, with 980,000 residents, it represents the largest BCU in London.

The BCU uses Superintendents leading core local policing services:

Neighbourhoods, Response, Investigation, Safeguarding and a 5th pan-BCU Superintendent leading on business change and coordination.

This provides a specialist senior leader in every part of London who is responsible for the professionalism, performance and quality of these central local policing functions.

By operating at increased scale whilst devolving more decision-making to front line leaders, will enable better quality and faster operational decisions to be made – and a more responsive and flexible policing service across London.





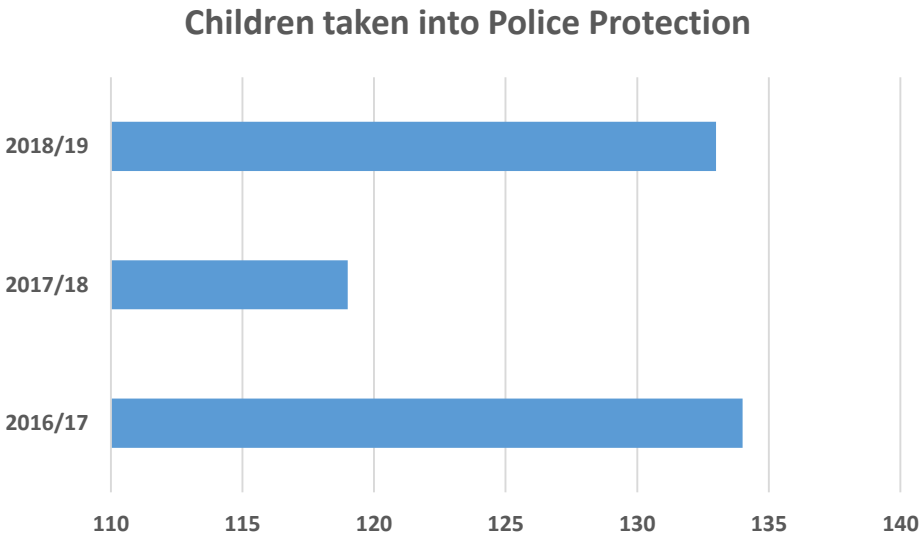
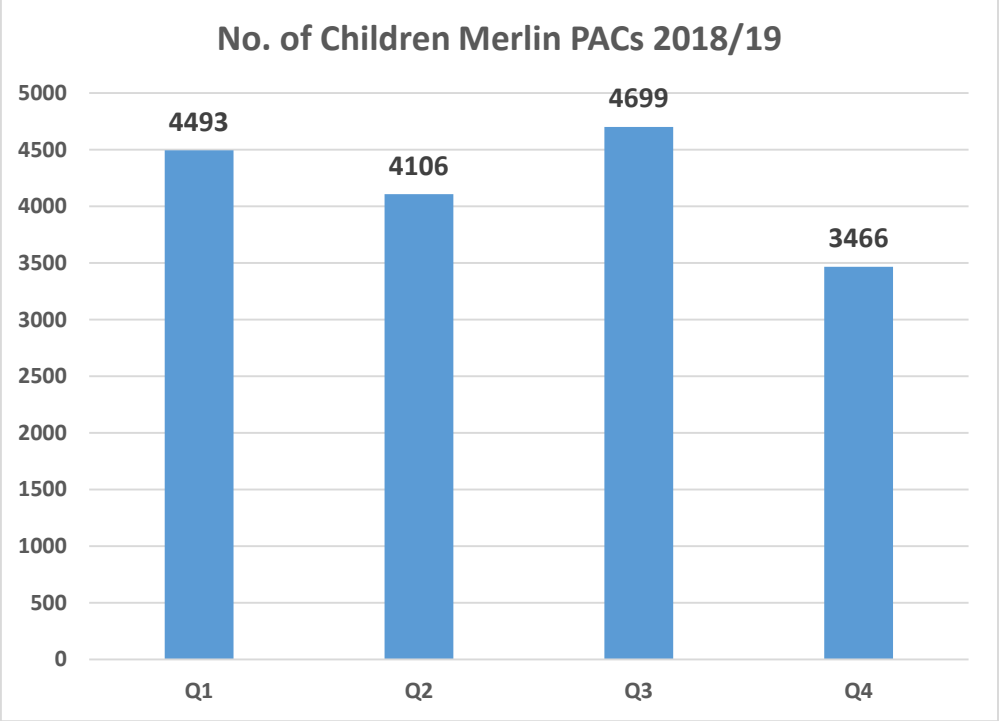
Croydon Police – Merlins & Police Protection

Police alert Children’s Services of any child coming to their notice by way of a Merlin report, this is to identify children at risk to safeguard and promote their welfare. A Merlin is the notification and record system that Police use to achieve this aim. The information shared can range from a child actively committing a crime, to being asleep at home in bed when Police attend domestic abuse incidents. They cover every eventuality and form an integral part of the daily work of the MASH, Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub.

The MASH team have made considerable progress since the OFSTED inspection, as a partnership ensures that risk is dealt with appropriately through the correct channels. Timescales and efficiencies have improved considerably over the last 12 months.

The high volume of cases does expose the organisation to risk through volume. Each referral is scored, and passed to the appropriate organisation. Referral rates and delays potentially exposes children to risk if not dealt with accordingly.

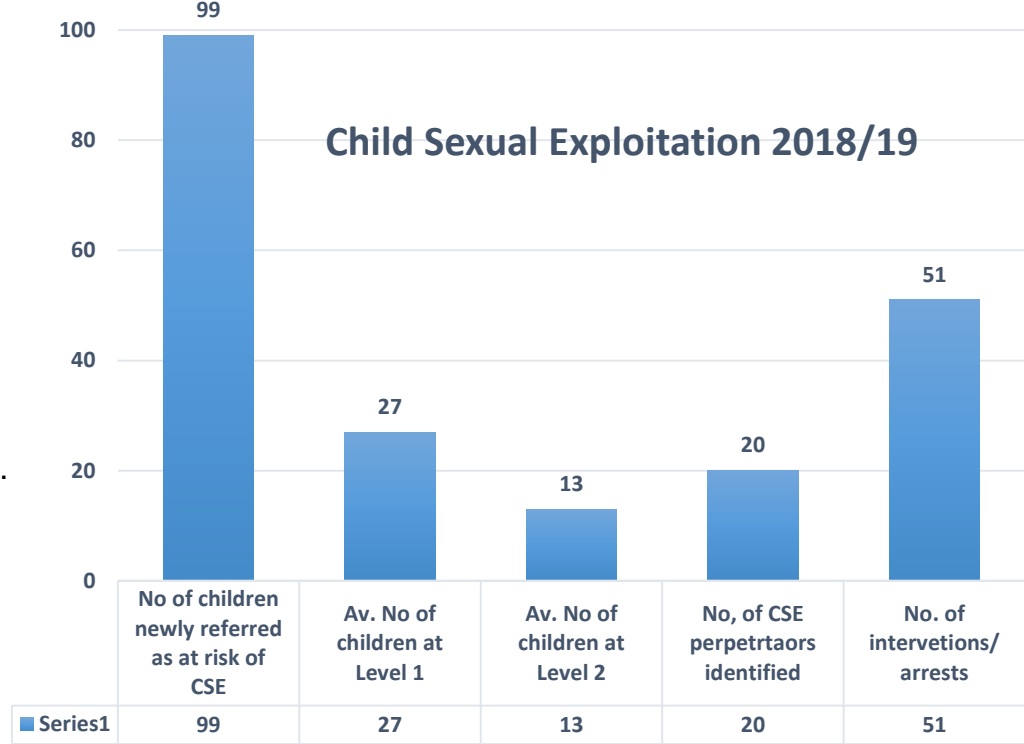
The Police Child Abuse & Investigation Team (CAIT) has moved to be located within the MASH team, which enables more accessible collaborative working. This covers attendance at Strategy Meetings, joint s47 investigations and providing police intelligence and attendance at Child Protection Case Conferences (CPCC).



