

Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Partnership

Annual Report
2023-2024





Contents

Foreword from statutory partners	3	How we work together to deliver Key Priorities	17
What we do	4	Anti-Racist Practice Annual Conference 2023	18
What will you find in this report	4	Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs)	21
What life is like for a child growing up in Wandsworth	5	Multi Agency Practice Assurance Audits	23
Make-up of the borough	6	Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	24
Reflections from our Young Scrutineer	7	Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)	26
Reflections from our Scrutineer	10	Impact of Our Training	27
Our key priorities	11	Section 11 Audit	30
Priority 1	12	What is next for Wandsworth Safeguarding Childrens Partnership?	32
Embedding Anti-Racist Practice, actions, behaviours, and culture across the Partnership and within all organisations.	13	Key upcoming milestones for the WSCP	33
Priority 2	14	WSCP Structure	34
Educational support for SEND and disproportionately affected groups	15	Appendix 1	35
Priority 3	16	Appendix 2	36
Accessible early help services for disadvantaged families			
Priority 4			
Delivering inclusive mental and physical health services			
Priority 5			
Multi-Agency and data assurance.			

Foreword from statutory partners

This report aims to provide key stakeholders including members of the public and the wider community with a level of assurance about the impact and effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements in Wandsworth.

As strategic safeguarding partners there is a commitment to offer challenge not only to ourselves but to our partnership system. We will continue to seek assurance that our safeguarding system and its arrangements are as safe as practicable and that our workforce feels supported and confident with children being listened to and heard. The report also outlines the key activities and achievements of the WSCP the last year, which has been a challenging one for all agencies.

There have been several changes and restructures within some of our key agencies and a number of inspections. It is a testimony to the high regard that agencies have for safeguarding that they have continued to prioritise the protection of the children and young people in our area in the midst of these changes.

Safeguarding is about people, their safety, wishes, aspirations and needs. You will see in the report that we have continued to work on delivering our key priorities in 2023 /2024.

The multi-agency safeguarding training has continued to develop and grow, front line practitioners' voices have been captured through a series of consultation surveys and forums and quality assurance and scrutiny activity has taken place.

The partnership has been active in identifying and learning lessons through the Child Safeguarding Practice Review subgroup. Two rapid reviews and one child safeguarding practice review have been completed in this year.

The learning from these reviews has been identified and disseminated through various activities including briefings, workshops and learning lessons training. The dissemination of the learning is explored in greater detail within the report.

In the last year, the WSCP has continued to work closely with both statutory and wider partners to scrutinise how safeguarding issues are addressed, gain reassurance that they are dealt with appropriately, and provide a forum for sharing best practice across the partnership. It has also ensured that safeguarding children remains a key focus for agencies across the borough.

We should be proud of the achievements made but of course there is always room for continuous improvement. We must continue strong communication and robust challenge, to focus on future demand and how we respond to it, to maintain a focus on learning and development including a focus on the impact of our interventions as partners on supporting children and young people to be safe, well and achieve their potential, alongside implementing changes identified within Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023). To achieve this we must continue to work closely with our partners both locally and regionally where we can support each other and identify good practice.

Finally, we would like to thank all members of the Partnership for their professionalism, commitment and support and in particular the Safeguarding Partnership Business Team for the way they professionally support the partnership. We would also like to say thank you to all agencies and especially the frontline staff for the incredible work that they do to keep children and young people safe from abuse and neglect in Wandsworth.



Ana Popovici
Executive Director
Children's Services,
Wandsworth Council



Justin Roper
Director of Quality,
NHS SWL Integrated
Care Board



Ian Cameron
SWL BCU Head of
Public Protection

What we do

Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP) is jointly led by the Police, Integrated Care Board and the council.

We are responsible for protecting children and young people in Wandsworth from harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation, and promoting their welfare. Our recently refreshed partnership structure is reflective of our local arrangements.

What will you find in this report

This annual report is a joint report from our statutory safeguarding partners analysing partnership activity and its impact on children and families.

You will read about how our safeguarding partners work together and see evidence of effective multi-agency working through our collective learning, working together, training offer and what we have learned from our most recent S.11 Audit.



What life is like for a child growing up in Wandsworth

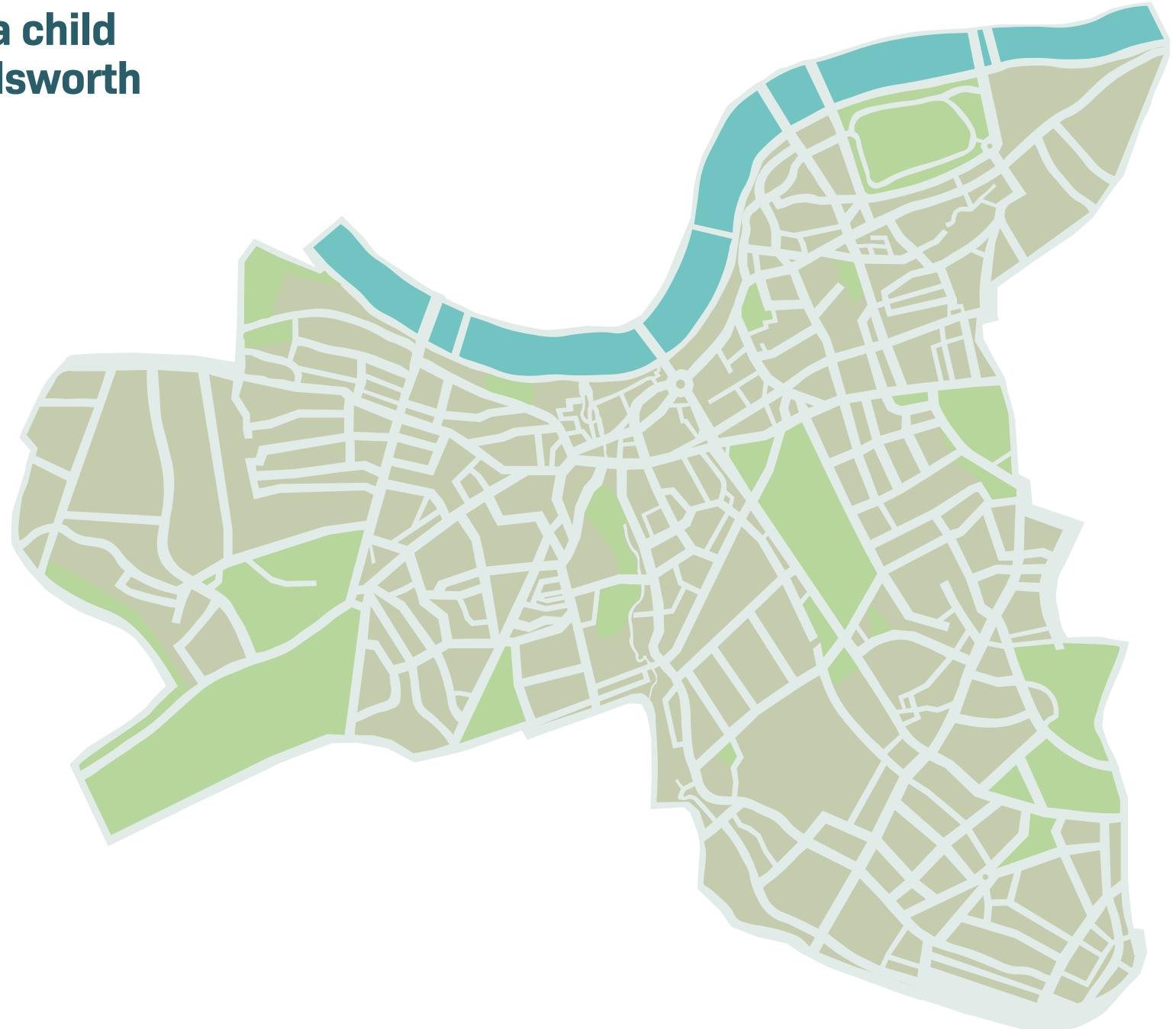
Through our **two primary hospital sites** – **St George's Hospital** in Tooting and **Queen Mary's Hospital** in Roehampton – we provide essential healthcare.

