



ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



South West London
Clinical Commissioning Group





Contents

Foreword	4
Executive Summary	5
1. Introduction	8
2. Local Context	9
3. Voice of the child / young person	10
4. How are we doing as a partnership against Priorities 2020 -2021	11
5. Performance and Quality Assurance	15
6. Section 11 Audit	15
7. Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews	17
8. Child Death Overview (April 2020 - March 2021)	18
9. Training the Workforce	19
10. Communication and Publicity	20
11. Independent Chair / Scrutineer evaluation of the WSCP's effectiveness	21
Appendices	24
Appendix 1 Current Structure of the WSCP and Sub-committee	24
Appendix 2 WSCP Staffing and Budget 2020/21	24
Appendix 3 Partnership Funding - 2020/21 (financial year)	25
Appendix 4 Website usage	26
Appendix 5 Acronyms	26



Foreword *by the Independent Chair and Scrutineer - David Peplow*



Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP) is pleased to present their Annual Report for the period September 2020 to August 2021. As mentioned last year the WSCP Executive have chosen to report on a period that corresponds to the academic year.

I certainly didn't envisage, perhaps naively, that we would still be working so differently responding to successive waves of COVID-19. Whilst children are back in school and direct work is happening in almost all cases our local services are still dealing with several additional pressures.

The second year as Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Partnership has provided the opportunity to continue to review and strengthen the work between partner organisations to keep all children and young people safe. The partnership has reflected on how they work, reviewed the various terms of reference, overarching published arrangements and considered the findings of a National review. This process never stops, and honest reflection is key to developing effective and efficient arrangements.

Very little stands still and the partnership found that the Police footprint changed, The Probation Service and the Community Rehabilitation Company were moving back to a single service and "Health" was planning for major changes coming in April 2022. This also means that at all levels of the arrangements we have said goodbye to people and welcomed others. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have moved to new responsibilities and those that throw themselves into partnership working anew.

Understanding children's lives and identifying what impact we have made is key to safeguarding in Wandsworth and all WSCP committees continue to have a standing agenda item specifically to receive feedback from professionals

on outcomes of interventions made. Often the things that sound simple are most difficult, and the partnership has worked hard to hear voices from across the whole community and think about how that can be improved. A new communications plan has been developed to raise the profile of the partnership and to help in hearing back from people. Young People are at the centre of this plan.

We have given our partnership data set a real focus, providing quantitative clarity against our key priority areas. This has been a complex task that we are pleased to have improved and will continue to improve moving forward.

The annual report outlines progress made against the Partnership's objectives and identified priorities for 2020-21 and the difference partnership working has made to how children and young people in Wandsworth are protected from harm, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Previously it was reported that following the death of George Floyd in Summer 2020 the executive had a standing agenda item to consider anti-racist and anti-discriminatory practice. We have continued this recognising as a partnership the importance of the subject, among colleagues and our practice and for the children and families in the borough. Only by having regular and sometimes difficult conversations can we start to make real sustained changes together.

The WSCP would like to extend its gratitude to all staff across the partnership who continued to work relentlessly, adapting, and implementing innovative solutions to identify gaps and best support our children and families during the continuing global Covid-19 pandemic.

I am privileged in my role to be able to see firsthand the hard work and dedication of so many professionals. I would like to add my personal thanks to those of the Partnership.

Executive Summary

The Wandsworth Children's Safeguarding Partnership have ensured that children remain at the heart of everything we do across the borough. The safety and wellbeing of children and families is our main priority, despite the local and national challenges resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The last 12 months have seen the partnership grow from strength to strength, with innovative solutions and improvements made at pace.

Successes and improvements include:

- Relentless work to ensure a new practice model, **Family Safeguarding**, is implemented. Partnership working is at the core of the model, with a 'think family' approach.
- Reshaped how we learn from **Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs)** with new methodologies to produce shorter reports with a focus on wider systems learning.
- A new service for our **most vulnerable adolescents**, to get to know them and their vulnerabilities better, with 'tenacious creative efforts are made by the Evolve team to engage children at risk' alongside our partners (Ofsted Focused Visit, August 2021).
- We have started to rethink our **section 11 audits** developing a new template to present how we have assured ourselves that Wandsworth children are safeguarded. The new report and findings will be presented in 2022.
- As a partnership we have had activity focus on **Neglect and Domestic Abuse** and providing training across the partnership in the NSPCC (Graded Care Profile 2 Neglect Tool) and planning to introduce the Barnardo's DARAC tool, have ensured the partnership has the right tools and training to best support our families. Across the SSA a new Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy is developing, with clear and strong contribution from

across the partnership, enabling a 'Think Families' approach at the core of the SSA response. Chaired by Wandsworth DCS, the strategy has been co-produced with survivors and will be launched in late 2021

- **Landed a clear threshold summary**, for shared understanding across the partnership of levels of intervention for our families. Developing a joint understanding of risk and intervention ensures our children and families have appropriate and timely interventions to meet their needs.
- **Understanding and developing our Integrated Front Door (IFD)** aiming to give the right help, at the right time for children, is supported by the clear threshold tool. Providing a coordinated and consistent approach leads to better quality decisions, drawing on strengths so change can be sustained.
- **Launched Safer Sleeping Guidance for babys and Infants** in response to the national panel report on Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Infants (SUDI) providing a consistent message and approach to safe sleeping to prevent baby/child deaths, applied to day and night sleeping arrangements.
- Continued to **strengthen the use of data** across the partnership, providing clearer focus in the partnership to current, relevant thematic areas relevant to our children and families in Wandsworth. Both single agency and the collective partnership have identified the over representation of children from black and ethnic communities in many of the service areas and are looking at what actions are required to addressing the concerns.
- The partnership responded to the **Ofsted Review of Sexual Abuse in Schools and Colleges (June 2021)** with a clear set of actions. In Wandsworth the numbers of children on Child Protection plans for Child Sexual Abuse has remained low and the partnership is curious to gain a better understanding of the intra familial data, with plans in place to undertake a CSA audit later in the year.

Executive Summary

Some key challenges and opportunities for the coming year

The partnership acknowledges the following key challenges, and opportunities they may present for different ways of working. The partnership will ensure they are taken into consideration during planning and decision making to enable the best outcomes for our children, young people, and families. Key challenges:

1 The unknown impact of Covid-19

On our workforce. This continues to be a challenge across the partnership, not only in relation to Covid-19 but also the impact of Brexit.