Croydon Police – Child Exploitation & Missing Children

- The Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) team at Croydon are complemented by one Detective Sergeant and six Police Constables/Detective Constables specifically dealing with CSE.
- The team will deal with all Level 1 CSE cases, making contact with the young person, identifying social groups and family situations that may be exposed to CSE, whilst identifying subjects that can be targeted. Developing control and disruption tactics of no substantive crime can be progressed.
- Identified risk is ranked and control measures put in place in accordance with the multi agency approach.

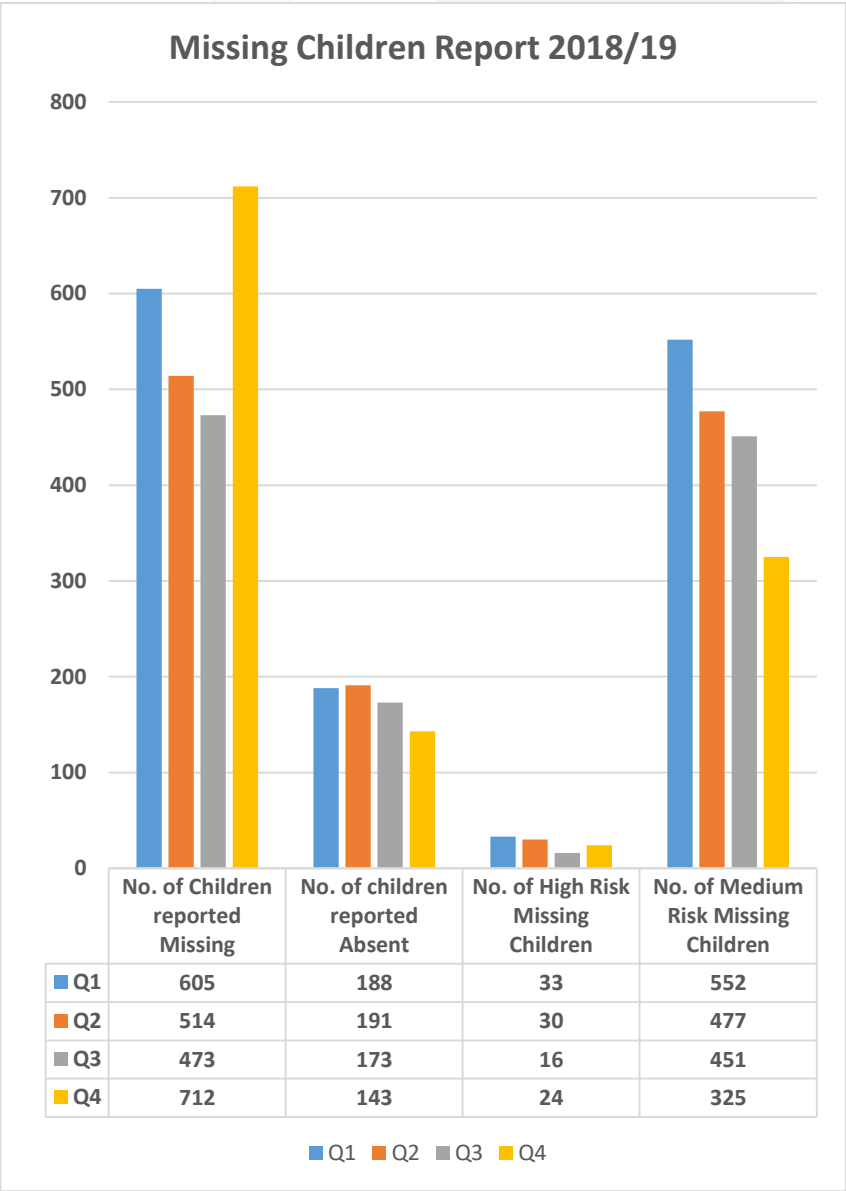
- The cases which are unknown is where the most risk remains, as these are potentially children exposed to CSE with no safeguarding plans in place.



Missing Children

In order to tackle these issues Croydon Police will be looking into further proactive methods to educate repeat missing persons and develop repeat venues (Engage Strand). There will also be proactive exploration of methods to regulate and enforce failings of safeguarding to ensure the welfare of the children is paramount (Enforcement Strand). Work is also ongoing regarding county lines which also impacts upon missing children. Engagement is underway with Croydon Council to identify a more streamlined referral process and ensure that safeguarding and NRM referrals are adhered to

CSCB Annual Report 2018/19



Child Exploitation

Improvements

- Child Exploitation Risk Assessment and Risk Reduction Plan now embedded
- Report designed to increase management oversight of children being referred into MACE via Child Exploitation workflow
- Merlin report supports this intelligence –quicker to identify Child Exploitation concerns and relay this to case workers
- Child Exploitation training available to practitioners
- Enhanced profiling/mapping of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)
- Child Exploitation Episode has been requested for all these YP to determine level of CE Risk –should lead to higher number of referrals to MACE panel
- Improved cross checking of CSE cases open to Police
- Greater scrutiny of MACE Review Cases
- Better understanding of their links to gangs (approx. 30% have recognised gang links for CCE cohort)
- Established partnership work between CSC, CE/Missing Intelligence

Priorities for 2019/20

- To measure the impact in relation to these children
- For police to identify and prosecute over 18s who are exploiting children
- To explore the profiling pathway into exploitation. To compare these experiences with that of Vulnerable Adolescents Review children?
- To monitor children placed out of borough
- To share cross borough intelligence in relation to MACE and general CE concerns
- To monitor OLA LAC referrals into MACE



Missing Children

There were **2,552** missing episodes reported between 1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019

82% of reported missing episodes in this period relate to LAC missing from placement

Number of missing from home episodes –stable between June and November 2018 – roughly **35-45** missing from home episodes per month

High volume of LAC missing from placement episodes is closely linked to high volume of EDT episodes logged with CE/Missing Intelligence Team on a daily basis

There has been a **7%** increase in the number of missing episodes reported between Quarter 1 (April-June 2018) and Quarter 4 (January-March 2019)

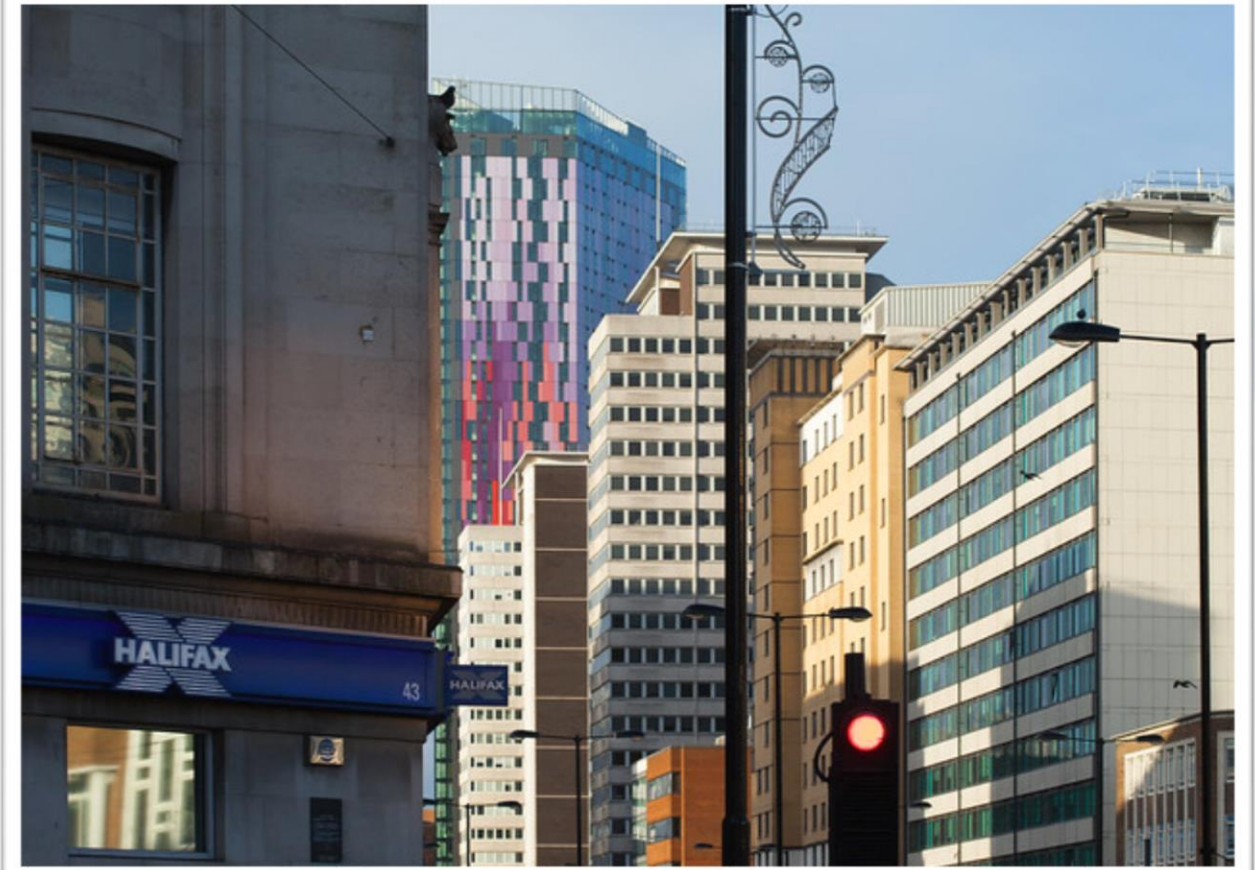
115 children classified as 'repeat missing children' (those with 3 or more missing episodes started in a single month within 2018-19)