Over 50 GP Practices serve the health needs of our families.

Children, parents and carers have access to **11 Childrens Centres** and **31 Youth Clubs**.

There are **124 schools** in Wandsworth, including **32 Independent Schools, 62 Primary Schools, 12 secondary schools, and 1 serving sixth-form education.**

Wandsworth has **1 school with Pupil Referral Unit places, and 2 with places for teen mothers.**



Make-up of the borough

327,506 residents, the second largest population in Inner London (Census 2021).

4th largest population of children amongst inner London boroughs, approximately **58,600 children** and young people aged 0-19yrs.

52% of school age children come from global majority population.

40% of school pupils speak a first language other than **English** (May 2024).

As of August 2024, **24 Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children** were being supported by Wandsworth Council.

30% of school pupils eligible and **claiming free school meals**, this is higher than national and London averages and is the highest it has ever been at **8,462 pupils** in 2024.

7% of school age children have an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP), this is higher than national and London average. The number of children with an Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs) (2,314) **continues to rise and has nearly doubled since 2016** (1,464).

Wandsworth is working **with 432 children** on an **Early Help Plan**, **735 Child in Need Plans**, **62 Child Protection Plans**, **233 Children Looked After** and **325 Care Leavers** (27 September 2024).

The rates of social care intervention per 10,000 population is **lower in Wandsworth** than national or London averages.

13% of children in Wandsworth live in low-income families. In January 2024, **30% of Wandsworth pupils were eligible for FSM**, an increase from 16% in 2018. This is **higher than the averages** for London (28%) and England (26%).

Overall, the level of deprivation in Wandsworth is **lower than England average** and is the **11th least deprived** London Borough according to 2019 IMD, there are 19 Lower Super Output Areas rated within 10% most deprived in England, 10 in Roehampton cluster, 7 in Battersea cluster and 2 in Tooting cluster.

84% of residents aged 16-64 are in employment, higher than the London and England average.

Wandsworth has supported over 160 Ukrainian families to find a place of safety in the borough to help those people displaced by the Russian Invasion.



Championing the Voice of the Child: Spotlight on Fabio, our first Young Scrutineer

This year, the Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Partnership placed a central focus on amplifying the Voice of the Child, making strides in including young people's experiences, insights, and voices in our decision-making processes.

At the heart of this initiative is Fabio, our first Young Scrutineer, whose journey from experiencing contextual harm and involvement in Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) to becoming an advocate for young people is both inspiring and impactful. Fabio recently turned 18 and, through his role, has not only transformed his own life but is actively working to better the lives of children across Wandsworth.

Fabio's Contributions and Impact

Fabio's role as a Young Scrutineer is pioneering within the WSCP and across the broader community. He has contributed directly to several key projects, bringing unique insights from his lived experience that inform our approach to safeguarding, advocacy, and community engagement.

Recruitment Panels

Fabio's involvement in recruitment panels has brought the youth perspective to the forefront in selecting new members of the WSCP and related agencies. His input has been invaluable in ensuring that those appointed are sensitive to the real challenges faced by young people in Wandsworth. Fabio has demonstrated an exceptional ability to ask questions that resonate with the lived experiences of children affected by CCE and contextual harm, making him a crucial voice in the hiring process.

Kinetika Bloco Youth Music Programmes

Throughout the year, Fabio has been an active participant in the Kinetika Bloco programmes, where he engaged in two intensive music workshops. These programmes provide young people with creative outlets through music, rhythm, and performance. Fabio's involvement has not only served as a form of personal expression but has also inspired younger participants to channel their energy into positive activities. His leadership and enthusiasm in these workshops exemplify the transformative power of music and mentorship in steering young lives towards positive outcomes.

Boys BiC Group Co-creation

Recognising the importance of spaces for boys to openly discuss their experiences and challenges, Fabio co-founded the Boys BiC (Black in Care) group with Ian Clarke; Participation Officer. This initiative has become a safe haven for boys to connect, support each other, and explore positive identities in a constructive environment. Fabio's firsthand understanding of the challenges faced by vulnerable young boys has made him an effective peer mentor and advocate within the group, helping to guide participants away from harmful influences and towards supportive community connections.

Pioneering the Role of Young Scrutineer

As the first child to participate in the Wandsworth Overview & Scrutiny Committee Fabio has made a historic contribution by representing the perspective of children directly affected by safeguarding concerns. His courage and commitment to share his story and insights have informed the committee's understanding of contextual harm and the ways in which systems can better support young people. Fabio's presence on the committee underscores WSCP's commitment to child focussed policies and programmes.

Reflections and Future Goals

Fabio's journey highlights the importance of providing spaces where young people can contribute meaningfully to decisions that affect their lives. His involvement in WSCP initiatives has not only allowed him to make a difference in the community but has also provided him with opportunities for personal growth, skill development, and confidence building. Fabio's story and accomplishments inspire both his peers and adults across the partnership to listen, engage, and take action based on the authentic experiences of young people.

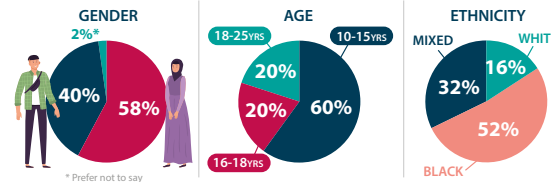
The WSCP remains deeply committed to expanding initiatives like the Young Scrutineer role to ensure more voices like Fabio's are heard. By fostering a culture where young people are empowered to shape their own futures, we can create a safer, more supportive Wandsworth for all children and will be increasing the number of Young Scrutineers moving forward.

Special Thanks

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Lucy, Fabio's PA, Ian, and the rest of the Participation Service who have supported Fabio in his transformative role. Their guidance has been instrumental in developing programmes that allow young people to thrive, and their dedication reflects the core values of our partnership.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY SAFETY SURVEY FINDINGS

DEMOGRAPHICS



WHERE DO YOU LIVE?



DO YOU CARE/ LOOK AFTER ANYONE AT HOME?



DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF DISABLED?



WHAT CHILDREN SAY MAKES THEM FEEL SAFER...



MORE CCTV
AND
LIGHTS
AT NIGHT

POLICE BEING MORE
AWARE OF THOSE WHO
REGULARLY ATTEMPT
TO MUG CHILDREN
AND PEOPLE

WHAT CHILDREN THINK NEEDS TO BE DONE...

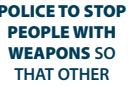
**HARSHER POLICIES
FOR CRIME LIKE
ROBBERY AND
KNIFE CRIME**



**WORKSHOPS
FOR
KEEPING
SAFE IN
GENERAL**



**POLICE TO STOP
PEOPLE WITH
WEAPONS SO
THAT OTHER
PEOPLE ARE
NOT HURT
OR KILLED**



**BETTER
STREET
LIGHTING
AT NIGHT
FOR PLACES
LIKE SKATE
PARKS AND
TOWPATHS**



**YOUTH CLUBS
TO STAY OPEN AND
HAVING FUNDING
FOR ACTIVITIES**



**MORE POLICE
IN AREAS
WHICH ARE
UNSAFE**



WHAT DO CHILDREN THINK ABOUT SAFETY...