The recruitment of good staff is both a challenge and opportunity.

An opportunity to ensure that we are a model employer, offering opportunities to upskill and retain staff.

The impact of covid-19 on our demographics, representation, poverty, and disproportionality are in ways yet to be fully realised. The partnership, through data, are realising and acting on what we know and remain agile to ensure we best respond to the changing needs of our children and families.

2 Promoting inclusion, celebrating diversity, and challenging inequalities

3 Ensuring clear ambition across the partnership to address the challenges in the workforce

4 Social care reforms and review of SEND

- as further announcements of these are made the partnership will fully realise and respond to any changes in safeguarding arrangements for our children and young people, and how the review will shape and guide our work to best ensure we meet the needs of our children with SEND.

5 Continuing to improve across the system and partnership against the key priorities in our local area Written Statement of Action, with a reinspection of SEND services in the near future.

6 Embedding Family Safeguarding practice model after it launches in Spring 2022.

7 Responding to the changing needs of our most vulnerable adolescents

- following a practice review which took place in 2021, looking particularly at practice approaches to young people who are repeatedly missing and/or at risk of criminal and/or sexual exploitation, and a review of the strategic oversight of this area of work, together with partnership engagement. The appointment of the Local Authority Head of Clinical Services will support a streamlining of services to work more effectively with community partners, ensuring our most vulnerable children achieve the best outcomes in a coordinated approach across the local area.

8 Formation of the Integrated Care System across South West London

- the move from CCG to ICS arrangements will impact how health and local authority work together, not just Wandsworth Children's Services but all LA's across SWL. New governance and accountability will be in place by April 2022.

Executive Summary

Progress against the key priorities for 2020/21 has shown that the partnership has continued to work together to protect children. To build and consolidate the work the key priorities for 2021/22 remain the same and are:

- **Contextual Risk and Vulnerable Adolescent** - working with young people in the local context, working across the system in order to continue improving our offer for those young people who are at greatest risk of exploitation
- **Mental Health** - taking a 'think family' approach with focus on both child and parental / carer mental health
- **Domestic Abuse** - ensuring that the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people are understood and identified across partners, and including children so that levels of need are understood and acted upon promptly, utilising tools and resources across the partnership
- **SEND** - continuing to improve on the significant progress made to meet the recommendations as set out in the Written Statement of Action following the 2019 SEND Local Area inspections
- **Ant-Discriminatory /Racist Practice** - through performance management areas of over representation and being disproportion of any service group are identified, understood, and analysed leading to appropriate action and intervention.
- **Under Fives** - ensure that under-fives issues are at seen as key in all aspects of the work of the partnership and is integrated in key strategies and guidance

Also, to consider **Children 'hidden in plain sight'** through working together as agencies and across the system, to reassure ourselves that children who are, for example, missing education are made known to us so Early Help support is provided, and we are reassured of their safety and wellbeing, especially as we are learning to live with Covid-19.

The WSCP has focused on the key priority areas with exceptional contribution and engagement from partners across the local area. These arrangements have enabled the partnership to respond to evolving needs and be best prepared to try innovative ways to meet them.

The appointment of an independent chair / scrutineer and the established multi-agency executive and accountable subcommittees provide right and proper scrutiny to the partnerships effectiveness of the work to safeguard children in Wandsworth. Additionally, multi-agency performance data sets and LCSPR's provide additional opportunity to continuously improve and learn across the system.

1 Introduction

The Wandsworth Safeguarding Children's Partnership current arrangements have been in place since July 2019. This is the statutory report outlining the work carried out from September 2020 to the end of August 2021 by the partnership, presenting key challenges and opportunities across the local area which keeping our children and families at the heart.

This report recognises the progress Wandsworth has achieved, focusing on what has and continues to work well and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in 2021/22, outlining how the WSCP has been safeguarding children and young people in Wandsworth and the effectiveness of these arrangements.

Children remain at the heart of the partnership, with staff working together to ensure our children are safe and visible. Their voices and lived experiences help to identify and improve services which keep them safe. This has particularly been important during the pandemic and subsequent easing of lockdown restrictions from July 2021. We are mindful of the continued challenges, stresses and uncertainty that are placed on our children and families – ranging from increased living costs, Violence to Women and Girls, knife, and gun crime.

Two of our executive members Owain Richards (Police, Detective Superintendent, Head of Safeguarding Metropolitan Police) and Julie Hesketh (CCG/ICS, Director of Quality SW London CCG/ICS) have moved onto new positions. We would like to thank them for all their support and expertise they brought to the partnership. Owain and Julie have been integral in shaping the WSCP. We warmly welcome new member Andrew Wadey Detective Superintendent, Head of Safeguarding Metropolitan Police, the Director of Quality post is currently being recruited to. The full Partnership structure, staffing and finances are outline in Appendices 1 to 3.

The Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive is:



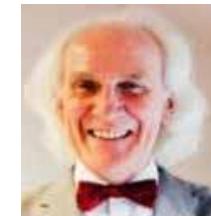
Ana Popovici
(DCS)



Andrew Wadey
(BCU)



Dr Lin Graham-Ray
(CCG)



Dr Peter Green
(CCG)

Local Authority

Mark Maidment Chief Executive Wandsworth Council	<i>authority delegated to</i>	Ana Popovici Director Childrens Services Wandsworth Council
--	-------------------------------	---

Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG/ICS)

Sarah Blow CCG/ICS Accountable Officer SW London CCG/ICS	<i>authority delegated to</i>	Dr Lin Graham Ray (covering vacancy)
--	-------------------------------	---

Police

Elizabeth Chapple BCU Commander SW London Metropolitan Police	<i>authority delegated to</i>	Andrew Wadey Detective Superintendent, Head of Safeguarding Metropolitan Police
---	-------------------------------	--

Advisory Standing Members

Ruth Hudson	Headteacher	Co-chair of Primary Heads Safeguarding Forums
Patricia Andre-Watson Andre Bailey	Headteacher Headteacher	Rep Chair of Secondary Schools Forum

2 Local Context

Knowing and understanding the local context is key for the WSCP. We are proud of our Good and Outstanding schools across the borough, and the overall employment rates. We acknowledge and are responsive to existing and emerging needs, while also addressing the challenges through the opportunities they present, for example to engage more families and adapt services across the system.