Approx. **24-27** children per month classified as repeat missing children (nearly all LAC)

Approx. **two-thirds** of missing episodes each month are linked to repeat missing children

Priorities for 2019/20

- Improving missing process performance in relation to repeat missing children
- Embedding operational oversight of missing risk assessment and missing strategy performance for overall missing cohort
- Embedding of the new Complex Adolescents Panel (CAP) which will replace the weekly missing panel

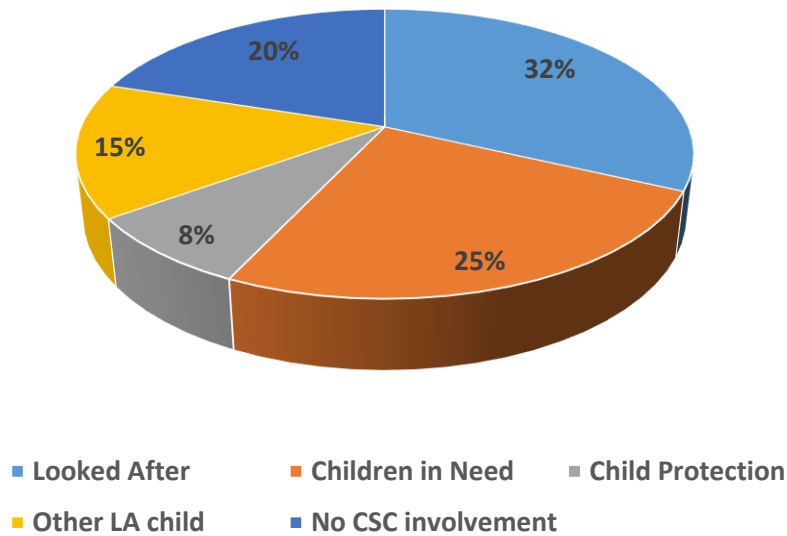


- Interrogating the detail within RHI forms on CRS – What are children saying?
- Oversight of OLA missing cohort –how we review their missing episodes/exploitation risks
- Further work needed on how missing children cohort links to missing education cohort
 - Impact on educational outcomes
 - Prevalence of EHCP within missing cohort
 - School intelligence
- Further work needed on missing children with a YOS order –does YOS intervention reduce the likelihood of YP going missing?

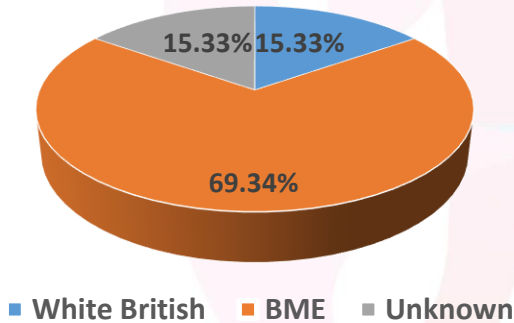
County Lines

- 137 children were identified with suspected/evidenced links to county lines drug dealing between 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019
- 18 individuals on the county lines tracker were part of the cohort for the recently published Vulnerable Adolescent Thematic Review (30%; out of 60 YP reviewed).
- Of 117 Croydon YP – 51 had a completed NRM form logged (44% of cohort) National referral mechanism

Status of 137 children with CSC as at 31 March 2019



137 children involved in County Lines at 31 March 2019 by % Broad Ethnicity



The Head of the Adolescent Service advised:

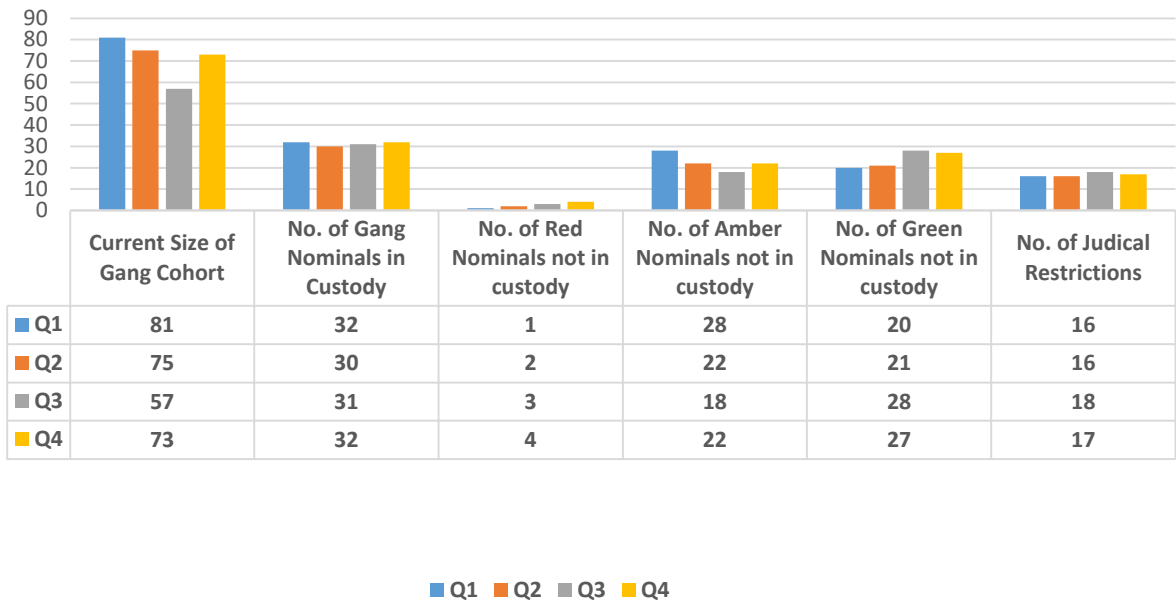
Due to the work of analysts within our partnership and improved data information we have been able to identify the number of children who are potentially being exploited by adults and used in county lines. The partnership has reviewed our response for these children who are now referred into our Complex Adolescents Panel (CAP) for consideration as to whether they should be monitored via the MACE protocol, and to ensure that National Referral Mechanisms have been completed. This is a relatively new process and is still embedding but the numbers of children who are being referred in has increased considerably, with a higher number on MACE.

