



KEY MESSAGES ABOUT THE CITY & HACKNEY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (CHSCB)

1. QUICK WAY TO FIND OUT ABOUT US – USE THE WEBSITE

CHSCB has its own website: www.chscb.org.uk

The website is designed to be used by professionals from any organisation, by children and young people and by parents, carers and the general public.

You can find the latest information about the following and much more:

- How to make a child protection referral and thresholds (the Hackney Wellbeing Model)
- How the CHSCB works and which agencies are on it
- What the CHSCB is doing and how effectively (the Annual Report)
- The London Child Protection Procedures
- Allegations against professionals
- Serious case reviews – local and national
- Multi-agency training courses, lunchtime seminars and helpful research
- Child Protection Conferences

2. WHAT DOES THE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD DO?

The Board is required by law (Children Act 2004) to **co-ordinate** and **monitor the effectiveness** of multi-agency work to safeguard and protect children and young people.

Broken down, the CO-ORDINATION role is about supporting people to do their job to the best effect, by:

- Producing local **procedures and practice guidance** to guide work in particular areas, sometimes highlighted as needing improvement by audit or case review

The overarching procedures for City & Hackney are the pan-London Child Protection Procedures; we develop local protocols to supplement these – eg. Mental Health Joint Protocol; DAAT/Children’s Social Care Joint Protocol; the Hackney Wellbeing Model, which shows the different thresholds for professional intervention with families

- Providing a comprehensive **multi-agency training programme** covering different aspects of child protection work

Our training programme is targeted at different levels of professional need from basic to advanced. It includes different ways to learn alongside the traditional one day training model – with lunchtime seminars and Action Learning Sets. It’s also responsive to what we uncover through audit and review – learning from serious case reviews is channelled directly back to training content

- Supporting **the wider community** in all its cultural diversity to understand the laws that protect children from harm and helping smaller voluntary and community groups operate in a way that is safeguarding aware

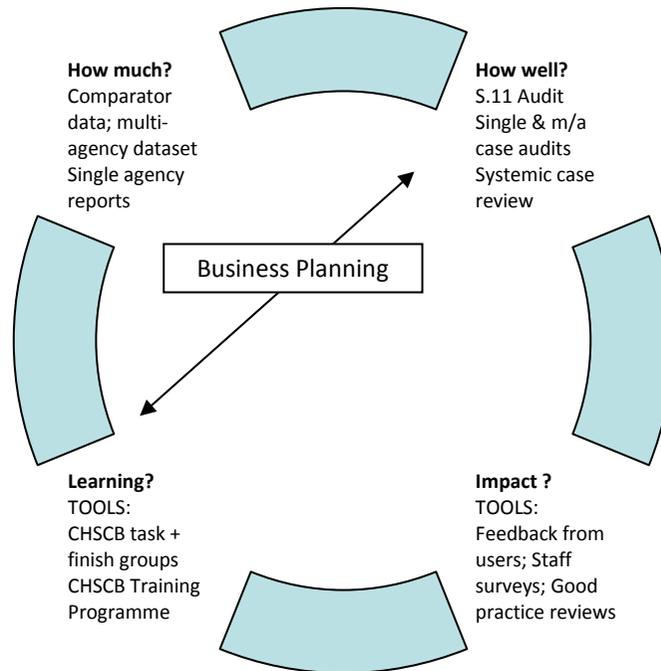
Our Community Partnership Advisor provides specialist advice to individuals and to groups and addresses aspects of child protection work that are particular to certain cultural beliefs. He also works directly with young people to find out what matters to them.

We carry out our core responsibility to MONITOR THE EFFECTIVENESS of work to safeguard and protect children and young people by:

- Using a **variety of quality assurance mechanisms** to form a view as to what is working well, what is working less well and what the challenges are for every day practice. These include the following:
 - Oversight of data about the volume and type of work coming through our front door and whether or not we are processing it in a timely way (quantitative information that can highlight broad trends)
 - Multi-agency case file audits that can pick up the detail of work on a case
 - Multi-agency case reviews that allow practitioners reflective space to think about casework

- Serious case reviews that drill down to the reasons that a particular child or children die or end up badly harmed
- **Collecting and analysing information about the deaths of all children** resident in the City of London and borough of Hackney, to identify any matters of concern about agency responses or concerns around general public health or safety.