The system operates under one Clinical Commissioning Group. Wandsworth Children's Services leaders contribute and play a key role in sector wide developments affecting children in the system. The DCS is the nominated representative of DCSs in the region, jointly chairing the Children and Young People (CYP) Board to support the Integrated Care System (ICS) agenda in South West London.

We work together and in partnership across the system, across SWL while also responding to the local context at place.

The Wandsworth Context

Demographics

- 332,525 residents, the second highest in inner London
- 4th largest population of children amongst inner London boroughs, 63,738 children aged 0-17
- Almost three quarters of school pupils come from Black or Minority Ethnic backgrounds and 40% of school pupils speak first language other than English
- The largest ethnic group amongst pupils in Wandsworth schools is White (43%), followed by Black / Black British (20%), Asian / Asian British (17%) and mixed / multiple ethnic groups (14%), with 3% unknown or not disclosed

Challenges

- Approx. 1 in 8 people moved into the borough in 2020 having moved from another borough or abroad
- 13% of children live in low-income families
- While overall the level of deprivation in Wandsworth is lower than England average, there are pockets with high levels of deprivation

Need

- 26% of school pupils eligible and claiming free school meals
- 27% of children in relative low-income families in Latchmere compared to national average of 19%
- 5-3% of pupils on an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), higher than national and London average
- The number of children with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) has increased by 78% over the last 5 years

Opportunity

- 73% of over 16s in Wandsworth are educated to degree level or above, the highest level in the country
- 85% in employment, 2nd highest rate in London
- 92% schools rated good / outstanding
- Growth of business and economy – Cisco Productivity Index found productively levels (in technology, innovation and business and others) 65% higher than other places

3 Voice of the child / young person

The partnership ensures that it listens and acts accordingly to the comments, suggestions, and lived experiences of our children, done in multiple ways across the partnership. This may be through verbal feedback, or creatively captured through drawings or videos. Across partners tools have been invested in to ensure views are accurately captured and used in coproduction of services.

Digital tools such as the Mind of My Own app-based communication tool enable the voice of the child to be heard and recorded. It's a great way for children to communicate into key meetings too. Additionally, we worked with Coram Voice on a programme called 'Bright Spots' allowing us to understand and therefore make improvements to the well-being of children and young people in care, by identifying and promoting practice that has had a positive influence on them. In March and April 2021, children in care aged 4-18yrs in Wandsworth were asked to take part in the Your Life, Your Care survey - 64% of our young people took part.

All WCSP committees start their meetings with feedback from our work with children and young people directly, including at Monitoring Quality and Performance meeting where the Designated Nurse for Looked After Children shared images and quotes from children, representing their lockdown experiences.

Personal Outcomes Evaluation Tool (POET) is a new evaluation tool used by children and young people to evaluate their Education, Health Care Plans (EHCPs). A poem was shared from a young person for the launch who included that more focus was on the past and not future aspirations - food for thought for professionals.

The Children Looked After Designated Nurse has met with young people at CLICK, Double CLICK and Little Clickers, our participation groups for Children Looked after and Care Leavers, to capture their lockdown experiences through quotes and pictures.

The quotes are from a consultation piece undertaken with young people telling us the things they wanted us as professionals to recognise and think about for lockdown.

"People saying nice stuff about me makes me feel happy. So always start with something happy or positive. Not a question - like how are you"

"It helps us to know that you are finding things hard but not in a way that scares us. We don't need to know all of your worries, but it helps to know we have shared worries"

"Always say why you're contacting us - be honest as we will tell very quickly if you are putting it on"

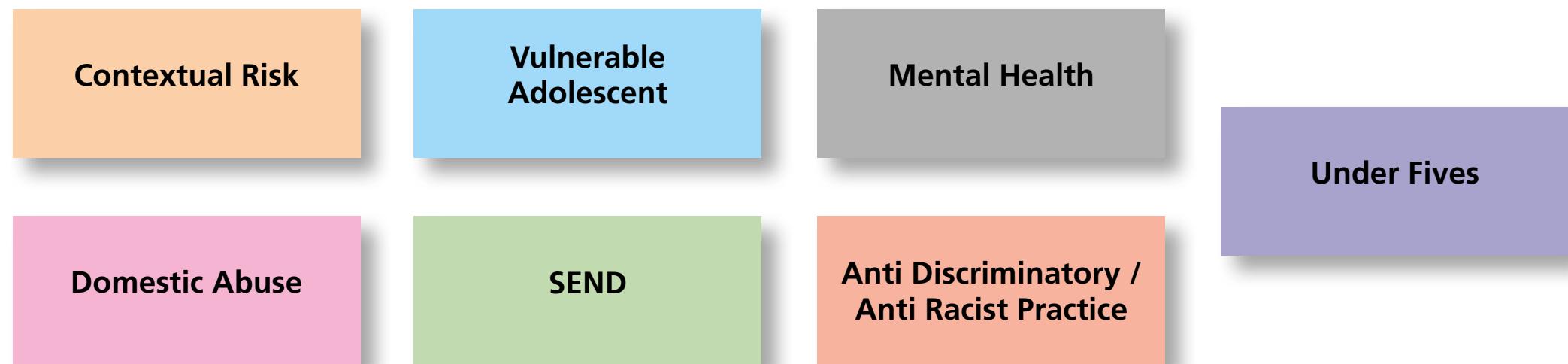
"Don't try and analyse - that sounds sad or happy, just listen"

"Always end with something happy and a plan for future contact please don't say we will stay in touch if you don't think you can"

4 How are we doing as a partnership against Priorities 2020-2021

The WSCP executive reviewed the partnership priorities in September 2021, taking into consideration local and national emerging needs. National evidence indicated that most Rapid Reviews (RR) and referrals to the national panel related to children under one years old. To reflect this the partnership added Under Fives as an additional priority area. The other six priority areas remain the same, and all areas will carry on into 2021- 2022.

Priority Areas 2020 - 2021



4 How are we doing as a partnership against Priorities 2020-2021

Evidence of how well the partnership is working against the key priorities are in the table below.