There are also tracking processes in place to increase the numbers with NRM referrals. All children who are found in other areas of the country are referred into our Single Point of Contact where consideration is given to CSC or EH services, including assessments where appropriate. Croydon has a number of resources for children who are being exploited by county lines, including the pan-London Rescue and Response programme which is mapping activity within London and outlying areas. In addition, Croydon also has a Home Office funded ICTA service and a representative from Barnardos attends CAP to advise as part of this.



Croydon Police

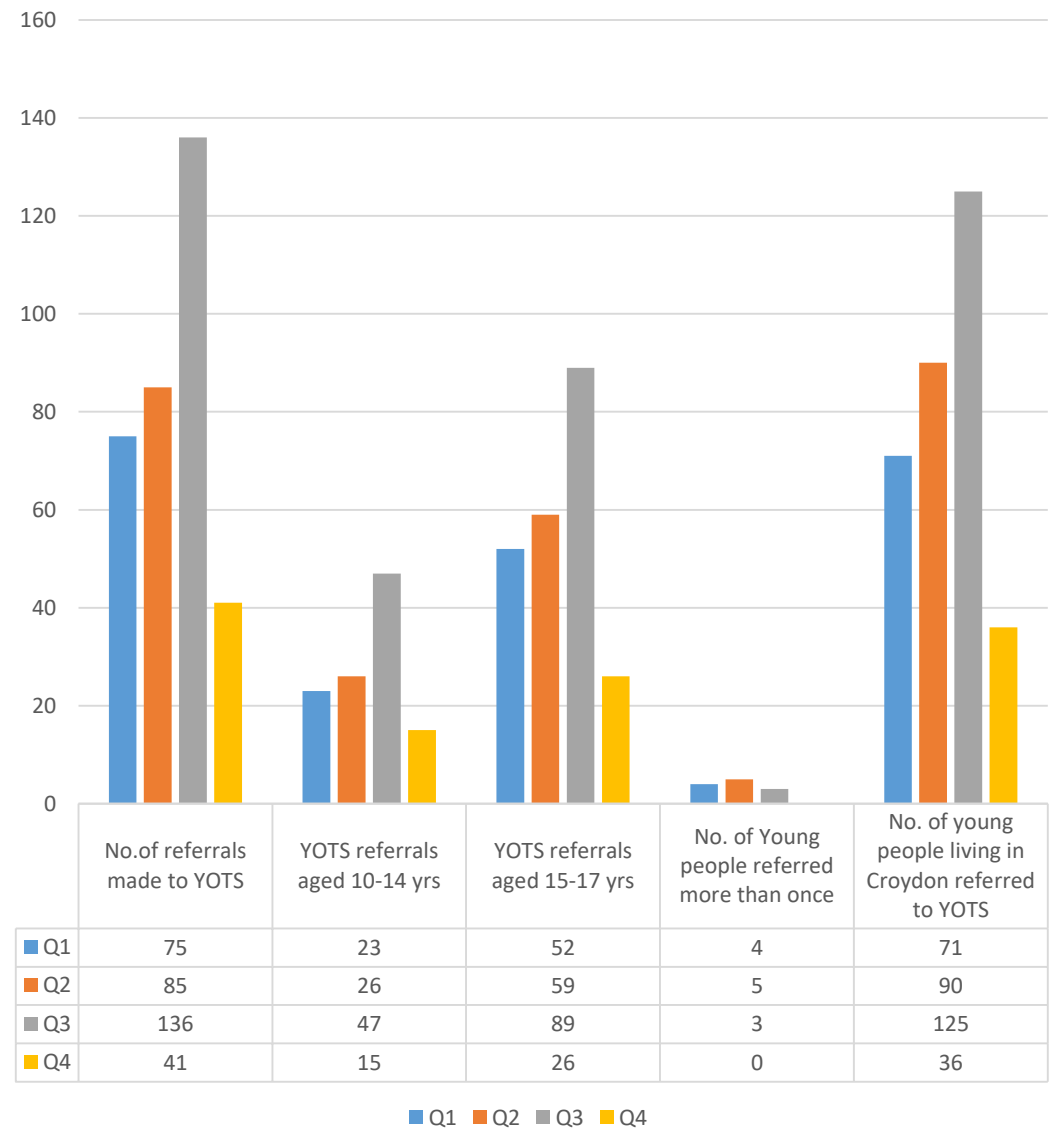
Gangs partnership info 2018/19



The gangs partnership between the MPS Gangs Team and YOS continues to deliver effective work in the diversion, enforcement and safeguarding of gangs members in the Borough. Key duties and actions for the partnership remain:

- Structured one to one support for gang members to divert away from gangs.
- Joint home visits between the MPS and YOS to those thought to be at risk due to current tensions, with advice and opportunities to divert offered.
- Weekly intel sharing and planning Tasking meetings.
- Gangs training offered to staff in schools.
- Gangs and knife crime workshops delivered to pupils in schools.
- Proactive policing to enforce and disrupt gang members.
- The use of Criminal Behaviour Orders to disrupt gang activity.

Police Referrals to Youth Offending Team 2018/19



- Whilst there has been a sustained reduction of serious youth violence over the past 12 months this remains a challenge for the borough due to the size of the population, the volume and demand on services and the impact on outcomes for children. In the last 18 months we have seen a rise in concern about the impact of 'county lines' and the associated issues of violence and child criminal exploitation.
- The partnership is not complacent and has ambitious plans to deliver a long term public health approach to tackling serious violent crime and has created a Violence Reduction Network to take this work forward.
- The YOS has seen around a 20% reduction in numbers of young people and in July was supervising 234 children, The YOS predominantly work with males who are 14 – 17 years old and the most prevalent offences are violence, robbery and drugs. There are a disproportionate number of children who are BME 70%.
- The number of young people actively involved in gangs has been reduced consistently over the past year and stood at 28 by the end of March 2019. As well as working with this entrenched cohort a further 31 young people who were deemed to be at risk of gang affiliation were diverted with none going on to be identified as gang members and only 3 going on to offend. The team have proved that via their close partnership working they are able to identify those at risk and involved in gangs and then effectively engage with them and divert them away from this lifestyle.
- Aside from the one to one work the team have extended their delivery of crime/ gangs prevention workshops in secondary schools. We now offer one hour workshops on knife crime, victims, street robbery, moped crime, stop and search, gangs, sexual bullying and county lines drug dealing. The interactive workshops uses film to engage pupils followed by a structured questions, answer and discussion session. This was delivered to 1200 pupils last academic year.

CSCB Annual



The borough has continued to see sustained reductions with;
Serious Youth Violence falling by - 21.3% against a London drop of - 4.3% between April 2018 and March 2019 compared to the previous 12 months.
Croydon's ranking per 1,000 population has improved again to 17th highest in Dec 18, placing it below the London average.

Gangs & Youth Offending

What difference has been made?

- Knife Crime with Injury Victims aged 1-24 also fell by 26.5% over the same period, with Croydon ranking 19th highest in London per 1,000 population.
- As well as the direct work with young people the gangs partnership has tried to build awareness of school staff, community volunteers and professionals working with young people and community members by delivering a large number of training events to faith groups, community groups, schools and agency team meetings.
- The YOS has seen a 31% reduction in young people entering the youth justice system for the first time down from 208 to 162 young people and in terms of young people going to custody in 17/18 we saw an increase but over the last 12 months this has reduced by 37%.