**I HAVE FRIENDS
AND FAMILY
AROUND THE
AREA I LIVE, AND
KNOW MY WAY
AROUND**



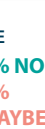
**I FEEL AT RISK
WALKING
HOME FROM
SCHOOL IN
THE DARK**



**PUBLIC TRANSPORT,
ESPECIALLY BUSES CAN FEEL
MORE UNSAFE AT NIGHT**



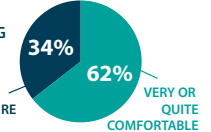
**DO YOU FEEL
SAFE AT HOME**



**I CAN WALK
AROUND FREELY
BUT I NEED TO
REMEMBER AND
BE AWARE THAT
I LIVE IN LONDON**



**HOW COMFORTABLE
YOU FEEL TRAVELLING
IN WANDSWORTH**



WHO WOULD YOU TALK TO IF YOU FELT UNSAFE



WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

**FEEDBACK SURVEY RESULTS TO
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

**REVIEW SURVEY RESULTS WITH OUR
SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS – WANDSWORTH
COUNCIL, POLICE, AND COMMUNITY SAFETY**

**MAKE AN ACTION PLAN OF PRACTICAL
THINGS WE CAN DO TO IMPROVE HOW
SAFE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE**

**CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER TO
IMPROVE SAFETY IN THE WANDSWORTH
AREA FOR EVERYBODY**

Wandsworth
Safeguarding
Children
Partnership

We were excited to recruit 2 young scrutineers in July 2023; both are young people who live in Wandsworth and have lived experience of involvement with Statutory Services. One of the key areas of their focus for 2023-24 has been Children and Young People's perceptions of their own and community safety.

The Independent scrutineer and WSCP business unit assisted the young scrutineers to coproduce a survey which was circulated via WSCP to schools, youth clubs and other settings. The survey outcomes are on the infographic on the previous page.

In 2024-25 we will be looking to expand our group of young scrutineers alongside the Wandsworth Young Ambassadors and Wandsworth Council Participation Team. The young scrutineers will have the opportunity to:

- Attend partnership meetings and engage with partners of key stakeholders.
- Contribute to business planning and help to shape service improvements.
- Represent the voices of children and young people across the borough at events such as WSCP annual conference.
- Support WSCP with delivery of activity linked to key priorities.

WSCP's Independent Scrutineer and Young Scrutineers worked to a jointly owned workplan, agreed with the Executive, with progress regularly reported. The plan for this year reflected best practice models for Independent Scrutiny including the 'Checklist for Independent Scrutiny' published by Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme (VKPP) and the 'Six Steps to Independent Scrutiny'.

During 23-24, the Scrutineers undertook a thematic review for WSCP, posing the question 'How well is the work of WSCP impacting outcomes for children and families?'. The planned methodology for this included engagement with children through young scrutineers, a review of a sample of multi-agency escalation information, observations at working groups and a best practice/ literature review.

Evidence of good practice:

Clear & focused priorities - stubborn challenges

Practice/joint work improving children's outcomes

Child & family focus in reviews and practice assurance

Healthy challenge (and support) evident

Self-reflection & learning loop

High level of expertise and experience

Young Scrutineer work

Focus on improving outcomes and impact



Reflections from Sarah Lawrence Independent Scrutineer

During the year, through my observation and contribution to the partnership, I have witnessed a will to develop the partnership to have even more of a positive impact on children's outcomes. There is a strong commitment made by WSCP, reinforced with and by practitioners in the powerful and deeply impactful Anti Racist Conference, to embed anti racist practice to reduce the disproportionality that exists for global majority children, particularly in all our safeguarding systems. Challenging and often uncomfortable conversations continue to take place to tackle this and I have seen evidence of the strength of the partnership working together on this topic.

I hope that Independent Scrutiny will build on this in the coming year to include directly hearing from children, parents and carers as well as frontline practitioners, volunteers and community organisations to understand what works well, and how multi-agency working can be further improved.

There are clearly some local and national 'stubborn' safeguarding challenges ahead, and I have confidence in the WSCP's ability to develop and build on its strengths. I look forward to working alongside you all to help to keep children in Wandsworth safe.

Independent Scrutineer Activity 2023-24

Learning & Recommendations from Independent Scrutiny

A need to systematically identify and analyse the impact of WSCP work including children's outcomes – through regular multi agency data and an agreed quality assurance system and plan

Ensuring oversight of timeliness in learning reviews and impact of learning that is identified

Further relationship building across the partnership to ensure engagement with practitioners and wider group of 'relevant agencies' including voluntary and community sector and further cross partnership working with local safeguarding board for adults and community safety

Young Scrutiny & feedback loop with children

Data – start with what already exists and develop from this

What we have done

We have developed and embedded a multi-agency Practice Assurance programme built on our priorities and areas for practice improvement

There a dedicated working group that oversees the development of learning locally and nationally with strong links to training & practice assurance programme

We are continuing to grow links with our communities especially through the Anti-Racist Practice Group, we have strong links with our Participation Team and Community Safety Partnership who are represented across the partnership structure

We continue to grow and develop our young scrutineers and have heard and acted on what they have said e.g. records written to the child

The gathering of multi-agency data is a challenge for most London partnerships, we are committed to identifying the right people to ensure we have a robust, relevant and useful dataset

A hand is shown placing a dark, smooth stone onto a stack of four other stones. The stones are balanced vertically on a pebbly beach. The background is a blurred view of the ocean with gentle waves under a soft, blue sky. The lighting suggests a calm, early morning or late afternoon setting.

Our key priorities

Our Key Priorities

Systemic racism is a wider societal issue and will not be solved through a small number of meetings.

To ensure that the WSCP is delivering on this priority the actions have been broken down to smaller key areas of focus, currently looking at reduction of disproportionality in police stop and searches.

This will give increased accessibility to data which will show over time what impact is being made in this area.

Priority 1 Embedding Anti-Racist Practice, actions, behaviors, and culture across the Partnership and within all organisations.

Actions	Progress, Evidence & Impact
Reduced stop-and-search incidents for global majority children, improving relationships between law enforcement and communities	<p>Black children make up the largest proportion of stop-and-searches with 59% of young people being Black in 2023-2024, and 76% of these Black young people having no further action following the stop-and-searches</p> <p>Partners have been invited to review Body Worn Footage by the Head of Public Protection and their opinions sought in relation to how officer/child interactions can be improved</p> <p>As this area of work continues young people led focus groups will be convened supported by our Young Scrutineers with hope that this continues to improve interactions between police, young people and the wider community</p> <p>Stop-and-search for young people reduced each quarter of 2023-2024: Q1 492 (58% of total), Q2 479 (53% of total), Q3 430 (50% of total), Q4 418 (45% of total)</p>
Continuous engagement with our community to address inequalities and listening and reacting to children and young people	<p>We continue to build our links with the large number of excellent community groups across the borough</p> <p>The Anti-Racist Practice Working Group membership includes a number of community representatives, and we will continue to grow on this as evidenced by the number of VCS Groups that will be attending the WSCP Annual Conference in Nov 2024</p> <p>Following a Safety Survey led by our Young Scrutineer we responded to findings by increasing street lighting and ensuring more safety officers in schools</p>

Our Key Priorities

To deliver excellent education to children in Wandsworth with a focus on children with special educational needs, and young people who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 restrictions, ensuring needs are assessed and that children receive the right support at the right time in the right provision to enable every child to reach their potential.

Priority 2 Educational support for SEND and disproportionately affected groups.

Actions	Progress, Evidence & Impact
Ensuring that children with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) received timely and tailored support to improve their educational outcomes by supporting children, families and schools	<p>Data shows us that children and young people in Wandsworth with an EHCP or receiving SEN support thrive throughout their years in education, out-performing nationally and across London by the age of 19</p> <p>5% of children with an EHCP and 31% of children receiving Special Educational Needs (SEN) support achieved a good level of development at Early Years. These figures were higher than national and England averages (2022-2023)</p> <p>In 2023-2024 Wandsworth completed 359 EHCPs, and 100% of these were completed within timescales</p>
Addressing barriers caused by COVID-19 for marginalized children, and reducing exclusions and supporting good attendance by supporting schools and providing training to social care teams, the police, A&E teams as well as voluntary organisations	<p>Working closely with schools we have reduced persistent absences</p> <p>Persistent absence was 17% for primary school pupils (26% for EHCP and 24% for SEN Support), these figures were lower than national and London averages (2022-2023)</p> <p>Persistent absence was 22% for secondary school pupils (29% for EHCP and 30% for SEN Support), these figures were lower than national and London averages (2022-2023)</p> <p>Wandsworth had lower levels of permanent exclusions and suspensions from secondary and primary schools than the national average</p> <p>There is ongoing training for schools around inclusion and exclusion with a focus on understanding how SEND and poor mental health impacts on schools' attendance</p>

Our Key Priorities

To work alongside children, young people, and communities to develop and deliver accessible early help services to children and families in Wandsworth with a focus on supporting disadvantaged and marginalised families, increasing fairness and inclusivity, and improving the wellbeing of children, young people, and their families in Wandsworth.