Priority	Impact of work
Contextual Risk Ensure joined up working across the partnership to identify geographical areas in the community where young people are likely to be at risk and have robust aligned strategies to minimise risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embedded the Pan- London Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) protocol including locations as theme and topic at discussions, ensuring we know the children and young people we are most worried about. The MACE panel has oversight of all working groups Better programme for children in schools to recognise abuse, following the publication of Ofsted review of sexual abuse in schools and Colleges (June 2021). The WSCP has developed an action plan populated with work already undertaken and next steps. All schools will be encouraged to become members of the Contextual safeguarding network. Children linked to the area are safeguarded in a multi-agency manner either as individuals where relevant but also in general terms by improving safety of all children in the whole areas
Vulnerable Adolescent Ensure services provide appropriate help and interventions, consistent application of thresholds to offer help at the right level of need to reduce risk leading to better outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring children have the relationships and tools to stay in school, reducing the chance of exclusion. Building a 'trusted relationship' or having a mentor to listen, provide support and guidance Adolescents' hub set up in Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to ensure pathways are clear and connected for children in receipt of services from agencies. Multi Agency Risk of Exploitation (MARVE) protocol updated and signed off Providing children and young people opportunities to easily access healthcare and advice. The Battersea Primary Care Network (PCN), Youth Clinic Fellowship Project is a year funded Social Prescribing project starting November 2020, Social prescriber has already seen over 55 young people and have consultations with members of the team keeping our most vulnerable children healthy Greater linking up with Child & Adolescent mental Health Service (CAMHS), Local Authority, other practices, colleagues in other sectors to ensure promotion of respective services and ensure a holistic approach is taken to supporting our most vulnerable young people
Mental Health Ensure that issues of mental health are given prominence in all aspects of intervention, especially where there are covert concerns about young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South West London CCG/ICS has a well-established Suicide Prevention Programme led by the Mental Health Transformation programme. It works in partnership with the Local Authority, Public Health suicide prevention leads, General Practitioner mental health leads, the Metropolitan Police, local Mind organisations, South West London & St Georges NHS Mental Health Trust and (THRVE LDN) to deliver suicide prevention activities and intervention St George's chair a mortality committee and number of suspected suicides are closely followed. The Trust works closely with Thrive London, and during the Covid-19 pandemic real time suicide monitoring took place.

4 How are we doing as a partnership against Priorities 2020-2021

Priority	Impact of work
Domestic Abuse Ensuring that the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people are understood and identified so that levels of need are understood and acted upon promptly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2020 Children's services formed a working group to consider the strategic and operational approach to domestic abuse, with the ambition to improve practice, language, tools and training. Together with Community Safety it was acknowledged that a common assessment tool was needed. Safelives Dash training is being looked at to understand risk Barnardo's Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment for Children (DARAC) risk assessment tool for children is being commissioned and will involve the wider partnership. The common assessment tool specifically focuses on children and addressing their risk Wandsworth gained a Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) Accreditation acknowledging the processes we have put in place to adequately address the needs of survivors and their families including children, and working to a set of principles to ensure a safe and effective response to DA In line with the Domestic Abuse Act 21 the development of a Local Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board Contribution to the development of the SSA wide VAWG Strategy landing in Spring 2022. The group ensured the strategy had a 'Think Family' approach, where children were also considered as part of risk assessments and the overall response to Domestic Abuse
SEND Ensure recommendations for improvement are met as set out in the Written Statement of Action following the 2019 SEND Local Area inspections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No child is waiting for a plan, with all Children's needs being met and supported quicker. We are confident that parents and carers have increased satisfaction as there has been an increase in the number of compliments (17) and a significant reduction in the number of complaints this year (3). We have achieved this by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearing the backlog of Education, Health and Care (EHC) assessments and progress has been sustained. As at the end of August 2021 compliance with the 20 -week deadline for issuing final EHC plans was 94% Developing a robust process for providing social care advice provided by the allocated worker, where the child or young person is known by the service, or through a social worker within early help when not known
Under Fives Ensure that under-fives issues are seen as key in all aspects of the work of the partnership and is integrated in key strategies and guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A task and finish group developed a Baby and Infant Safer Sleeping Guidance for the multi-disciplinary workforce and to raise awareness of the factors associated with Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI). The guidance and associated promotional material such as Mnemonic tool for professionals when seeing babies within the home environment will be available at the latter part of 2021. The partnership has updated the Pre- Birth Guidance. The Neglect strategy has been updated and reflects the needs of under fives

Continued overleaf

4 How are we doing as a partnership against Priorities 2020-2021

Priority	Impact of work
<p>Anti-Discriminatory/Racist Practice</p> <p>Through performance management areas of over representation and being disproportion of any service group is identified, understood, and analysed leading to appropriate action and intervention</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Police Merlin reports shared which provide data on all individuals. Cases that identify discrimination or abuse are brought to the relevant case meetings and appropriate interventions are applied. The ethnicity of victims including vulnerable adults and children are recorded. Where relevant any abuse/distress caused by discrimination can be monitored and addressed through Daily Intelligence Briefings. This ensures that the correct level of service is provided to the individual/family concernedThe Performance and Improvement Team produced a report for the partnership on Ethnicity Analysis and presented to subcommittees for discussion and action. The overarching finding was the misrepresentation of children from Black ethnic backgrounds and has led to further activity across the partnership in understanding the data to address the over representation. Single agencies have their own plans and further work is needed to join up as a partnership planSchools across the borough have been undertaking work on decolonising the curriculum as part of the diversity and inclusion agenda. Subject network meetings have focussed on adaptations to the curriculum and schools have also been sharing good practice at headteacher and curriculum lead meetings. Presentations on the equalities duties for schools were also made at a Chairs of Governors briefing and to Headteachers. Equalities within the curriculum and sharing good practice among schools has also been a focus of school link advisor visits.Wandsworth children's services is one of 18 pilot sites to take part in implementing the 'Workforce, Race, Equality Standard (WRES) a pilot project to address existing inequalities in the health and social care sector'

The partnership will continue the same priorities for 2021/22, recognising that further work will build on positive progress made, strengthening, and embedding changes from 2020/21.

5 Performance and Quality Assurance

The Partnership data set based on the key priorities has improved over the reporting period. The Monitoring, Quality and Performance subcommittee continue to track and scrutinise to ensure the data set continues to be meaningful across the partnership.

Building on the success we hope in 2022 to have a full data set, more police data and focus on disproportionality data to inform practice and identify gaps.