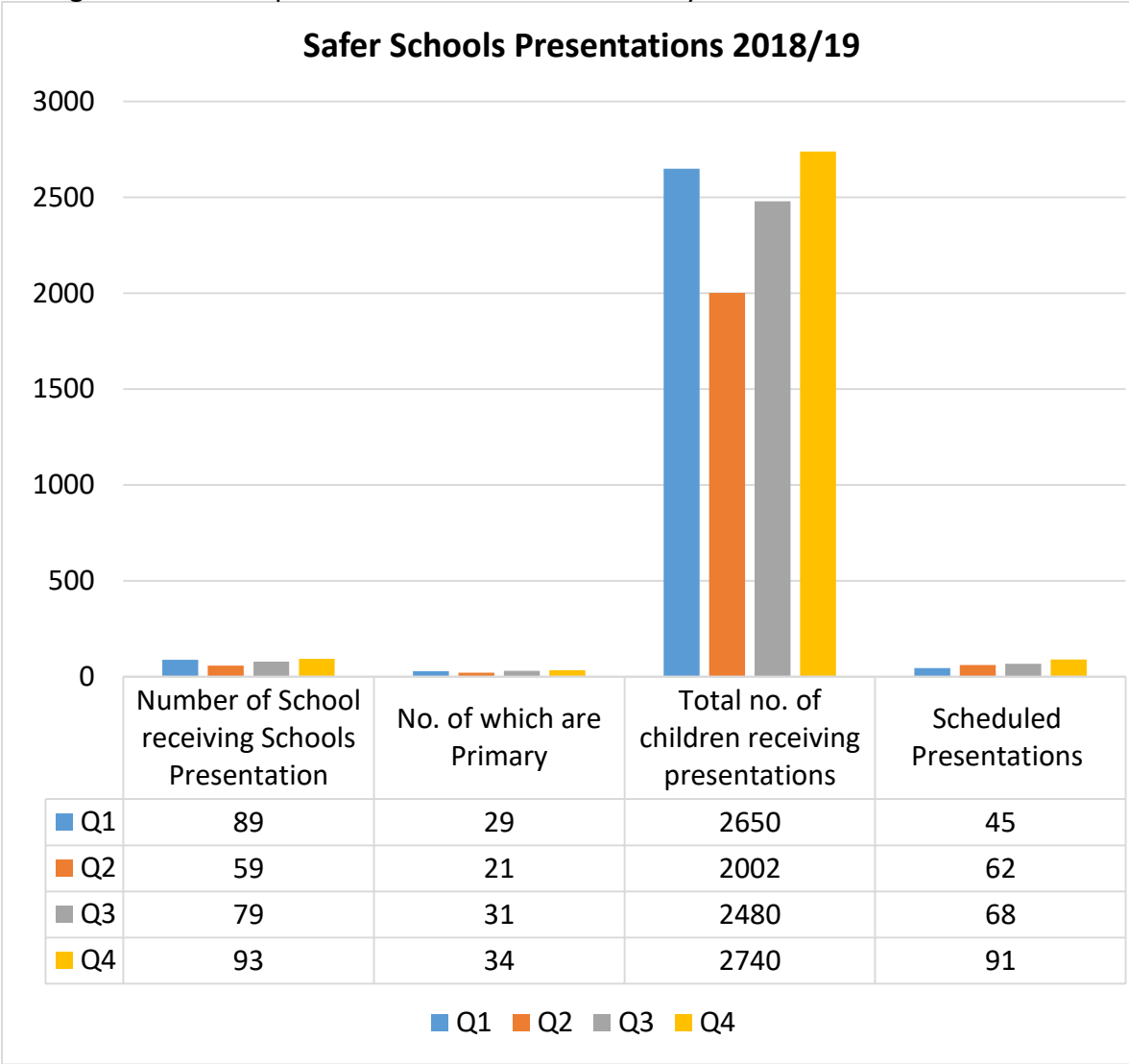
Priorities for 2019/20

Partnership to support work to reduce disproportionality within the BME group of children coming to attention of the YOS and gangs

- Increase the opportunities for young people known to YOS aged 16-18 to access education, training and employment
- Increase support and response to children involved and at risk of ‘county lines’ and the associated issues of violence and child criminal exploitation.
- Increase capacity to deliver higher volume of gangs and SYV workshops in secondary school and the ongoing development of the schools workshop resources e.g. produce a new resource looking at use of social media and links to gangs and serious youth violence.
- Increase gangs prevention capacity and providing support and a presence to Early Help professionals in the locality hubs.
- To build on the community SYV and gangs events and widen these to include more relevant partners.

Croydon Police:

- The number of schools and children receiving presentations has increased from 85 to 93 and are now reaching 2740 children.
- The objectives of all the presentations are to ultimately empower the young people to make the right decision when faced with a difficult choice.
- Each presentation should give people the knowledge to identify when something is wrong and the consequences around the decisions they make.



Community Safety – Serious Youth Violence

- Tackling violence and the causes of violence is a priority for the Council and its partner organisations that form the Safer Croydon Partnership. The significant rise in knife crime in 2016/7 highlighted the importance of taking an approach that focuses on the causes of violence, rather than the symptoms. Achieving long term reductions in violence remains a priority for the Borough.
- In response, the administration has made it a top priority to treat violence including serious youth violence and knife crime as a public health issue to make Croydon the safest borough for young people. The Council is also committed to remain as a lead borough in tackling Modern Day Slavery and domestic and sexual violence and all forms of violence against women and girls.
- As part of its commitment to this key priority, the Council is re-aligning the current Community Safety Team to form a Violence Reduction Network. The team will work with existing boards, partners, voluntary and community organisations and locality leads to ensure the priorities that are set out in the Framework are delivered and external funding opportunities are maximised. As such the newly formed unit will have a greater influencing role across the existing boards, holding them to account for the priorities and outcomes.
- The Framework for Croydon's Public Health Approach to Violence Reduction was adopted by Cabinet on the 10th June 2019 which makes it clear that a Public Health approach means that everyone has a role to play in preventing and reducing violence; it is a societal issue as opposed to the responsibility of a single agency or group of agencies.

Key Priorities 2019 - 2024

The key themes that will enable partner organisations to identify where they can directly contribute to preventing and addressing violence.

- **Using Data to drive our approach-** Building a strong evidence base and a common screening tool that can be used across organisations to predict who, where and why individuals and families are more likely to be involved in violent or aggressive behaviours and identifying the interventions that will have the maximum impact.
- **Preventing Violence before It Occurs** - Looks at the periods and key influences in a person's life journey, from pre-birth to adulthood which can increase the risks of becoming involved in violent behaviour and the opportunities when interventions can be most effective.
- **Community Based Support** – Recognises the strength of the Community and Voluntary Sector in Croydon and places them at the heart of Croydon's public health approach to violence reduction. It promotes combining skills and enabling voluntary and community organisations to support people and families collaboratively.
- **Targeted Interventions** - It uses the principles of a family centred approach aimed at addressing violence, by looking at the wider family and connected family dynamics, based on clear safeguarding, case management approaches.
- **Intensive Interventions and Enforcement** – Sets out an intention to offer personalised support for those who are motivated to step away from a life of violence, whilst using the full range of enforcement across all agencies, against those whose behaviour places themselves, those around them, or the wider community at risk of harm.



Community Safety



- The Community Safety team has coordinated the partnership's response to Serious Youth Violence (SYV) and Knife Crime including the creation and delivery of Croydon's SYV and Knife Crime Action Plan. This coordination is managed through the Gangs and SYV group with representatives from Council services, CRC, Health, Police, VCS and Education sector. The Action Plan details over 50 actions under the themes, Plan, Prepare, Protect, Pursue and Prevent. In addition, the Voluntary and Community Sector SYV forum led by the BME forum allows for engagement with over 30 partner agencies delivering work to tackle SYV and Knife crime in Croydon. A key challenge has been coordinating the volume of activity currently being undertaken, with multiple funding streams that sit outside of the partnerships governance structure. The partnership has mapped over 165 interventions going into Croydon schools that are relevant to the SYV and Knife crime prevention.

- The London Crime Prevention Fund has funded Victim Support Children & Young People Outreach programme which saw the delivery of;

- 25 community Events
- 107 Youth Workshops - 1213 Young People engaged
- 3 Professional Development Training Workshops – 55 adults engaged
- 1562 People engaged with in Outreach - 840 confirmed Young People
- 2830 Total Member of the Community engaged
- 2053 Total Young People engaged

Palace for Life Foundation is also delivering programmes in 24 schools including Mentoring, workshops, building resilience, transition from primary to secondary school, training session and online safety.