Priority 3 Accessible early help services for disadvantaged families.

Actions	Progress, Evidence & Impact
<p>Having effective early help and child in need support resulting in fewer escalations of children in need of protection (CP) and becoming looked after (CLA) and a strengthened relationship between children's social care, early help and stronger relationships with multi-agency partners allowing for earlier solutions to family concerns reducing the need for escalation to statutory services</p>	<p>Implementation of Family Safeguarding in CSC has enabled swifter access for families to specialist adults' practitioners in mental health, substance misuse and domestic abuse</p> <p>Child In Need numbers reduced from 1,029 in March 2023 to 922 in March 2024. These figures include open social care assessments. This is a lower rate per 10,000 than averages for England and London</p> <p>Child Protection Plans reduced from 181 in March 2023 to 75 in March 2024. This is a lower rate per 10,000 than averages for England and London</p> <p>Children looked after reduced from 239 in March 2023 to 213 in March 2024. This is a lower rate per 10,000 than averages for England and London</p>
<p>Utilising audits, data and surveys to track unnecessary escalations of concern and ensure proportional access to universal services in a timely manner which decreases waiting times for specialist services and assessments</p>	<p>Improvements to the early help process have included scaled improvement from initial point of contact so progress can be seen by the worker and family in real time</p> <p>In 2023-24 there were 226 children who received early help intervention for family relationships, and of these 148 (65%) showed improvement at closure</p> <p>In 2023-24, 1079 early help referrals were received and of these 21% were actioned within 5 working days of the contact coming into MASH. The service completed 840 Early Help plans, of which 38% were completed within 20 working days</p>
<p>Focused on reducing domestic abuse instances</p>	<p>Our data shows a clear reduction in repeated domestic abuse incidents, part of this success is due to the specialist domestic abuse social worker and IDVAs in MASH, domestic abuse practitioners in Family Safeguarding who have improved co-ordination of domestic abuse responses and strengthened links with Community Safety</p>

Our Key Priorities

To deliver accessible and inclusive mental and physical health services to children, young people and parents and carers ensuring access pathways for services are clear and gaps in services responded to.

Priority 4 Delivering inclusive mental and physical health services.

Actions	Progress, Evidence & Impact
Launched a protocol for non-accidental injury (NAI) and bruising in non-mobile infants to provide clearer guidance on addressing NAI in babies and ensuring all access pathways are clear and streamlined	<p>Published in May 2023 the Bruising and Suspected Non-Accidental Injuries (NAI) In Pre-Mobile Infants and Non-Mobile Children was shared widely across the partnership. The protocol has been incorporated into multiple face-to-face level 3 training sessions delivered to GP practice and community health staff</p> <p>A paediatric Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist is employed within St George's Paediatric inpatients and works closely with ED and the inpatient areas to support parity of esteem; this particularly focuses on joining up care from MH Trust to Acute Hospital and developing care plans, liaison and managing risk. The Head of Nursing for Mental Health at St George's has been instrumental in supporting developing pathways for this cohort alongside internal and external stakeholders</p>
Support pathways to reduce suicide risk and increase early identification along with addressing gaps in mental and physical health services for children and parents	<p>In partnership with Public Health the WSCP offered a series of support and training around the roll-out of a new Suicide Prevention pathway and developing a safe space to help children, families and professionals understand self-harm (Preventing self-harm and suicide in young people: Portus)</p> <p>St Georges Hospital offers HEADSSS assessments (psychosocial assessments) which are embedded in clinical triage which facilitates a discussion with the young person beyond their immediate presenting complaint</p> <p>Further work has been completed to understand 'types' of presentation beyond immediate headline 'mental health' or 'having been assaulted'. Thereby developing a richness in understanding the lived experience of our population and can review trends including numbers presenting having self-harmed, due to anxiety or substance misuse and then the types of assaults</p>

Our Key Priorities

To have meaningful multi agency data that enables the Leadership to understand the effectiveness of the safeguarding response to children and young people and to act quickly when there are areas of vulnerability or risk.

Priority 5 Multi-Agency Data and Practice Assurance.

Actions	Progress, Evidence & Impact
We have developed meaningful multi-agency data reflecting safeguarding response effectiveness, data findings support the practice assurance programme	<p>The annual 2023-2024 Multi-Agency Dataset was developed around the 5 priorities. Data was received from Wandsworth Council Children’s Social Care and Early Help, Wandsworth Schools, CLCH Health Visitors and School Nursing, and Police. However, the partnership was not able to successfully obtain health data from the ICB. Going forward the partnership will be strengthening its links with data analysts in the ICB to ensure that this is addressed, along with the challenges presented by changes to national police databases</p> <p>Practice Assurance helps us to understand the strengths and challenges in our practice so practice can be improved at a multi-agency level thereby improving the outcomes for children, a focussed visit from Ofsted to CSC’s Front Door in Q3 reiterated this; “leaders have maintained a clear focus on improving children’s experiences, building upon the progress seen in the last ILACS inspection in November 2022... decision making, management oversight and social work practice in response to contact and referrals are strong”</p> <p>There has been increased and continued buy-in from partners taking part in practice assurance which included a South West London multi-agency audit looking at children with complex needs, who are in unregulated placements. You can read more about Practice Assurance on page 23</p>
Ensured workforce stability and good management direction across all organisations and have ensured training is relevant well-attended, and of a high quality	<p>A significant programme of training and development has been delivered across the year including a blended offer of classroom and virtual course attended by a range of partner organisations, a total of 1028 attendances on 77 courses, as well as an annual partnership conference. Pages 18-19 and 27-29 provides comprehensive information</p>

How we work together to deliver key priorities

The **Executive** oversee the working of the partnership to assure the multi-agency response to children safeguarding is effective through developing and overseeing our overarching strategic aim; to safeguard and promote the welfare of babies, children, and young people.

This includes setting safeguarding priorities and making sure there is an effective quality assurance framework providing a clear understanding of safeguarding delivery based on the three core elements of performance data, multi-agency quality audit findings and feedback from the children and families in the borough. The Executive also ensure the development and maintenance of strong links with fellow strategic boards, with a focus on joint working and a holistic approach to safeguarding. The Executive holds three places on this group for our education partners, and this relationship will be strengthened as per Working Together 2023.

The **LCSPR** working group was developed following a review of the partnership structure in September 2023 the terms of reference were revised to reflect the updated governance within the partnership structure. The main aim of the working group is to ensure that all actions and recommendations from local and national learning from LCSPRs and rapid reviews are implemented, and learning disseminated across the WSCP with the support of the **Training & Practice Assurance** Working Group.

The **Training and Practice Assurance** working group seeks to ensure a robust and relevant multi-agency training offer by engaging with all agencies to continually review and improve the partnership training offer.

The second focus of this working group seeks to inform practice improvement and understand impact of learning, including training, by carrying out a programme of Multi-Agency Practice Assurance Exercises. Both activities have proven to be a great place for multi-agency partners to come to together to not only think about their own practice, but understand the decision making of our partners.

We have received excellent feedback from practitioners who have taken part in this, and we ensure that children and families voices are being heard so the impact on their lives is understood. There has been valuable learning which is brought back to the Operational Working Group. More detail about this can be found on page 23.

The **Operational Working Group** is the engine room of the partnership. This group is the largest of the WSCP Working Groups and consists of representatives from all multi-agency partners including school leaders. All business is reported to this group, informing and assuring the Executive on the delivery of our Key Priorities. This is also where decisions are taken on how to effectively continue to improve practice and ensure excellent multi-agency working together, which is constantly improving. Meetings are planned thematically aligning with the work being undertaken in each working group.

