

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS All
REPORT TITLE Camden Safeguarding Partnerships: Annual Reports 2024-25	
REPORT OF Executive Director Adults & Health Executive Director Children & Learning	
FOR SUBMISSION TO Health and Wellbeing Board	DATE 17 th December 2025
SUMMARY OF REPORT <p>Safeguarding is a statutory duty under the Children Act 1989 and Care Act 2014, and is delivered in Camden through multi-agency partnerships, namely the Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) and Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (SAPB). These partnerships publish annual reports reviewing governance, performance, serious case learning, and setting improvement priorities.</p> <p>This report aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share the 2024/25 annual reports of Camden's two safeguarding partnerships. • Provide an overview of priorities for 2025/26 and help identify shared strategic priorities between the partnerships and the Health and Wellbeing Board. • Enable the Board to consider learning opportunities across the partnerships. <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information No documents requiring listing have been used in the preparation of this report.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Colin Gajewski Senior Policy & Projects Officer London Borough of Camden 5 Pancras Square, London N1C 4AG colin.gajewski@camden.gov.uk</p>	
RECOMMENDATION That the Health and Wellbeing Board note the report.	

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Aldridge', with a stylized, flowing script.

Tim Aldridge, Executive Director Children & Learning
Date: 8th December 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J McGregor', with a stylized, flowing script.

Jess McGregor, Executive Director Adults & Health
Date: 8th December 2025

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. Safeguarding is embedded in the Children Act 1989 and the Care Act 2014 as a statutory duty requiring local authorities and partners to protect individuals from harm. In Camden these duties are operationalised through multi-agency partnerships: the Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) and the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (SAPB). The Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) and Adults Safeguarding Boards are statutory multi-agency bodies led by Camden Council, North Central London Integrated Care Board, and the Metropolitan Police Service.
- 1.2. Each safeguarding partnership has a statutory duty to publish an annual report. These reports support accountability and transparency, and outline the actions taken by safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, focusing on the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements and the outcomes of safeguarding practice reviews. The reports provide an opportunity for partners to review governance and performance, and to set priorities for improvement.
- 1.3. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-30 (HWS) seeks to make Camden the best place to start well, live well, and age well, underpinned by principles of prevention, tackling inequalities, and integration. While the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) does not have a formal governance relationship with local safeguarding partnerships, their work intersects with the Board's ambitions in important ways.
- 1.4. Safeguarding is a determinant of health, and thus links directly into the population health approach of the HWS. Exposure to abuse, neglect, or exploitation has lifelong consequences for physical and mental health, while effective safeguarding interventions prevent harm, reduce demand on acute services, and improve quality of life. Both partnerships also emphasise prevention and equity which are key considerations of the HWS. By recognising shared priorities with Camden's key safeguarding partnerships, the Health and Wellbeing Board can help to champion a culture where safeguarding is seen as everyone's business.

2. Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2024-25

Overview

- 2.1. Following the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and the updated *Working Together to Safeguard Children* guidance (2023), the Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) is jointly led by four locally recognised lead safeguarding partners. Together, these partners share equal responsibility for safeguarding children and ensuring strong multi-agency collaboration across Camden. The partnership works collaboratively with education, health, and voluntary sector partners to deliver a joined-up approach to child protection, early help, and prevention. Its vision is that all children and young people in Camden are safe, thriving, and heard, through collaborative practice, continuous learning, and a commitment to understanding children's lived experiences.

- 2.2. Across 2024-25 the CSCP has continued to deliver strong multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, underpinned by relational and trauma-informed practice. Camden continues to be recognised nationally for excellence, with Ofsted rating children's services, youth justice services as Outstanding.