- To prevent SYV the Community Safety partnership awarded LCPF grant funding to recruit to dedicated SYV early intervention workers in 2018-19. This has now been mainstreamed by the Council as the Safe and Well programme. This is a six-week programme designed by Croydon youth workers for vulnerable pupils aged 9-13 via schools across the borough. 300 young people will benefit over one year, through a mix of one to one and group work
- The winning Choose Your Future campaign was launched to unite Croydon against youth violence and has secured support from dozens of organisations, engaged more than 3,000 young people and focused on giving them a stronger voice and better prospects. It recently scooped the Campaign of the Year award at the London Government Chronicle Awards.





Prevent (National Prevent Strategy implemented in Croydon)

In the London Borough of Croydon the Government's National Prevent Strategy is delivered via the Channel process. Channel aims to protect vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism by; supporting the general public in identifying those at risk of being radicalised and providing early intervention to protect and divert them away from being drawn into terrorist activity.

In 2018/2019

Channel co-ordinated the safeguarding process for children referred into the service.

Referrals to the service were mostly in relation to Extreme Right Wing and Islamist extremist related radicalisation.

Home Office approved Intervention Providers (IP's) were used in cases where this level of intervention was deemed appropriate.

Interventions were also put in place by the schools and colleges of vulnerable young people referred to the services with guidance and support being provided by Channel.

55 Workshops to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) were delivered to educational institutions across the borough.

Coordinated the delivery of 45 'digital resilience' workshops with an external provider. These workshops raised awareness on online safety to both teachers and students.

What has the impact been or difference has been made?

Over the last year a considerable number of Channel referrals were received from educational institutions.

The WRAP training provided by the Prevent Education Officer to the educational establishments within the borough has been effective in raising awareness of Channel as a tool to safeguard children and vulnerable people from radicalisation.

- Croydon Channel panel has managed to successfully exit the majority of the cases that have gone through the Channel process. A multi-agency approach of appropriate sign posting and ongoing monitoring have been provided in the minority of cases where a Channel intervention was not accepted.
- WRAP is intended for frontline staff, social services, probation, education, health staff and local communities.
- In 2018-19 following a re-design of the local WRAP presentation the team delivered;
 - WRAP training events delivered to 1,400 attendees
 - 13 Prevent Briefings and Presentations
 - The team received feedback of 99% "Good" or "Excellent" feedback on 'Overall effectiveness of workshop' from participants.
- The focus is working with parents and staff to help them recognise and respond to the risks, and empowering them to take proactive steps to prevent harm.
- Pupil facing sessions give children and young people the critical thinking skills they need to challenge what they see online and know what to do when they need help.
- The Digital Resilience Programme facilitated by Parent Zone is designed to deliver a whole community approach to tackling online radicalisation and extremism.
- This programme was successfully delivered in 2018/19 with 45 sessions delivered to 2,047 participants (1,675 pupils in 18 schools; 145 parents and foster carers)



PREVENT

Priorities for 2019/20

- The team has identified a link between Channel cases with recorded domestic abuse incidents.
- This has been analysed in depth by the Prevent team who have been able to further deliberate on the theoretical and empirical links between radicalisation and domestic abuse.
- The Prevent team have been granted a seconded post that seeks to integrate services more efficiently in order to identify extremism cases. The post – and the report on domestic abuse and radicalisation – is the first of its kind and will be a post dedicated to working with Local Authority services and the education sector.
- There is an increasing concern and trend from Extreme right wing activity and groups, which is part of a national trend. The Home Office have approved funding for a project that aims to deconstruct the Extreme Right wing narrative and raise awareness of the dangers of extremism. This project will be extended to the education sector in both an assembly and workshop setting.
- The Prevent team will continue to work closely with the educational sector to offer statutory support and advice on Prevent related concern. The Prevent Education Officer is a dedicated post and point of contact for schools within Croydon.





Modern Day Slavery

What has been achieved?

- Work with Croydon Estate Agents through a mailshot to all estate agents offering free training.
- Multi-agency training offered for all CSAB partners.
- Makesafe work undertaken by Met Police around young girls taken to hotels. Training was provided to frontline staff and also on the spot training.
- 5 Step Tracker launched wider with presentations to commissioning and other teams.
- Croydon Council – Landlord licensing scheme for private landlords. Selective licensing inspections carried out.
- Home Office Pilot Bid successful for funding for victims coming out of NRM and resettle with support. Project Officer appointed.
- Awareness raising with refuse workers and refuse sites regarding multiple dirty mattresses at refuse sites and outside properties.
- Establishment of MDS Champions – 8 champions in place in ASC and 3 children champions.
- MDS Conference held in October 2018 with approximately 130 attendees, speakers presented on Sexual Exploitation, County Lines, Missing People, domestic servitude and intelligence gathering.
- The CTPF Project - Supporting Foster Carers of child victims of human trafficking and modern slavery: Croydon pilot for Albanian and Vietnamese UASC. This Project is funded by the Home Office Child Trafficking Protection Fund aims to pilot wrap-around support for foster carers who look after Albanian and Vietnamese unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) who are in the care of and placed by the LB Croydon.

The Town Hall, at the request from the Cabinet, was lit up in red lighting in Modern Slavery prevention week.

What difference have been made?

- Home Office Pilot Resettling victims project. 10 clients now resettled in Croydon with support provided to progress benefits, finances, English language tuition and safe employment.
- The CTPF Project is now completed with the final event held on 26 February.: the training of over 80 foster carers, over 100 foster carers have participated in forums and over 300 foster carers given access to the online platform (Huddle). In terms of sustainability, some of the foster carers trained through CTPF have gone on to join an internal Foster Carer Champions programme for those looking after unaccompanied children. From a data point of view the project informed efforts to record trafficking cases on case files to improve analysis and linkages with missing cases.
- Increased buy in from commissioning and supply chain management to help ensure safety in Council's supply chains as well as spreading that to those whom we procure from.

Priorities for 2019/20?

- Proposal for further work linking to County Lines and Children 'Don't Walk Past' campaign for professionals.
- Further links to be developed with Faith and Third Sector communities.
- To continue to raise awareness of the 5 Step Tracker and widen out to children's workers.
- CTPF Project: The final open actions are ensuring that the materials and learning are available to supervising social workers to ensure that foster carers receive the support they need to look after potentially trafficked children.
- Completion of the Home Office Pilot Project in 2020.