The **Anti-Racist Practice Oversight, Challenge & Advice Working Group** was set up following the visioning day in recognition that racism and disproportionality is evident across the wider children and safeguarding network and in the disproportionate numbers of global majority children referred to and receiving safeguarding services.

The WSCP agreed that there would be a strong focus on ensuring Anti-Racist Practice across the partnership. The partnership committed to challenging and holding, at times, uncomfortable conversations.

All agencies holding themselves and each other accountable in ensuring their staff and service users are treated fairly and equitably at all times. This group have made sure that community voices are heard by including voluntary agencies in the membership. The group's action plan has key areas of focus, so plans are SMART and achievable and regularly reviewed to maintain focus and momentum.

As one of its first priorities the **Anti-Racist Practice Oversight, Challenge & Advice Working Group** led on the WSCP's first partnership Anti-Racist Practice Conference in November 2023 together with our local Safeguarding Adults Partnership.

The conference was a powerful reminder of the emotional weight and urgency of this work, particularly considering the stark disparities in outcomes for global majority children and young people. The commitment to change is strong and the work continues. At the WSCP conference, professionals came together to confront the urgent need for anti-racist practice across Wandsworth's multi-agency partnerships.

Anti-Racist Practice annual conference 2023

The WSCP annual conference held in November in 2023 focused on driving practice to uncover, repair, and prevent racial trauma for global majority children, adults, and families in our communities. Anti-racism is the commitment to, and practice of, actively opposing racism wherever we find it as research evidence and lived experience tells us that racism has wide-reaching negative effects.

The WSCP brought together 215 professionals from across the partnership to have open and honest exchanges about the lived experience of our global majority communities. We explored issues of racial justice, anti-racist practice, and the trauma-informed, systemic, and culturally responsive approaches we can offer children, families, and communities. Attendees were active collaborators and co-creators in the development of an anti-racist approach, contributing to an anti-racist strategy in Wandsworth with keynote speakers who brought to the fore racism in service provision.

Attendees reflected how they planned to go back into their own teams and organisations to make changes, for example; open discussions in teams; more conversations about racism every day; push themselves to have uncomfortable conversations; offering challenge to colleagues; more questioning and speaking up; more curious discussions about racism with

families; more consideration of racism in family work along with looking at the many factors that a child and family can be facing such as race, gender, sexuality, class, culture and many more.



Conference evaluation and impact

82% said the conference organisation was **very good** or **excellent**



81% said the venue and facilities were **very good** or **excellent**



81% said the conference was **good** or **excellent**



"It was an incredibly moving day."

"Big thanks to the organisers, the speakers were very inspirational."

"Wonderful range of speakers and activities."

"We have a lot of work to do to embed anti racist practice."

The WSCP would like to acknowledge that anti racist practice across Wandsworth multi-agency partners is very much a work in progress; the Safeguarding partners readily acknowledge the

emotional and distressing impact of the conference, and disparity of data and lived experiences with regard to outcomes for global majority children and young people.

Inclusive Recruitment:

Pushing for more robust recruitment of staff from a global majority background, especially in senior roles, by addressing underlying socioeconomic challenges, including poverty, racism, and unconscious bias.

Mandatory Training:

Instituting regular, mandatory anti-racist training for all staff at every level, ensuring that the commitment to equity permeates the entire organisation.

SMART Action Plans:

Developing and implementing SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) anti-racist action plans that are regularly reviewed and backed by data to drive meaningful progress. The consensus was clear: the anti-racist agenda must 'move at pace.'

Embedding Anti-Racist Practice

Enhanced HR Support:

Providing stronger HR support for global majority staff, including mediation services and a critical review of disciplinary procedures to ensure fairness.

Accountability:

Holding statutory agencies—education, health, social care, and police—accountable for their role in promoting anti-racist practices.

Collaborative Efforts with Police:

Strengthening partnership work with the Police to enhance anti-racist practices, with a particular focus on fair and just stop-and-search procedures.

Representation and Growth:

Ensuring that the workforce reflects the diversity of the community, with better opportunities for career advancement, such as secondments, for the global majority population.



Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPR)

In the period April 2023 to March 2024, the WSCP undertook three Rapid Reviews. Each case was assessed to determine whether a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) was required. Following is a breakdown of the cases and decisions:

1 Case Involving a Non-Mobile Baby with a Brain Bleed and Domestic Abuse

A baby under three months old presented with a brain bleed due to a vitamin K deficiency, alongside significant domestic abuse within the family.

Decision: It was unanimously agreed that the criteria for a CSPR were not met. The rapid review process was deemed sufficient for identifying learning points, particularly related to the vulnerabilities of babies and the impacts of domestic abuse, coercive control, including greater professional curiosity and understanding when a parent declines childhood immunisations. The review drew from Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Bruising in Non-Mobile Infants (Sept 2022) and other related briefings, emphasizing professional curiosity and understanding the lived experience of children.

2 Case Involving a Child with Complex SEND Diagnoses

A child with autism and an EHCP became extremely dysregulated, leading to hospitalization and sedation after a rapid escalation in behaviour. A Serious Incident Investigation was also conducted at St George's Hospital.

Decision: There was debate over whether the criteria for a CSPR were met, but it was ultimately decided that the learning identified through the rapid review and the hospital investigation was sufficient. An action plan was developed from the rapid review addressing the necessary actions and recommendations including understanding of autism service provision and pathways.

3 Case Involving a Severely Neglected Primary School-Aged Child

The child suffered from severe emotional and physical neglect, including malnourishment, non-accidental injuries, and developmental delay.

Decision: The rapid review panel unanimously agreed that the threshold for a CSPR was met due to the significant harm experienced. The detailed findings and learning from this review will be presented in the WSCP 2024-25 annual report, with the overall themes also considered in this report.

Key Learning

Professional Curiosity

A recurring theme across the reviews was the need for heightened professional curiosity, especially in understanding domestic abuse and the lived experiences of children.

Learning from Other Reviews

Local Learning cross referenced with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel briefing paper: Multi-Agency Safeguarding & Domestic Abuse, with specific focus on whole family, trauma and intersectionality and recognising and responding to the vulnerability of babies.

Decision-Making

The decision to escalate to a CSPR was based on the severity of the harm and whether existing reviews provided sufficient learning to prevent future incidents.

This summary illustrates the varied and nuanced decision-making process in safeguarding cases, balancing the need for thorough investigation with the utility of rapid reviews.



Multi Agency Practice Assurance Audits

WSCP's multi-agency practice assurance audits are part of a broader quality assurance strategy aimed at improving services for children and young people. These audits help identify best practices, gaps, and near misses based on local and national learning, with a focus on the "So What Factor."

What we asked partners to consider

What are you doing to safeguard children?

How well are you safeguarding children?

What difference has your service made?

Can you identify weaknesses in the local safeguarding system?

Practice Assurance February 2024

Key Findings	Action plans and recommendations from practice assurance tracked
MARAC: Timeliness of referrals and need for MARAC training.	Have worked closely with MARAC Co-Ordinator to ensure referrals are appropriate and MARAC actions are shared with teams directly and completed within reasonable timescales.
Consider cultural influences, particularly in South East Asian communities.	Development of resource maps to ensure that victims/survivors of domestic abuse are being offered the best support which considers culture and ethnicity.
Understanding the training and support available for professionals	Training Lead to review Domestic abuse training offer alongside Community Safety Partnership.

Methodology

Over the course of February, April and May the practice assurance focussed on domestic abuse.

The first two stages focussed on a detailed multi-agency 'deep dive' into six families.

It was agreed that this was a small sample size so a further multi-agency dip-sample of 20 children was completed to give more indication as to whether the findings of the deep dive sample were replicated at a larger scale.

Use data to identify areas of concerns/emerging practice themes.

Each agency reviews its involvement with the child.

Family feedback is collected (with consent).

Practitioners join for a reflective discussion.