Between 30th June and 6th July 2021 Children's Services led a Learning from Practice week. The week is a commitment from children's services to reflective practice, taking the findings and observations and learning and growing from them. Practice Week was strengthened by the input of key partners, who reflected with children's services – both on the good practice and what could be improved in services for our children and families. In addition, the introduction of multiagency audits at the Front Door have provided opportunity to reflect, learn and implement improvements.

6 Section 11 Audit

It is the responsibility of organisations to ensure "that any services have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children" (WT18, p.56). This is set out in Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 and is often referred to as Section 11 requirements. The annual section 11 audit is the main tool that provides the WSCP with assurance that agencies are doing what they can to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

The emergence of Covid-19, the partnership decided to focus time, energy, and resource across the partnership on the safeguarding of our most vulnerable children. We retained our statutory responsibilities through this period and decided to trial a new way to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people, reflecting the changes our communities and professionals faced during and emerging from the pandemic.

7 Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

The Safeguarding and Continuous Learning Sub-Committee (SCL) assesses Serious Safeguarding Incidents as defined by Working Together 2018 and decides by a Rapid Review Panel whether a Child safeguarding Practice Review is required.

During 2020/21 the WSCP carried out 5 Rapid Reviews following a Serious Incident Notification during the reporting period. Of the five cases the WSCP commenced four Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews which are still in progress and to be completed later in 2021/22.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 requires that all multi-agency reviews are published unless there are mitigating reasons not to. The WSCP published four Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews which were commissioned in previous years, one Learning audit and two Critical Learning Reviews from the Youth Offending Team in 2020/21. Published reviews can be found on the WSCP website.

The Designated Nurse presented a slide at the Learning from Experience (LfE) in June 2021 on Frankie highlighting the experience of a 3-year-old child who was beginning to understand and articulate what it is like to live with asthma. This was done through drawing pictures and words which they understood. The slide highlights that Frankie's voice and experiences were not heard to professionals who are working with similar children, encouraging them to think about their own practice.

One legacy review was completed in July 2021 but is not yet published due to ongoing police investigation. The learning will be cascaded through a 7-minute brief and LfE later in the year. A further two reviews were completed with Kingston and Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnerships.

Multi agency action plans are in place and learning has been shared across the partnership through 7-minute briefings designed to convert key messages from reviews and has three questions to encourage managers and practitioners to reflect on their practice.



7 Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

The reviews identified a range of areas for further learning:

Safe Sleeping arrangements and the risks of co-sleeping with babies

Think Family

Professional curiosity

Impact of adverse childhood experiences on parenting capacity

Impact of domestic abuse on parenting capacity

Holistic assessment to gather full and balanced understanding of family circumstances

Increased risk to babies when parents are transient

Hidden harm

Complexity of assessing risk when one parent is also a victim

Impact of neurodevelopmental disorders on parenting capacity

Voice of the Child and their Lived Experiences

Medical Neglect

Learning from these reviews has been built into single and partnership workstreams and included in the WSCP training offer.

To enable learning to be disseminated quickly Wandsworth has been working closely with the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) to produce LCSPRs in Rapid Time. Currently two of the LCSPRs that are in progress are using this methodology.

8 Child Death Overview (April 2020 - March 2021)

Every child death is a devastating loss that affects the family involved.

The SW London Child Death Overview Panel (SWL CDOP) is an inter-agency forum for Child Death Reviews and includes the boroughs of Croydon, Merton, Kingston Upon Thames, Richmond Upon Thames and Wandsworth. The Child Death Review process is an analysis of deaths of children who die in England from birth to 18 years of age. The panel is a statutory body and are accountable to their respective Local Authorities and Clinical Commissioning Group.

Summary of SW London Child Death Overview Panel Caseloads 2020/21

Item	Total 2020/21	Wandsworth 2020/21	Total 2019/20	Wandsworth 2019/20
New Notifications	80	7	83	8
Child Death Reviews	78	11	83	13
Open Cases	65	9	70	8
Total Cases	143	27	153	29

Objectives of the SW CDOP to learn lessons, to share any findings and recommendations to prevent future child deaths

- During the period fifteen Joint Agency Response (JAR) meetings were initiated of which **33% were Wandsworth**
- To date 41 local Child Death Review Meetings were completed for SW London cases in 2020-21 of which **27% (11) were Wandsworth cases**
- The largest category of child deaths in SW London, forty one percent (41%) were perinatal /neonatal. Sudden Unexpected Deaths of Infants (SUDI) are the fourth highest cause of death, and at 10%, is 3% higher than the 7% reviewed in 2019-20.
- Four percent (4%) of child deaths resulted from fatal self-inflicted incidents. All were young people between the ages of 15-17 years old. Three percent (3%) of child deaths resulted from fatal stab wounds. All were victims of knife crime.
- 69 % of the child deaths were of children under one year of age
- 56% male and 43% female
- Of those ethnicities recorded almost half 45% are of black, Asian and Mixed Minority ethnic categories at a national level, total is 31% of all child deaths .
- 6% recorded as having learning disabilities

9 Training the Workforce

The training programme was delivered through a combination of online, classroom based and virtual courses, workshops, briefings, and conferences with 237 events being offered over the 2020/21 reporting period.

WSCP training sits within the Wandsworth Children Social Care Academy and is committed to providing high quality training to support professionals and volunteers to safeguard and promote the welfare of Wandsworth's children. Virtual and other online training has continued into 2021. The Covid-19 pandemic has allowed for innovation, including a review of how best to deliver training going forward, with consideration given to a hybrid model to include both an online and face to face offer. This recognises the benefits gained from online learning, while also acknowledging that colleagues wish to, where possible, get back together and learn collaboratively in person.

The WSCP training programme is regularly reviewed to ensure it reflects local and national changes in legislation and guidance, while also adhering to the London Safeguarding Children Partnership Procedures; it is also informed by the WSCP key priorities.

Involving service users is a key aspect of training delivery and despite the impact Covid-19 contributions have resulted in:

Familial abuse survivor delivering training on the annual programme

Young people in the YOS team have produced a video which contributes to gangs training delivery

Contribution on level 1/2 safeguarding training from a young man who was gang affiliated and spent time in a young offender's institution

An account from a wheel chair user about the lack of his holistic assessment needs being met

Key Highlights

Delivered.
Neurodiversity - understanding the learning needs of parents and the impact on parenting capacity
•
Safer sleep workshops - delivered by the Lullaby trust
•
687 participants from across the partnership attended the two Safeguarding Conferences

General decrease in attendance to virtual training courses from 4,531 19/20 to 2,862 20/21
•
44 schools, 1,587 participants received training from the Schools Safeguarding Training Officer and 221 Designated Safeguarding Leads.