Child Exploitation – Safer London

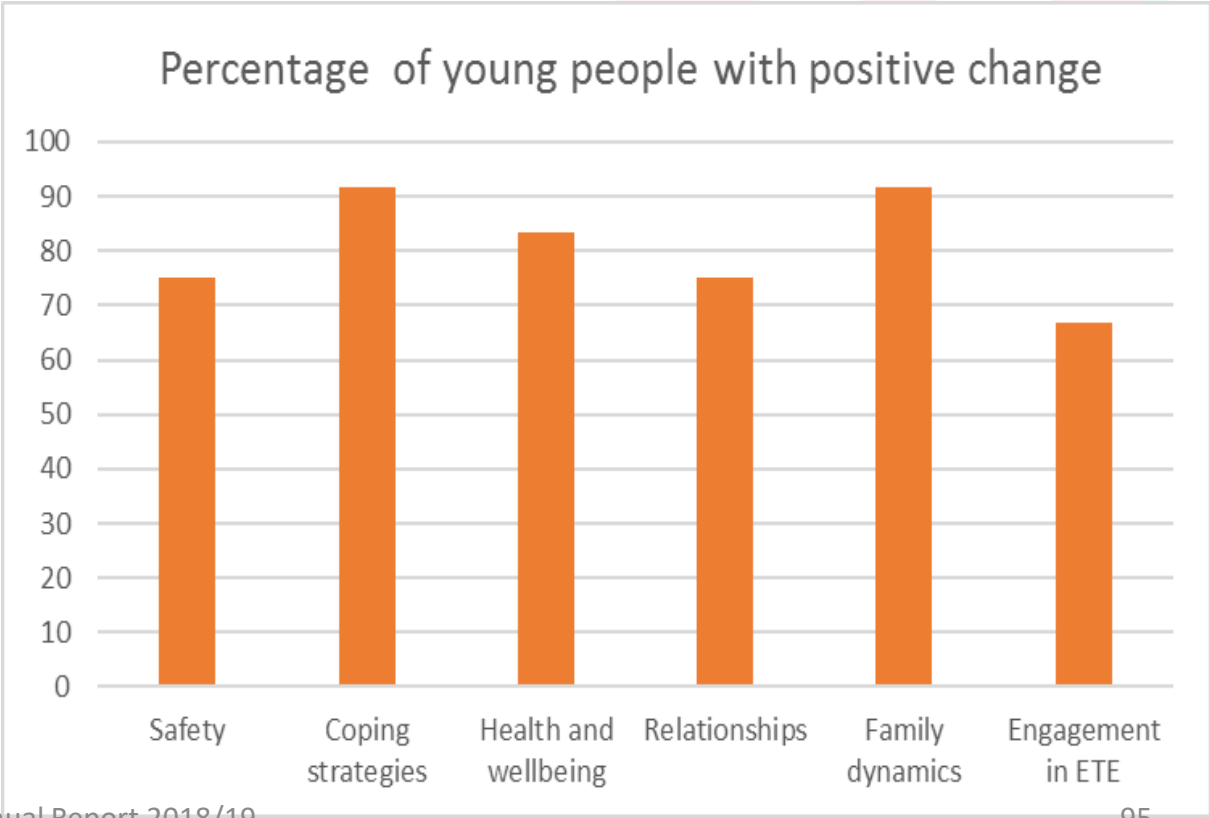
What has been achieved?

- Safer London’s Exploitation Service in Croydon and Safer London’s Empower Service in Croydon has provided 1:1 intensive support to approximately 60 children and young people affected by or at risk of Child Exploitation in the borough of Croydon.
- The Exploitation Service works closely with social workers who are able to refer in children and young people who have been, or are, subject to child sexual or child criminal exploitation. During 2018-19 the Empower service primarily worked with girls who were gang-affected, particularly to address their experiences of sexual violence and or/ exploitation. We have also provided specialist advice and guidance to a range of multi-agency professionals for children who we have not had capacity to offer one to one support for or in cases where a referral to us was not required (a total of 196 children/ cases).
- Safer London have also offered training to a range of multi-agency professionals on working with children affected by Child Sexual Exploitation and have provided awareness-raising workshops in the community, for children, young people as well as parents/carers and family members?. These sessions raise awareness on the importance of how to promote safety and increasing understanding what makes a healthy relationship.

What difference have we made?

- Our Exploitation Service measures our outcomes in six domains at the beginning and end of each intervention. Children and young people self-score and then caseworkers also use evidence from their work, and other sources to create a combined score

- As shown in the table below the vast majority of young people who have completed an intervention have improved in each outcome area. We’ve seen significant improvements in family dynamics and coping strategies – with over 90% of children using the service seeing improved outcomes in these areas which is real evidence of the success of our holistic and trauma-informed approach.



Child Exploitation – Safer London

We consistently receive good feedback from children and young people who have used our service, see below for some recent examples:

- *“I got so much from the sessions...I am happier and confident in myself”.*
- *“I’ve stopped all the violence”*
- *“It helped me to understand things from a different point of view. I’ve stopped going out without my mum knowing where I am”*
- Staff who work in other services also note how young people change as a result of using our service. We recently received the following feedback from a professional on how a young person’s well-being and behaviour had improved:
- *“(she is)... Calmer, more thoughtful and careful in the decisions she makes, more focused in school, improved self-esteem”*

What priorities have been identified?

- Safer London has noted for some time the additional vulnerabilities of children with additional needs and has successfully secured funding for a specialist worker to provide tailored support. This role will work alongside the existing exploitation team which is transferring in house to Croydon’s own Adolescents Social Care team in August, and the Empower advocate in Croydon.

- We also recommend that the LSCB recognises the support needs of parents/ carers and that these are reflected in plans going forward. Safer London successfully supported families in Croydon whose child was affected by exploitation with Big Lottery Funding, but this ended in December 2018.
- The other areas of concern are overlapping harms such as children who harm peers through concerning or harmful sexual behaviours.
- In summary much remains to be done for Croydon’s children and young people, however Safer London continues to seek funding to address unmet need and apply our resources to support children in the borough.

saferlondon

Croydon Voluntary Association

For April 2018 to March 2019:

CVA Safeguarding Children courses Level 1 to 4

- specifically designed for the voluntary sector from our CYP&FN Monitoring reports to the Council
- 72 attendees for January 2017 to June 2018
- 68 attendees between July 2018 to March 2019

Worked in collaboration with the **Croydon Council's Gangs team** to

- **Deliver 3 "Meet the Croydon Gangs team" sessions, attended by a total of 87 people (26/4/18; 5/10/2018 and 6/2/2019). This has become a regular event for the voluntary sector and always attracts significant interest.**
- **The CVA produce 4 newsletters a year for voluntary sector groups working with children, young people and families with information on training for practitioners, new voluntary sector projects, funding opportunities etc.**



MENT4

- Ment4 have launched a flier for widespread distribution to give information to the community for when a child goes missing. This has been taken up by Croydon University Hospital, YOS Gangs team, Youth Inclusion Team, Methodist Churches and Christian Youth Workers Group. The Community Police team are also aware and have been involved in the writing of it, as are CSCB. The outcome is that this has been an awareness exercise that has brought VCS and Council together and it is making the community more aware.
- Ment4 have launched a film 'Croydon's Ye Is Different' that is the first of a series of YouTube films aimed directly at young people, to encourage a positive message. This film has already been distributed by Croydon Council Chief Exec, Jo Negrini and Sarah Jones MP and is being widely spread by young people themselves. We are talking with the YOS Gangs Team to use their knowledge of youth crime and gangs linked to social media. The Youth Crime Prevention Board have seen this film and it has caused some to consider also focusing on the benefits of positive messages. The outcome is that Croydon's young people are beginning to feel more positive toward their town, and this is countering the negativity and emotional media stories that cause fear and knife crime. The film is here: <https://vimeo.com/334014843>
- Ment4 are partnering with Play Place, Jubilee Parenting and Walk With Me as a unique support team for Croydon teenagers vulnerable to exploitation and to the parents and siblings of those actually caught in exploitation. The outcome will shortly be employment skills training, specialised mentoring, and parent advice, guidance and training lifting young people and their families out of crime and anti-social behaviour and into employment and education.
- Ment4 participated actively in the Vulnerable Adolescent Thematic Review and have worked to reinforce a VCS / Council joint working. The outcome is that professionals are now better informed of the issues and the steps needed to be taken to help families of vulnerable young people.



Voluntary Sector: Croydon Drop-in (CDI)

- **CDI Counselling** A 20 % increase in the number of young people seen in counselling. This is due to the introduction of an additional 14 hours for counselling per week at CDI since January. Similarly, the quarter 4 data reflects a 20% increase in the number of sessions offered and a 28% increase in the number of sessions attended.
- Depression and anxiety remain the highest presenting issues for young people accessing counselling. An increase in 11 year olds accessing CDI for counselling in quarter 4 is 18% as opposed to 8% in quarter 3
- **Advice, Rights and Advocacy:** A 10% increase in the number of sessions offered and a 12% increase in the number of sessions attended. Quarter 4 data also reports a 0% DNA rate
- Family and housing issues remain the highest presenting issues for Advice, Rights and Advocacy clients .
- **Outreach:** An increase in the number of 16 - 19 and 20 - 25 year olds accessing Outreach services.
- A rise in school related issues and bullying being identified as presenting issues during Outreach sessions. 37% of contacts stated school related issues and 19% highlighted concerns regarding bullying
- **Counselling in Schools** Primary school referrals equates to 58% of the total referrals for counselling in schools for quarter 4
- Family and school related issues remain the highest presenting issues for young people accessing counselling in schools. As well as 55% of young people identifying anxiety as a concern

Monitoring outcome reports for quarter 4 indicate that all young people using these tools, reported an improvement in how they were feeling during their time in counselling and that they had made positive steps towards achieving their set goals.