Achievements

- 2.3. The CSCP identifies three safeguarding priority areas to take forward biennially, which are reviewed annually. These are based on emerging learning from reviews and multiagency audits, trends and performance indicators, themes identified in multiagency subgroups/ forums and members survey to seek the views of our frontline workforce and work with CSCP Young Advisors and other children and parents' participation forums to ensure their voices and lived experiences are incorporated into all partnership learning.
- 2.4. The CSCP 2024-26 safeguarding priority areas are:
- Children Looked After and those that are Care Experienced
 - Mental Health in the family
 - Re-engaging vulnerable children in education (including SEND)
- 2.5. Examples of some key achievements against these priorities summarised in the Annual Report include:
- Care Experience as Protected Characteristic
 - Development of the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2025-26 focusing on safety, identity, and support.
 - Continued development of corporate parenting responsibilities embedded across health and social care systems
 - Continued development of the Multi-agency Neglect Toolkit which includes parental mental health as a key factor.
 - Multiagency training on parental mental health and children and workshop on suicide prevention and self-harm
 - Multiagency audit in 2023-24 of Electively Home Educated (EHE) children (with responsive action plan ensuring emerging needs and risks are developed)
 - Neglect task and finish group exploring the risks between educational neglect, school attendance, attainment, and young people's social connections and belonging informing the development of tools to support multiagency practitioners to encourage parental engagement in education
 - Continued use of the EHE vulnerability criteria alongside improvements to the school off-rolling notification form, has significantly strengthened the early identification of at-risk children.
 - SEND developments include team expansion, neurodiversity support, more accessible Family Hub activities, streamlined referral pathways through integrated co-located services, and the co-produced development of a new toolkit to help schools meet predictable needs

Challenges

- 2.6. Families are navigating increasingly complex circumstances, often drawing on resilience and resourcefulness while managing overlapping challenges such as financial pressures, structural and systemic biases, mental health needs, domestic abuse, poverty and vulnerability for particular cohorts of children including our Care Experienced Young people and Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. National social care reforms are redesigning how services work with these challenges in mind, aiming for cultural and structural change. This means professionals from different disciplines working together with families, supported by strong leadership and ongoing investment.
- 2.7. Disproportionality in child protection processes persists, with Black and mixed-heritage children overrepresented at key intervention stages. Systemic pressures including housing shortages, cost-of-living impacts, and financial constraints within health and social care all pose risks to service continuity and capacity.
- 2.8. The CSCP takes a relational approach through our shared values which guide how we work together to approach these challenges which includes relational working, compassionate, trauma-informed and anti-racist practice in supporting children and families. This also includes collaborative learning with reflection and improvement and continued curiosity and courage to enable us to engage with our diverse communities in Camden.

CSCP Priorities for 2025/26

- 2.9. Our identified key priorities reflect our commitment to continuous improvement and are shaped by feedback, inspection findings, and the lived experiences of children and families. They will focus on:
- **Overseeing the development and implementation of national social care reforms** for children, ensuring local practice aligns with national priorities.
 - **Strengthen victim support and transitions** by improving pathways from youth to adult services, ensuring continuity of care and safeguarding for vulnerable adolescents.
 - **Address disproportionality** in safeguarding responses, particularly for children from Black ethnic communities, through improved data analysis, inclusive practice, and community engagement.
 - **Enhance early identification and multiagency coordination** by developing responses to emerging risks such as online exploitation, peer-on-peer harm, and changing gang structures.
 - **Seeking safeguarding assurance across early years settings, schools, and universities** in the borough to ensure that all children and young people are protected and that statutory standards are consistently met.
 - **Monitor the impact of the cost-of-living crisis** on child vulnerability and family stress, ensuring services remain accessible, responsive, and trauma-informed.

3. Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board Annual Report 2024-25

Overview

- 3.1. The Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board meets quarterly and comprises the Council, Police and Integrated Care Board, alongside representatives from the voluntary sector, fire service, probation service and health system. It oversees and coordinates how partners safeguard adults with care and support needs, with operational work delivered through subgroups which partners lead and contribute to.
- 3.2. The Board's work is guided by its five-year strategy, which seeks to embed the six safeguarding principles—Empowerment, Prevention, Proportionality, Protection, Partnership, and Accountability—into all practice. Central to this approach is amplifying the voices of people with lived experience and ensuring safeguarding is person-centred and inclusive. The 2024–25 Annual Report reflects a year of progress, collaboration, and learning.

Achievements

- 3.3. Achievements include embedding Making Safeguarding Personal principles, amplifying the voices of people with lived experience through focus groups and the development of a “Critical Friends” group. The Board strengthened multi-agency working through shared dashboards, joint audits, and thematic reviews, and established a SAR (Safeguarding Adults Review) Implementation Group to ensure learning from reviews translates into practice improvements. Partners delivered targeted initiatives such as trauma-informed training, rights-based decision-making, and enhanced safeguarding responses for people experiencing homelessness, self-neglect, and exploitation. Camden maintained strong performance in applying person-centred approaches, with over 87% of individuals asked about their desired safeguarding outcomes.