In 2019/20 1,880 e-learning courses were completed, which this year increased to 3,239
•
3,236 participants attended 165 virtual or classroom-based courses
•
3,239 E-Learning courses were completed increase from 1,880 in 2019/20

Specialist practitioners from CAMHS and co-facilitators from Health Family Nurse Partnership (FNP), Health Visiting and Child Protection Chairs have joined the design and delivery of multi-agency safeguarding.

This year was the inaugural Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Conference held virtually on the 19th October 2020 - '**Putting Children and Families at the Centre of Practice**'. The conference brought together 3 Serious Case Review's (now known as CSPRs) which all had a similar reoccurring theme of Neglect. The Adolescent Neglect audit findings were also presented at the conference. The learning from each of the CSPR's provided 9 thematic workshops.

9 Training the Workforce

On 18th March 2021 we held our 2nd Conference -

'Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility - Victoria Climbié'

Practitioners reflected on the safeguarding journey over the past 20 years from the perspectives of colleagues across Education, Health and Care, Police and Children Services. The conference promoted practitioners and colleagues to look back and reflect as well as consider current practice. The conference reviewed what 'life' was like for Victoria, allowing attendees to reflect and focus on the two key themes: voice of the child and hidden harm. Practitioners were asked for their thoughts

"One aspect of remote working is that I've been able to listen in to events that I may not have previously attended and carry on with other work in the background. I was planning to do the same for the Victoria Climbié conference, however, I found the content so engaging and moving that I just had to stop doing other work so I could properly focus.

The implications of this tragic case are still so relevant for us, even 20 years later."

"...feel sad, heartbroken and will do my upmost to ensure it does not happen to any other child I interact or work with."

"...hope we have learnt the lessons well, so that this wouldn't happen again. "
"...feel disheartened that things systems are in place, but children continue to suffer"

It is worth noting that despite the challenges the credibility of the trainer's skills remained at over 90% based on feedback from attendees' post evaluation forms.

96%, participants said they would recommend courses provided by the WCSP to their colleagues. This year more than ever, it has been important that training needs are recognised and fulfilled. We have ensured a flexible approach to training to allow partners to stay updated with training while remaining safe during the Covid-19 pandemic.

10 Communication and Publicity

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic there was increased communication across the partnership from all agencies in relation to changes to national and local policy changes. Each agency addressed service specific changes and shared information with partners among the professional network to ensure clear updates on changes to service delivery as a result of Covid-19.

In addition, the WSCP Business team have made significant progress in reviewing and updating the content of the website, which will continue into the new reporting year. (Usage of the website during 2020/21 – Appendix 4). Publicising the work of the partnership is a key aspect of safeguarding children in Wandsworth. A communication strategy has been developed to ensure we continue to work closely with partners in the sharing of information and activities.

11 Independent Chair / Scrutineer evaluation of the WSCP's effectiveness

The six steps for independent scrutiny (reference) provide a useful framework for the independent scrutineer and partners to assess how they are performing.

The six key scrutiny questions are as follows:

- 1** The three core partner leads are actively involved in strategic planning and implementation.
- 2** The wider safeguarding partners (including relevant agencies) are actively involved in safeguarding children
- 3** Children, young people, and families are aware of and involved with plans for safeguarding children
- 4** Appropriate quality assurance procedures are in place for data collection, audit, and information sharing
- 5** There is a process for identifying and investigating learning from local and national case reviews
- 6** There is an active program of multi- agency safeguarding children training

The six key questions sit alongside a wider subset of questions answered individually by each partner agency. Following this, partners came together collectively to discuss answers and agree a RAG rating for each of the questions, based on their collective answer. Additionally, the independent scrutineer provided reflection and comment. The complexity of this exercise should be noted, comparative to previous years. The increase in reflection from individual partners and their collective RAG ratings provides a more robust and holistic view of the Partnerships activity, providing reassurance and clarity to the independent scrutineer to comment on.

The above exercise concluded that Wandsworth are fulfilling statutory obligations, while also making significant improvements across the partnership evidenced throughout this report. This has also been recognised in external scrutiny, "improved collaborative working, and communication are evident with partners. Strong partnership working is evident on children's records" (OFSTED Focused Visit, 2021). WSCP is committed to continuously improve services across the partnership to improve outcomes and experiences for our children across the borough. Improvements are realised by the strong and active executive, that ensures our children's voices and experiences are at the heart of the partnership. Data collection and use of data including the sharing of relevant information has been strengthened, which in turn has informed learning. This has led to new, different and improved methodologies to look to speed up reviews which ensure learning is realised faster, with the opportunity and ambition to improve and strengthen practice. Training also complements learning and supports practitioners and colleagues practice across the partnership.

Overall, the partnerships progress against the 7 priority areas is positive. The Covid-19 pandemic together with recent reviews highlighted a need for a renewed focus on the very young children, after considered discussion this became a priority regarding the safeguarding of children under 5. They can often be the unseen children, with little or no regular contact with any colleague across the partnership.

The partnership acknowledges the ambitions around their identified seven priority areas, but reassurance has been sought that aspects of the priorities will, once fully realised, become business as usual, and that meaningful activities take place against each of the priorities.

11 Independent Chair / Scrutineer evaluation of the WSCP's effectiveness

The priority around anti-discriminatory and anti-racist practice is a good illustration of this. The gathering of data to gain a better understanding for colleagues working alongside our children and families was just the beginning of conversations. The challenge came in understanding what each agency has done as a result of this information and even more so understanding what difference this is making. Whilst not within this reporting period there has been agreement to take a renewed approach to this priority. Overall, this has proven to be a very challenging area of business. It would be easy for a partnership to make the case to subsume the priority into business as usual and it is to the members credit that they continue to have difficult conversations to ensure Wandsworth reaches a point where there is confidence that a difference has been made.

There are a few areas that have presented various degrees of challenge to the partnership. The report regarding private fostering highlighted that the number of children known to be in such an arrangement was very low, not an uncommon situation. The work to raise awareness and to try and identify more children being privately fostered was taken on by a multi-agency group. There seemed to be some duplication of effort, so the new group became part of an existing local authority meeting. This provided a more efficient way of tackling the issue which remains a challenge. Those Children who are identified as being privately fostered receive an excellent service and they are providing feedback at the end of their placement.