“Croydon Drop In provided my daughter with counselling and myself with much needed guidance during an extremely hard time.
They gave me the support I needed and my daughter’s wellbeing was top of their priority list. I am and always will be very grateful for all their hard work”
(Feedback from parent March 2019)

NSPCC

What has been achieved?

- Work is being focused on addressing sexual abuse, neglect and Infant Mental Health. The CSA hub has been commissioned by the CCG from 6 boroughs including Croydon to deliver therapeutic interventions to children who have made an allegation of abuse. Due to the high number of referrals coming from Croydon, Croydon CCG have increased the number of places it commissions so that the CSA hub can now work with 30 young people this year from Croydon. This is an increase of 5 compared to previous years. The contract with CCG is due to expire in March 2020, however due to the high level of identified need, we hope to have contract talks in order to expand the contract further.
- The service is made up of 2 WTE NSPCC Children's Services Practitioners (staffed by four part-time practitioners) and offers practical support and advice, case management, and up to six sessions of assessment, emotional support, and onward referral to appropriate services where needed. The service uses the evidence-based 'Letting the Future In' model.
- The London Infant and Family Team continue to work as part of a randomised control trial to carry out assessment of LAC children for the family court. The team work closely with the Croydon court and placements team to ensure that appropriate assessments are made which enable children to be placed within a safe caring environment.
- We have a new service - Positive Pathways, which is a short-term solution focused intervention. Once referred, children are supported to identify solutions to areas that they have identified is of concern to them.

What difference have we made?

Impact of CSA on mental health and wellbeing

- A large body of literature has documented negative psychological outcomes for sexually abused children. There is also evidence that CSA is more strongly linked to later mental health problems than other forms of abuse. A review of the research shows that:
- PTSD and depression are most common diagnoses in childhood (up to two-thirds of cases)
- The risks of anxiety disorders, self-harm and suicide are also raised
- Parents who are not offenders experience similar effects on their own mental health, as well as adverse impacts on personal relationships, employment and financial stability
- Self-harm and suicide risks in adulthood are raised. Self harm rates in adult survivors are up to 49% and the risk of suicide attempts six times that of the general population.
- In addition, research shows that inappropriate service responses worsen the impact of CSA on children and families.
- The Children's Commissioner for England (2017) reports 'high levels of emotional support needs and diagnosable mental health issues following CSA, which require access to therapeutic support, including the need for therapeutic support during or prior to any criminal justice procedures' and states that 'ongoing access and choice are imperative'.

NSPCC





NSPCC

- **Providing early emotional support: Evidence of Impact**
- There is emerging evidence that early treatment reduces the need for specialist services:
- The Child and Family Traumatic Stress Intervention (CFTSI) model has shown a decrease in the likelihood of PTSD and related disorders when early support is provided
- NICE guidelines recommend the NSPCC 'Letting the Future In' (LTFI) as a model tailored to individual needs, emphasising the importance of the therapeutic relationship, and providing input for the child and parents, separately and together
- NICE guidelines also recommend trauma-focused CBT or psychoanalytical therapy as appropriate for some cases (provided by CAMHS)
- The availability of emotional support in the pre-trial period is advocated by the report of the Children's Commissioner
- The quality of interpersonal relationships is related to the impact CSA has on mental health conditions
- The availability of emotional support in the pre-trial period is advocated by the report of the Children's Commissioner
- The quality of interpersonal relationships is related to the impact CSA has on mental health conditions

NB: Data taken from Child Sexual Abuse Transformation Programme Update to South West London CCGs

Testimonies from carers regarding NSPCC service:

- He is still not through the process and gets very defensive/argumentative easily (...) but at least via NSPCC, we know what is triggering."
- "On the whole yes as we had good guidance (...) on approaching/discussing and dealing with the boys"
Parent on whether things improved for the family.
- "The service was exceptional."
- "It was reassuring to hear the NSPCC was present"
- Parent on NSPCC presence at medical.
- "It helped me open up to allowing people give me help. I did not feel judged at all."
- "At the hospital [the practitioner] got to know the children which made it easier for them to talk to him during the sessions."
- "My child seems happier and seems not to blame himself so much anymore

Glossary

B&B	Bed & Breakfast
BCU	Basic Command Unit
BME	Black and Minority Ethnic
CAFCASS	Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service
CAH	Croydon Affordable Homes
CAMHS	Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service
CAP	Complex Adolescent Panel
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CDI	Croydon Drop-in
CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel
CE	Chief Executive
CE	Child Exploitation
CHS	Croydon Health Service
CICC	Children in Care Council
CIN	Child in Need
CLA	Child Looked After
CLIP	Croydon Local Intelligence Panel
CME	Children Missing Education
CP	Child Protection
CPIS	Child Protection Information System
CPP	Child Protection Plan
CQC	Care Quality Commission

CSA	Child Sexual Abuse
CSC	Children's Social Care
CSCB	Croydon Safeguarding Children Board
CSCP	Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CTPF	Child Trafficking Protection Fund
CVA	Croydon Voluntary Action
CWD	Children with Disabilities
CYP	Children & Young People
CYPAR ME	Children & Young People at Risk of Missing & Exploitation sub - group
DAPP	Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Panel
DLT	Department Leadership Team
DNA	Did not attend
DOLs	Deprivation of Liberty
DPH	Director of Public Health
DSL	Designated Safeguarding Lead
EET	Education, Employment & Training:
EHCP	Early Help
EHCP	Education, Health, and Care Plan
ELP	Enhanced Learning Providers
ETE	Education, Training & Employment
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GCP	Graded Care Profile
GP	General Practitioner
HAS	Housing Assessment and Solutions
HMRC	Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs
HV	Health Visitor
HWB	Health & Wellbeing Board
ICPC	Initial Child Protection Conference

ICTA	Independent Child Trafficking Service
IDACI	Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index
IHA	Initial Health Assessments
IMD	index of Multiple Deprivation
IOM	Integrated Offender Management
IRO	Independent Reviewing Officer
IV	Independent Visitor
L&D	Learning & Development
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer
LAC	Looked After Child(ren)
LBC	London Borough of Croydon
LCPF	London Crime Prevention Fund
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
LSOA	Local Super Output Area
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership
M/A	Multi-agency
MACE	Multi-agency Child Exploitation
MAPPA	Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements
MARAC	Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference
MASH	Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub
MCA	Mental Capacity Assessment
MDS	Modern day Slavery
MHA	Mental Health Act
MPS	Metropolitan Police Service
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NFA	No Further Action
NHS	National Health Service
NRM	National Referral Mechanism
NSPCC	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

OLA	Other Local Authority
PEP	Personal Education Plan
PF	Private Fostering
PLO	Public Law Outline
PTSD	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
QAPP	Quality Assurance, Practice & Performance sub-group
QIG	Quality Improvement Group
RIC	Risk Indicator Checklist
RVMP	Risk & Vulnerability Management Panel
SCR	Serious Case Review
SCWD	Safeguarding Children with Disability
SEND	Special Educational Needs & Disability
SIF	Single Inspection Framework
SLaM	South London & Maudsley
SLT	Senior Leadership Team
SPOC	Single Point of Contact
SWL	South West London
SYV	Serious Youth Violence
UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children
VA	Vulnerable Adolescents
VCS	Voluntary & Community sector
WRAP	Workshops to Raise Awareness of Prevent
WTE	Working Time Equivalent
VWM	Vulnerable Women Meeting
YAG	Youth Advisory Group
YOS/YOT	Youth Offending Service/Team
YTD	Year to date