There is a direct link between the way we set our business plan priorities, the training we provide and the learning generated through different quality assurance routes, as this diagram illustrates:



3. CHSCB GUIDING PRINCIPLES & BUSINESS PLANNING

Every Safeguarding Board has a similar broad agenda around the co-ordination and quality assurance of multi-agency work to safeguard children, but areas for priority focus will differ from region to region. The City & Hackney Board agreed a 'vision statement' and a set of guiding principles in 2011 and has agreed a Business Plan that is transparently linked to these. In order to add rigour to its assessment of its own effectiveness and at the same time identify areas that would benefit from additional focus in the Business Plan, it has conducted a self-evaluation against a set of nationally recommended standards that underpin good multi-agency working.

The Business Plan identifies areas for priority focus that are both strategic and operational – some as a result of the self-evaluation exercise and some from intelligence drawn from frontline practice, serious case and other forms of practice analysis and review. It will underpin the work of the City & Hackney Board for the next financial year and beyond and will be available on the CHSCB website. Previous Plans and Annual Reports can be downloaded from the site now.

The City & Hackney vision statement:

“We want children and young people in City & Hackney to thrive and we will work together to create the safest possible environment for them to do so”

4. AREAS OF PRACTICE FOR PRIORITY FOCUS IN 2012

The City & Hackney Board has responsibility for the effective delivery of child protection services generally - an enormous undertaking in and of itself. Within this broad agenda there will be areas that have been highlighted through our quality assurance work as requiring particular attention, generally because of the frequency with which they appear in the content of referrals and because of their complexity. We also take account of national political priorities where they are particularly relevant to our local context.

We will be focussing in particular on the following areas of joint practice over the coming year:

- **Domestic Violence and its impact – generally and culturally; between teenagers in intimate relationships. An increasing issue for families living in the City of London and a clear presenting issue in large numbers of referrals to Hackney Triage and First Response Service.**
- **Sexual exploitation and its link to gangs; internet abuse; missing children. This is also a focus nationally for the Children’s Commissioner.**
- **The interface between adults’ and childrens’ services – adults as parents; young people coming to the attention of adult-focussed services.**