The NSPCC Graded Care Profile 2 Neglect Tool, which is a licensed product, was agreed as the preferred tool for assessing children thought to be neglected and the GCP2 provides a common language for professionals to express concern. Training the workforce has been challenging with competing demands and absence due to requirements to isolate impacting on staff ability to attend the sessions. The partnership remains committed to the model.

Individual agencies have seen a few changes in personnel and structures, for example the probation service and the community rehabilitation company are forming into a single service. Working with agencies to ensure the right representation is maintained at the right groups has been undertaken as well as supporting colleagues who move into posts that have a responsibility for partnership working.

The partnership has a duty to carry out reviews into serious incidents. The way these are carried out changed with the new legislation of 2018, the transition period has ended. This area of responsibility is very important so that our systems can improve, and learning shared far and wide. It is also a particularly challenging area in terms of time commitments and ensuring the correct focus of reviews. Wandsworth has engaged well with the independent child safeguarding practice review panel; they confirm that Wandsworth is not an outlier in terms of numbers of reviews being excessive or infrequent. This was good news but also then presented the challenge as to how to complete reviews in a consistently timely and focused way. To this end there has been some trialing of different methods of conducting reviews which it is anticipated will bring some improvement to this difficult area of work. More information on completed reviews is within this report.

Each local authority area has several statutory boards which includes the safeguarding children partnership. It is important and in some statutory guidance that there are strong links between these various bodies. Often some of the key senior people will sit on a number of these boards which provides links some understanding of each other's work and priorities. Overall though this area remains with room for further development, some personal changes slowed this work which will be progressed during the current year.

Challenges and opportunities for 2021/22

The partnership acknowledges the following key challenges and will ensure they are taken into consideration during planning and decision making to enable the best outcomes for our children, young people, and families. We are reassured that we planned and delivered a well-coordinated and effective response to the pandemic (OFSTED, Focused Visit 2021). Where planning is not possible, the partnership remains responsive and adaptive to changing needs:

The unknown impact of Covid- 19

Meaningful activity around anti-discriminatory and racist practice

Renewed focus on under fives

Continuing awareness raising of private fostering

Agency changes in personnel and structures

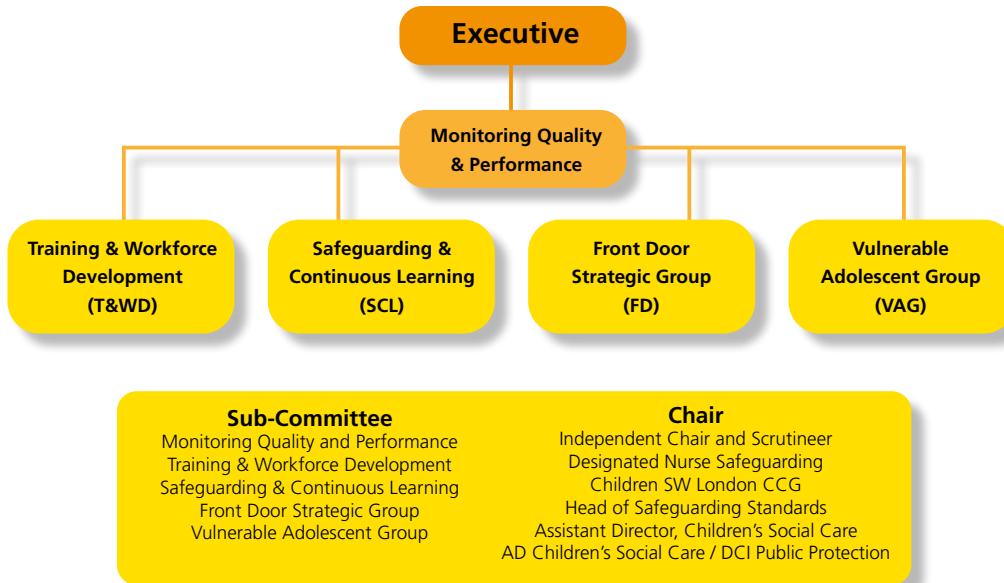
Timely dissemination of learning from CSPRs and other reviews

Closer working relationship with other boards and partnerships



Appendix 1

Current Structure of the WSCP and Sub-committee



Appendix 2

WSCP Staffing and Budget 2020/21

There has been full commitment to continue funding the partnership. The majority of the WSCP budget continues to be derived from Wandsworth local authority. (Appendix 3 gives the breakdown of contributions 2020/21 and 2021/22.)

Partners also contribute in other ways by attending meetings, releasing staff to sit on subgroups, sharing information, responding to local and national consultations, support training activity.

The WSCP is supported by the following staff:

- Business Manager 1 x FTE
- Senior Business Support Officer 1 x FTE
- Multi-agency Training Lead - located in Wandsworth Children Social Care Academy 1 x FTE

Partner agency contributions. This income ensured that the overall costs of running the WSCP were met.

Appendix 3

Partnership Funding - 2020/21 (financial year)

The final outturn position for the partnership in 2020/21 was £54,533 underspend, which incorporates the prior year carry-forward (2019/20) of £70,713.