Summarized learning is reported back for action planning.

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

The LADO oversees allegations made against professionals and volunteers working with children, and ensures all information known about the individuals is understood and used to inform all decision making and to assess possible risks. A full report of LADO activity can be found in the LADO annual report.

Wandsworth has one full-time LADO with additional capacity provided for a minimum of one day per week, or more as required.

The LADO considers each referral to determine whether there is evidence to suggest that the person referred has or may have:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or may have harmed a child.
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against a child or related to a child.
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates that they may pose a risk of harm to children.
- Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

When a referral is received the LADO considers the level of harm and response under three categories:

- An allegation against staff and volunteers (ASV) threshold is when the referral is serious enough to suggest that the incident has or could have caused serious harm to a child and that the individual may pose a risk of harm to children.
- Cause for concern is a lower threshold and will usually be managed through an internal investigation by the referring agency.
- Provision of advice and guidance, where the referral does not reach the criteria for an investigation.

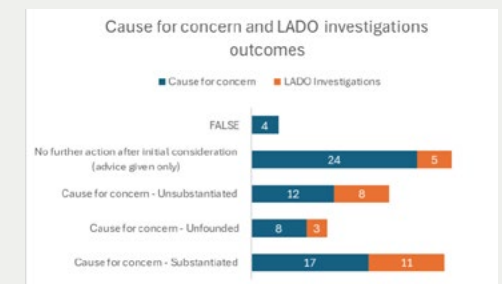
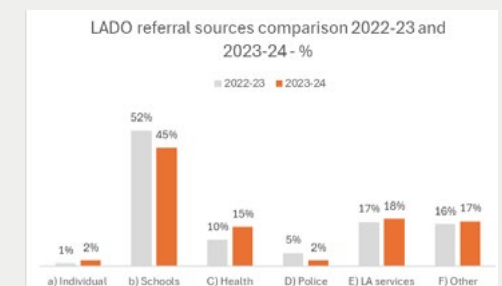
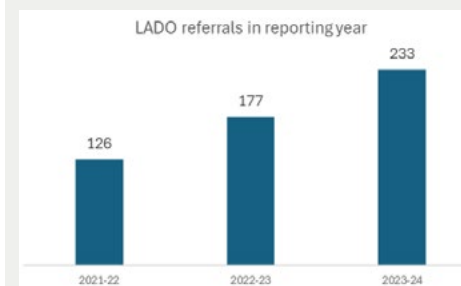
In the year there were 232 LADO referrals which is an increase of 55 referrals from 2022-23 and an increase of 106 from 2021-22.

Of the 232 referrals:

- 66% (152) were for provision of advice and support
- 27% (62) led to cause for concern
- 7% (18) led to a further investigation by the LADO

Outcomes of allegations are defined in statutory guidance:

- Substantiated - there is sufficient identifiable evidence to prove the allegation.
- Unsubstantiated - this is not the same as a false allegation. It means that there is insufficient evidence to prove or disprove the allegation; the term therefore does not imply guilt or innocence.
- Unfounded - there is no evidence or proper basis which supports the allegation being made. It might also indicate that the person making the allegation misinterpreted the incident or was mistaken about what they saw. Alternatively, they may not have been aware of all the circumstances.
- False - there is no evidence to prove the allegation.



Service improvements over the year

- A focused visit by Ofsted in November 2023 noted “The introduction of more focused quality audit activity since the last inspection has strengthened LADO processes. Decision-making is proportionate and timely and ensures the protection of children. The LADO has been diligent in challenging when police investigations have taken too long to conclude.”
- An action identified from this visit was for the LADO service was to ensure “Recording of any advice given by LADO”, specifically when there is no named professional against whom a referral was being made and settings or parents contact the LADO.
A tracker has been implemented to record where there is a request for advice which does not require a referral is recorded. This is a substantial area of work for the LADO and is essential at ensuring that the right contacts are progressed to referrals and those that do not meet LADO threshold are redirected appropriately.
- An online LADO referral form has been launched and goes directly to the MASH service.
- Performance reporting processes have been improved to strengthen data reporting for LADO

Feedback about the LADO Service

“ Thank you [LADO] for your support in resolving a tricky situation. Your support assisted us in receiving our good feedback from Ofsted. We sang your praises, thank you. a Wandsworth School ”

“ The Named Professional/Nurse for Safeguarding Children meets regularly with the Wandsworth LADO for consultations and to discuss referrals.

This supports good partnership working and ensures that any concerns are addressed quickly, with the aim of improving safety for children.

The organisation values the space to be able to have these discussions. ”

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) 2023-2024 Summary

The SWL CDOP serves as an inter-agency forum for Child Death Reviews in the boroughs of Croydon, Merton, Kingston Upon Thames, Richmond upon Thames, Sutton, and Wandsworth. Its primary purpose is to examine why children die, identify opportunities for prevention, and improve health and social services to reduce the risk of similar deaths in the future. The panel operates as a statutory body and is accountable to the SW London Integrated Care Board and Local Authorities, including the Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Partnership.

The following is a summary of statistical information from the six South West London Boroughs mentioned above, and a summary of the borough of Wandsworth.

- In the reporting year 2023-24 Wandsworth had 26 new notifications of child death, of these, five were unexpected child deaths that became subject of a Joint Agency Review (JAR)
- For Wandsworth, 55% of its cases had modifiable factors identified. Modifiable factors are identified by CDOP as something that may have contributed to the vulnerability or death of a child. There are four main areas under which modifiable factors are identified: the child, the family, home environment and service provision
- The full breakdown of modifiable factors for Wandsworth will be available once the CDOP 2023/24 Annual Report is published however regionally we know that under child factors 51% were due to risk factors for the mother, this includes ante-natal or obstetric care, with 32% an acute onset of illness. When looking at the family environment 22% found parental ill mental health and 14% deaths where a parent or carer smoked which exacerbated illness

- Overcrowding and unsafe sleeping where found in 11% of deaths when looking at modifiable factors within the home environment. Identified under service provision it found 46% where there were communication issues between professionals, 31% where there were delays in treatment starting or delays in recognising deteriorating conditions
- In Wandsworth nine cases have been reviewed and concluded as part of a coroner inquest. A coroner inquest is sought if the cause of death cannot be confidently established without wider investigation. 13 of 31 cases open are waiting for an inquest, five of these relate to notifications submitted prior to this reporting year

- Across SW London, as of 1st April 2024, there are 117 open cases for review. 58 have pending Coroners Inquests which is 68% of the caseload

The SW London Integrated Care Partnership has been informed of the inquest delay in completing reviews. Across SW London, a total of 18% of cases were completed in 6 months which is a decrease from 21% of child death reviews completed in the previous year. A total of 32% were completed in 12 months which is also less than 52% in the previous year. As a result of a delay in conclusion of inquests, 50% were over one year old at the time of review.

Although the modifiable factors are not yet provided for Wandsworth specifically, we can see that there are clear areas of risk and concern. The CDOP 2023/24 report will be presented to the WSCP LCSPR Working Group once available so we can understand what learning and recommendations this will mean for WSCP.

Multi Agency Safeguarding Training

The Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP) training programme sets out the framework and direction for ensuring that all staff and volunteers working with children, young people and their families in Wandsworth have the core skills and knowledge to safeguard and protect them from harm.

The training included domestic abuse, mental health, and online child abuse. Training was delivered using a blended model of face to face and online learning. This allows more people to attend whilst also ensuring that all learning styles and needs are catered for. Although the training programme was wide and varied there were 23% less people attending the training in comparison to the previous year.

Key Highlights

- A total of 1028 attendances on 114 virtual or classroom-based courses.
- Wandsworth Children's and Richmond and Wandsworth Adults Social Care Safeguarding Partnership Multi- Agency Anti-Racist Practice Conference was attended by 215 participants
- 574 E-Learning courses were completed from 44 E-Learning titles offered.

Context

We work with the WSCP Practice Assurance & Training, and LCSPR working groups to ensure any emerging issues are identified and addressed in line with shared priorities.