Challenges

- 3.4. The complexity of safeguarding concerns continues to grow, often involving multiple disadvantages such as mental ill-health, substance misuse, homelessness, and domestic abuse. Systemic barriers limit the ability to fully achieve safeguarding outcomes. The proportion of outcomes recorded as “fully met” has declined, reflecting these challenges rather than a reduction in quality. Disproportionality and intersectionality also require ongoing attention, as do risks linked to self-neglect and cuckooing identified in local and national Safeguarding Adults Reviews.

Priorities for 2025–2026

- 3.5. The Delivery Plan for 2025–26 sets out six strategic priorities:
 - **Amplify the voice and choice of individuals** through structured engagement, focus groups, and embedding lived experience. Producing guidance and tools for working with families and individuals.

- **Strengthen prevention and early identification** by promoting professional curiosity, using public health intelligence, and addressing wider determinants such as housing and financial insecurity. The review of Borough wide protocols and training modules are informed by Safeguarding Adult Review findings.
- **Enhance safeguarding practice and response** through trauma-informed training, rights-based decision-making, and improved pathways for raising and responding to concerns. This is supported by the endorsement of multi-agency assessment protocols and existing guidance.
- **Support people through life changes**, with a focus on transitions for young people moving into adulthood.
- **Build strong partnerships and collaboration** via shared protocols, integrated dashboards, and co-produced solutions with residents and providers. Joint partnership working is promoted to strengthen preventative action.
- **Improve accountability and learning** by embedding Safeguarding Adults Review recommendations, developing a shared learning framework, and supporting staff through reflective supervision. The strategic plan provides the mechanism for embedding Safeguarding Adults Review learning into practice.

4. Shared Priorities

4.1. This section highlights common ground between the work of the Board as defined by the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and the priorities set out by the Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) and the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (SAPB) for 2025–26. While not exhaustive, it aims to support reflection on strategic alignment by drawing out where partnership ambitions converge on themes that are central to the safety, health and wellbeing of residents across the life course.

- **Reducing Inequalities Across the Life Course:** The Health and Wellbeing Strategy focuses on tackling health inequalities, and equity is also at the heart of Camden’s safeguarding partnerships. The CSCP is focused on addressing disproportionality in safeguarding responses, and the SAPB emphasise reducing harm linked to housing and financial insecurity.
- **Prevention and Early Intervention:** The Health and Wellbeing Strategy prioritises acting early where possible and appropriate. This echoes CSCP’s drive for prevention and early intervention supported by community-based services and outreach, and SAPB’s focus on professional curiosity and using public health intelligence to support early identification.
- **Mental Health and Trauma-Informed Practice:** Mental health is a common thread across Camden’s safeguarding partnerships, with the CSCP and SAPB both working to embed trauma-informed approaches in safeguarding practice. The Health & Wellbeing Strategy understands mental health as a determinant of overall health, requiring action on housing, employment, and financial security.

- **Transitions and Continuity of Care:** Supporting people through life changes is central to SAPB's 2025–26 plan and this is mirrored by CSCP's commitment to improving pathways for adolescents moving into adulthood. The Health & Wellbeing Strategy's ambition for lifelong wellbeing reinforces the importance of supported transitions across life stages.
- **Community Engagement and Voice:** Empowering communities is a shared principle. The Health & Wellbeing Strategy champions community connectedness and co-production, while CSCP and SAPB prioritise amplifying the voices of children, families, and adults with lived experience.
- **Safe and Supportive Environments:** The Health & Wellbeing Strategy's focus on healthy homes and environments complements SAPB's work on homelessness and self-neglect and CSCP's safeguarding assurance across education settings. Creating safe spaces—whether in homes, schools, or communities—is fundamental to wellbeing.

4.2. Additional focus areas with alignment across the partnerships include:

- Early years and school readiness
- Education inclusion and attendance
- Domestic abuse and violence
- Effective and appropriate use of data and intelligence
- Housing and financial security
- Workforce development

5. Comments of the Director of Finance

The Director of Finance has been consulted on the contents of the report and has no comments to add.

6. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor

Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and in line with its terms of reference the Health and Wellbeing Board must ensure consistency between the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the plans of all health and care partners.

7. Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications to the contents of this report.

8. Appendices

- Appendix A: CSCP Annual Report 2024-25
- Appendix B: SAPB Annual Report 2024-25
- Appendix C: Safeguarding Adults Reviews Summary Table

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