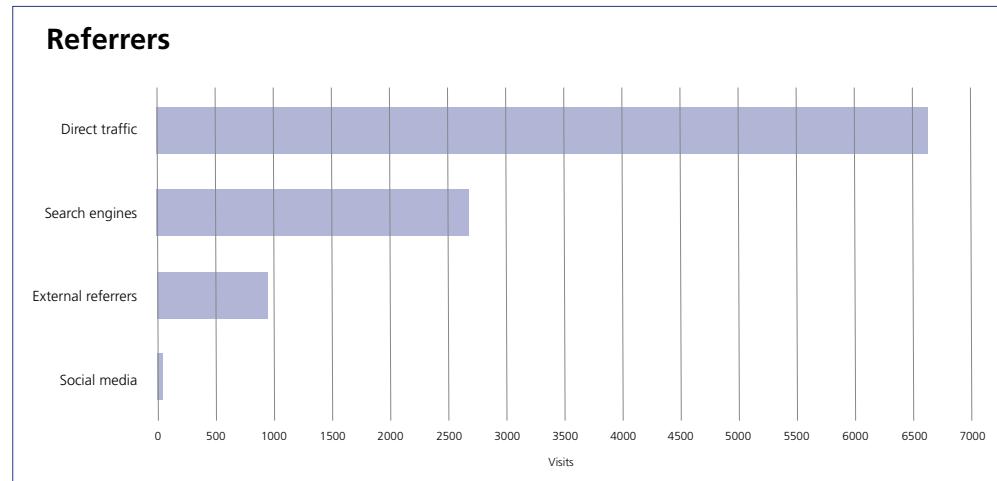
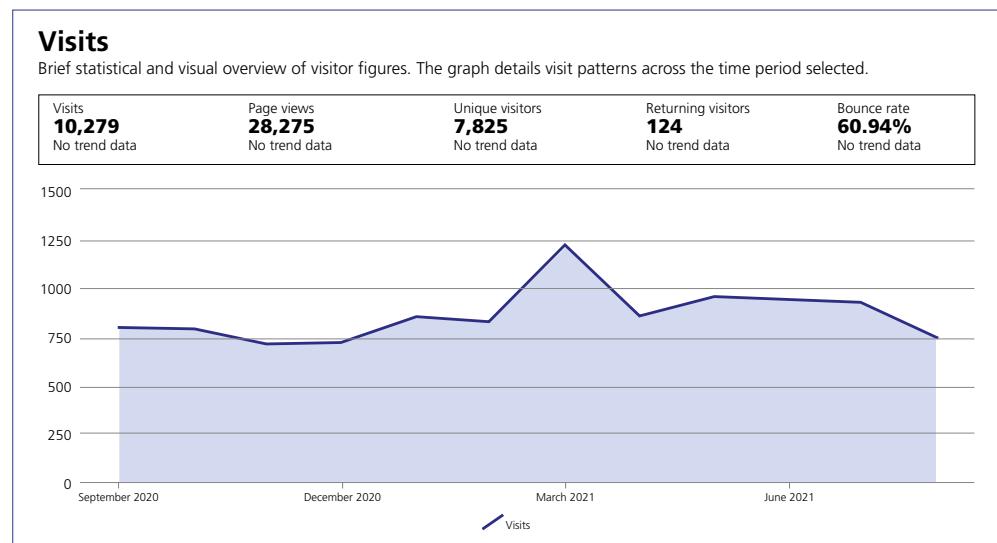
There was increased CCG contribution in 2020/21 towards the cost of the partnership's activities and office-related expenditure was particularly low due to COVID restrictions and increased remote working.

Income 2020- 21	£
CAFCASS	0
MOPAC / Metropolitan Police	5 000
National Probation Service	1 000
London Fire Brigade	500
Probation / Community Rehabilitation Company	1 000
Wandsworth Borough Council	137 700
Wandsworth CCG/ICS	49 118
Education - Wandsworth Schools	0
Total Contribution Income	194 318
Money Carried Forward 2019/2020	70 713
Total	265 031

Expenditure 2020- 21	£
Training & External courses	35 095
Independent CSPR and Learning Audit Authors	13 186
Publicity	1 310
Multi – Agency Auditing, Case Reviews & S 11 Audits	0
Legal Costs	2 825
Printing & Stationary	74
Miscellaneous expenses(including refreshments for meetings)	45
Salaries & Agency	144 063
Overheads	14 000
Total Expenditure 2020 -21	210 998
Carry Forward Underspend 2020-21	-54 533
Publicity	3 790
Multi – Agency Auditing, Case Reviews & S 11 Audits	7 000
Legal Costs	2 000
Printing & Stationary	1 500
Miscellaneous expenses	1 000
Chronolator License	1 210
Salaries & Agency	149 300
Overheads	14 400
Forecast Expenditure 2021 – 22	268 200
Projected Underspend (carry forward)	-26 533

Appendix 4

Website usage



Appendix 5

Acronyms

ART - Adolescent Risk Team

BCU - Borough Command Unit

CAHMS - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

CAIT - Child Abuse Investigation Team

CCG/ICS - Clinical Commissioning Group

CDOP - Child Death Overview Panel

CiN - Child in Need

CLCH - Central London Community Healthcare

CP - Child Protection

CPP - Child Protection Plan

CSC - Children Social Care

CSPR - Child Safeguarding Practice Review

- **LCSPR** - Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review

DA - Domestic Abuse

DARAC - Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment for Children

DfE - Department for Education

DIB - Daily Intelligence Briefings

DSL - Designated Safeguarding Lead

EDI - Equalities, Diversity, and Inclusion

Appendix 5

EHCP - Education Health Care Plan

FD - Front Door

FGM - Female Genital Mutilation

FSM - Family Safeguarding Model

GCP2 - Graded Care Profile 2

HWBB - Health and Wellbeing Board

ICS - Integrated Care System

IRO - Independent Reviewing Officer

LA - Local Authority

LAC / CLA - Looked After Children / Children Looked After

LADO - Local Authority Designated Officer

LfE - Learning from Experience

LSCB - Local Safeguarding Children Board

MACE - Multi Agency Child Exploitation

MARAC - Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference

MARF - Multi-agency Referral Form

MARVE - Multi-agency Risk, Vulnerability, and Exploitation

MASH - Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub

MHES - Mental Health Emergency Service

MQ&P - Monitoring Quality and Performance

POET - Personal Outcomes Evaluation Tool

PRU - Pupil Referral Unit

RR - Rapid Review

SAB - Safeguarding Adults Board

SCIE - Social Care Institute for Excellence

SCL - Safeguarding and Continuous Learning

SCPS - Schools Community Psychology Service

SCR - Serious Case Review

SEND - Special Educational Needs and Disability

SNAS - Special Needs Assessment Service

SUDI - Sudden Unexpected Death in Infants

SWLStG - South West London and St George's Mental Health Trust

T&F - Task & Finish

TW&D - Training and Workforce Development

VAG - Vulnerable Adolescents Group

VAWG - Violence Against Women and Girls

WRES - Workforce Race Equality Standard

WSCP - Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Partnership

WSOG - Wandsworth Safeguarding Operational Group

YOT - Youth Offending Team



South West London
Clinical Commissioning Group



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Working together for a safer London

Designed and produced by Richmond and Wandsworth Design & Print. wdp@wandsworth.gov.uk CS1958 (5.22)
Cover photo: © MonkeyBusiness - iStock