From June 2024 (at the time of writing this report) the newly appointed WSCP training lead will be directly line managed by the WSCP manager which we envisage will bring closer aligned better working relationships.

Analysis

Virtual and Face-to-Face Training Courses

The training events for the year 2023-2024 consisted of both virtual and face-to-face sessions to accommodate different learning preferences and constraints.

- Total Training Events Offered: 87
- Training Events Delivered: 77
- Training Events Cancelled: 10
- Total Attendance: 1,028 participants

The decrease in the number of events offered and delivered is attributed to various socio-economic challenges and external factors.

Agency Attendance Breakdown

- Councils (SSA): 621 attendees (60.4%)
- Early Years: 53 attendees (5.2%)
- Emergency/Justice: 42 attendees (4.1%)
- Health: 92 attendees (8.9%)
- Schools: 46 attendees (4.5%)
- Voluntary & Community: 95 attendees (9.2%)
- Out of Borough: 5 attendees (0.5%)
- Private & Independent: 1 attendee (0.1%)

The council staff formed the largest group of participants, reflecting their crucial role in child

Key Training Courses and Attendance

- Adolescent Exploitation: Sexual and Criminal: 32 attendees
- Child Protection Awareness (Face-to-Face): 48 attendees
- Domestic Abuse: Coercive Control and Economic Abuse: 53 attendees
- Wandsworth Children's and Richmond and Wandsworth Adults Social Care Safeguarding Partnership Multi-Agency Anti-Racist Practice Conference: 215 attendees

E-Learning Courses

E-learning continues to be a vital component of the training strategy, offering flexible, accessible learning opportunities.

- Total E-Learning Events Available: 44
- Total E-Learning Completions: 1,296 (up from 413 in the previous year)

Top Completed E-Learning Courses

- Safeguarding and Child Protection for Non Children Service Workers: 387 completions
- Female Genital Mutilation: 79 completions
- Radicalisation Children Services: 67 completions
- Safer Recruitment: 64 completions

The significant increase in e-learning completions demonstrates the workforce's adaptability and preference for flexible learning methods.

Training Evaluation and Feedback

Participant Satisfaction

Evaluation feedback was collected to assess the effectiveness and relevance of the training sessions. Overall, participants expressed high satisfaction with the training content, delivery methods, and the practical applicability of the knowledge gained.

- Positive Feedback Highlights:
- Appreciation for multi-agency perspectives and interactive sessions.
- Recognition of the practical relevance of case studies and real-world scenarios.
- Value in the diversity and expertise of trainers.
- Areas for Improvement
- Enhancing the interactivity of virtual training sessions.
- Providing more in-depth coverage of emerging issues such as digital safeguarding.
- Increasing the availability of advanced-level courses for experienced professionals.

Impact of Socio-Economic Challenges

Post-COVID Reluctance

A significant number of participants have shown reluctance to return to in-person events, preferring virtual training options due to ongoing health concerns and convenience.

Recruitment and Retention Issues

High turnover rates in social care, health, police, early years, and education sectors have led to staffing challenges, reducing the time available for training commitments. This has necessitated a focus on flexible training solutions and support for new staff integration.

Strikes and Austerity

- Strikes: Industrial actions in health and education sectors disrupted training schedules, resulting in postponed or cancelled events.
- Austerity: Economic constraints have limited the financial resources available for training, particularly for multi-agency partners like nurseries, impacting their participation levels.

Key Themes and Areas for Development

- Emerging Themes from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs): domestic abuse, children with ASD and dysregulated behaviour, neglect
- Increased Flexibility: Expanding e-learning and hybrid training options to accommodate diverse needs.
- Enhanced Collaboration: Strengthening multi-agency communication and coordination.
- Focus on Inclusivity: Ensuring training content is culturally sensitive and inclusive.

For this reporting period the Annual Conference accounted for 215 participants. Attendance overall from the Private/Independent, out of borough and school sectors is low (1, 6, 46 respectively). It has continued to be a challenge to gain insight into the internal training offers for our partners and therefore be able to align our offer accordingly.

Impact of Our Training

Feedback from Participants

Training participants have told us that they appreciate the multi-agency perspectives and interactive sessions, they have recognized the practical relevance of case studies and real-world scenarios and truly value in the diversity and expertise of trainers.

1,028 delegates attended **114** virtual or classroom-based courses

1,275 school employees across **25 schools** received single agency **Safeguarding Training**

229 delegates attended WSCP Anti racist practice conference

“ Great training, extremely informative. This training needs to be made widely available in the voluntary and community sector. I would love the staff at my workplace to take part in an in-person safeguarding refresher course over the next few months, and for this to be regular practice in the future.

”

“ The trainer was fantastic and I really enjoy her trainings - she gives thorough explanations and creates a good understanding of the subject matter. I will definitely be attending her other sessions and recommend to colleagues (Domestic Abuse: DASH/MARAC training)

”

“ Excellent, knowledgeable facilitators that really understood working with us in the voluntary sector. Brilliant course.

”

Section 11 Audit



Section 11 Audit

The annual S11 audit is one of the main mechanisms that provides the partnership with assurance that agencies are doing what they can to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. The S11 audit was undertaken via the use of an online audit tool the first time in 2023/24.

This was to enable all organisations to submit consistent audit information securely using one template; this streamlined the process to allow for accurate and timely analysis of the audit information provided by agencies.

The report analysis identified that there was compliance with S11 safeguarding practices and procedures with all 10 partners that completed the Section 11 audit.

The 10 agencies who completed the audit tool using the PHEW software were –

Central London Community Healthcare

(CLCH - School Nursing and Health Visitor service)

Metropolitan Police

National Probation Services

South West London (SWL)

South West London Integrated Commissioning Board (SW ICB)

St Georges Mental Health Trust

(Children and Adolescent Mental health Service – CAMHS)

St George's Hospital (Acute health Setting)

Wandsworth Council Children's Services

Wandsworth Council Education Services

Wandsworth Council Housing Services

Richmond and Wandsworth Safeguarding Adults Board

Section 11 Audit: Summary of BRAG rating by agency and audit standards

- CLCH and SWL St Georges Mental Health Trust majority rating of blue across all audit standards
- Children's services, Housing and St Georges Hospital - only agencies with no blue rating
- Housing rated themselves green across all standards.
- MET Police rated themselves amber across 44% of the standards.

Section 11 Audit: Summary of BRAG rating by agency and audit standards

- CLCH and SWL St Georges Mental Health Trust majority rating of **BLUE** across all audit standards
- Children's services, Housing and St Georges Hospital - only agencies with no blue rating
- Housing rated themselves **GREEN** across all standards.
- MET Police rated themselves **AMBER** across 44% of the standards.

RED - Indicates that processes are lacking and need to be developed as a matter of urgency to meet minimum requirements for a specific standard.

AMBER - Indicates that processes are in place, but need to be reviewed or further for a specific standard.

GREEN - Indicates that the agency meets the standard fully with all processes in place and up to date, at least to the required minimum.

BLUE - Indicates that the agency meets the standard fully with all processes in place and up to date, with evidence of achieving excellence.

Good Practice Highlights

Full findings of the WSCP S.11 [here](#)

The following examples of good practice were identified from the data submitted by agencies in their Section 11 (S11) audits, demonstrating Wandsworth's commitment to excellence and innovation in safeguarding:

Learning Implementation

Integration of local and national safeguarding review themes into practice.

Quality Assurance

Embedded single and multi-agency audits in quality assurance processes.
7 out of 10 agencies rated their audit activities highly (blue or green).

Anti-Racist Practice

Focus on anti-racist initiatives, diverse recruitment, and support for marginalized communities.

Youth Engagement

Active participation of children and young people in recruitment, service improvement, and feedback processes.
Recruitment of WSCP Young Scrutineers.
Child-Centred Approaches.
Emphasis on recording and reflecting the voice of the child.
Individualised care planning and regular staff supervision.

Strategic Development

Continuous updates to strategic plans, data sets, and KPIs to monitor service impact.
Strong representation and collaboration within WSCP.

Multi-Agency Collaboration

High attendance and effective participation in safeguarding meetings and Child Protection conferences.
90% of agencies rated interagency work as effective or better.
Information Sharing:
50% of agencies reported excellent information sharing and confidentiality processes.

What is next for Wandsworth Safeguarding Childrens Partnership?

Looking ahead, the WSCP remains fully committed to continuously improving multi-agency collaboration, ensuring that this work results in the best outcomes for children and families in Wandsworth.

Over the next 12 months, we will be focusing on achievable, impactful areas, ensuring that we can effectively track and measure the progress we make as a partnership. While measuring impact is often challenging—since most available data focuses on activity rather than outcomes—we recognise the importance of being smarter about what we measure and why.

By taking small, deliberate steps, we aim to ensure that all our activities make a positive difference.

A significant step in this direction is the recruitment of Young Scrutineers. With their invaluable input, we will ensure that our focus and decision-making processes are guided by the voices and lived experiences of children in the borough; they will be producing their own version of the annual report for publication which will aid in developing more meaningful understanding and ties with Wandsworth children.

A key development is the recent appointment of our new Training Lead within the WSCP Business Team, which is expected to bring improved cohesion and alignment between training efforts and strategic priorities.

This will further enhance multi-agency collaboration, particularly in addressing socio-economic challenges and ensuring the child's voice is central to all safeguarding efforts.

The WSCP is also strengthening its ties with neighbouring boroughs across South West London (SWL). This collaboration has already resulted in the development of a shared Neglect Strategy and ongoing work towards a SWL Section 11 Audit, recognising the importance of shared services in driving collective impact.

Additionally, we will continue to foster stronger relationships with community and charity organizations, recognising that early intervention plays a critical role in preventing escalation into statutory services. These organizations provide vital on-the-ground support for families, making them essential partners in safeguarding efforts.

Key upcoming milestones for the WSCP include:

■ Kingston & Richmond and WSCP Joint Conference

27th November 2024

■ WSCP Podcast Series

The partnership team is developing a series of learning podcasts, hosted by our business manager and with special guest appearances from expert voices across the partnership. This will be tested as a new way to disseminate key learning from practice and research in a new format to multi-agency professionals.

■ Development of Young Scrutineers

We are looking forward to developing and learning from our Young Scrutineers as they continue to advise and guide the partnership on how to improve and understand the lives of children and young people across the borough, to meet our Young Scrutineers. [Watch here](#) [and here](#)

■ SWL Neglect Strategy

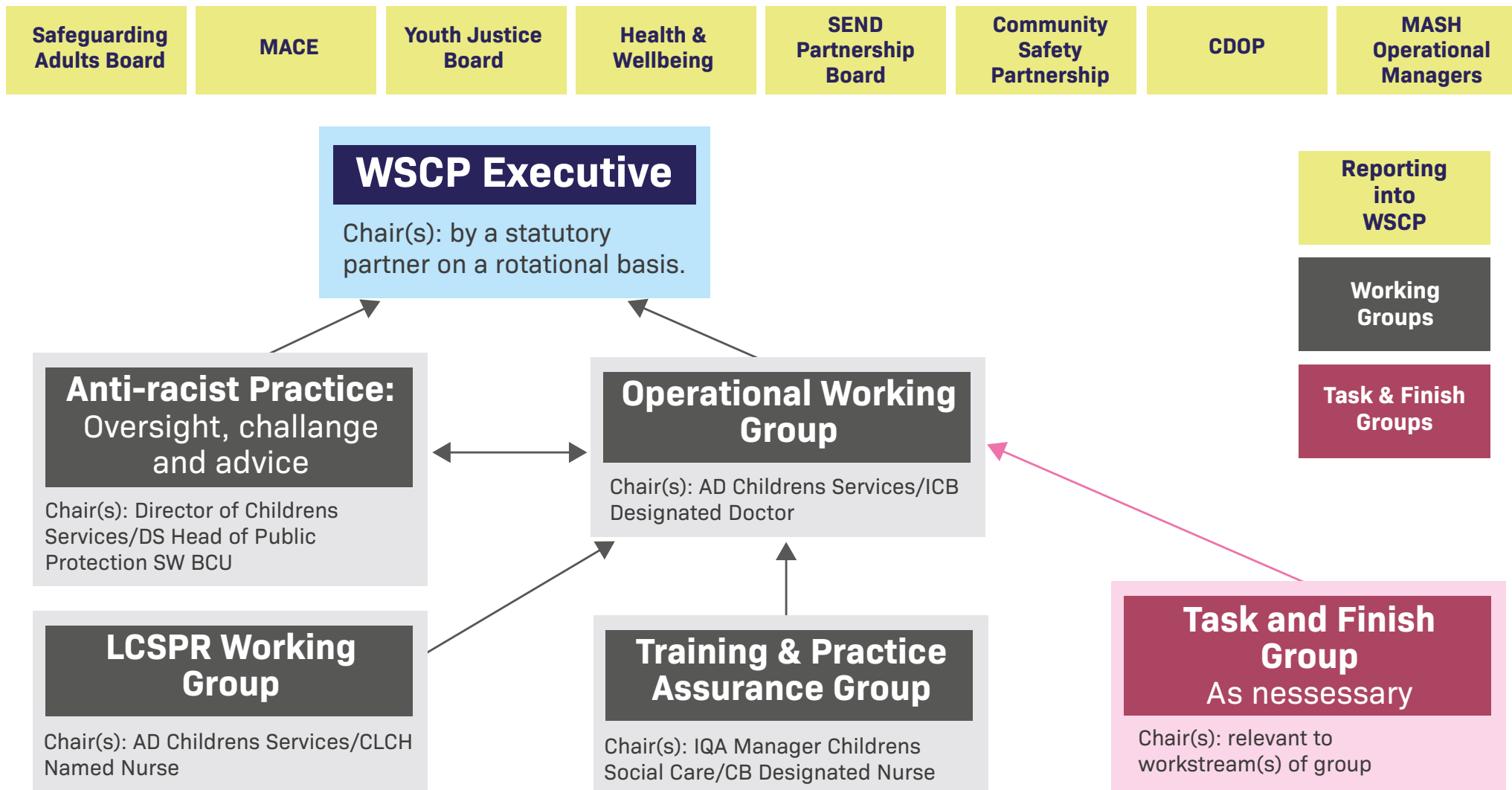
We are very excited to have produced a South West London Neglect Strategy – we hope that this work will be building a strong foundation for strong partnership working not just across Wandsworth but with our neighbours – we know many families move between boroughs and having stronger links and a consistent approach to safeguarding across the south west can only improve on our ability to care, act and support at the right time to keep our children safe

WSCP Structure



Appendix 1

WSCP Structure 2023/2024



Appendix 2

Partnership Funding - 2023/2024 (financial year)

	Financial Year 2023 - 2024	Financial Year 2024 - 2025
WCSP Income:	Agency Contribution(£)	Projected Agency Contribution(£)
MOPAC/Metropolitan Police	5,000	5000,00
Wandsworth ICB	54,160	54,106
Department for Education (grant funding for implementation of WTSC 2023)	47,300	0
Wandsworth Council	148,300	148,300
Income	254,760	207,460
Income (underspend) carried forward from prior year	104,100	77,649
Total income	358,860	285,109
	WCSP Expenditure:	Actual expenditure (£)
Training & External courses (includes annual conference, online booking system, venues, classroom training & e-learning)	71,541	45,000
Independent CSPR & Learning Audits	15,762	15,600
Publicity (Newsletters, Protocols, Leaflets, Booklets, Licences)	0	1,200
Multi-Agency auditing, Case reviews & S11 Audit (including software licence)	9,247	0
Legal Costs	0	0
Printing and Stationary	1,008	2,500
Miscellaneous expenses (including refreshments for meetings)	669	1,000
Staffing & Agency	182,983	182,983
Total expenditure	281,211	258,283
Underspend	-77,649	-26,826