5. HOW DOES THE BOARD GET ITS WORK DONE?

Executive Group

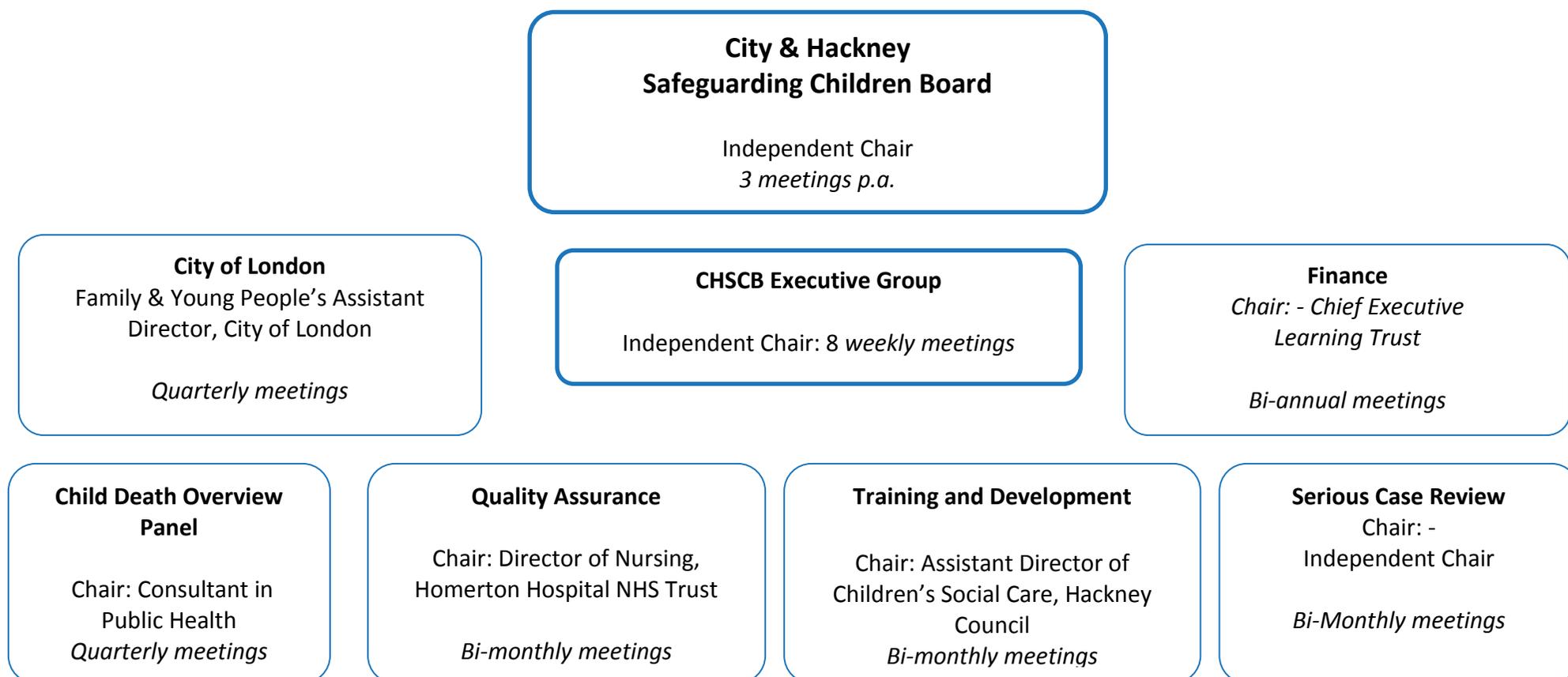
From April 2012 the business of the Board will be driven by a smaller core group of members who form an Executive Group, chaired by the Independent Chair. This meets every two months and monitors the effectiveness of work being addressed as part of the Board’s Business Plan.

NEW! From April 2012 and in order to bring the Board closer to the reality of the frontline, the Chair and members of the Executive Group will be observing different single and multi-agency operational practice events and seeking direct feedback from staff.

Sub-Committees

The Board is supported by various sub-committees, the Chairs of which are members of the Executive Group. The sub-committees each focus on a different area to support the work outlined above and additional ones can be created. Sometimes the Board will create time-limited working groups to deliver on specific issues, such as domestic violence and its impact upon children/young people.

The current sub-committee structure is shown in this chart:



CHSCB Support Team

A small team of staff based in Hackney Service Centre manage and support the operation of the City & Hackney Board and all its various sub-committees. These are:

Professional Advisor to the Board – Sophie Humphreys – sophie.humphreys@hackney.gov.uk

CHSCB Group Manager – Sarah Peel – sarah.peel@hackney.gov.uk

Business & Performance Manager (incl. CDOP co-ordinator) – Pernilla White – pernilla.white@hackney.gov.uk

Community Partnership Officer – Leethen Bartholomew – leethen.bartholomew@hackney.gov.uk

Training Coordinator – Keeley Scott – keeley.scott@hackney.gov.uk

Board Coordinator – Sanna Johansson – sanna.johansson@hackney.gov.uk

6. WHO IS ON THE CITY & HACKNEY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD?

The Chair

Fran Pearson is the Independent Chair. She has no direct involvement with any single organisation that is on the Board. This is important, as a key function of any independent Chair is the challenge that they bring. She also sits on other strategic partnerships, ensuring that issues relating to the safeguarding of children are an integral part of business.

Board members

This Board is a joint one; it covers both the London Borough of Hackney and the City of London. The core agencies that by law should be members are set out in the Children Act 2004 and in *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010*.

It's important that Board members are at a senior enough level to be able to make decisions on behalf of their organisation and hold their organisation to account for the quality of its safeguarding work. As of 2012, members are mainly Directors and Assistant Directors, drawn from:

- City of London Community and Children's Services
- City of London Police

- Children & Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)
- East London NHS Foundation Trust
- GP representative
- Hackney Council for Voluntary Services
- Hackney Schools
- Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- The Learning Trust
- London Borough of Hackney Adults Social Care
- London Borough of Hackney Children and Young People's Services
- London Borough of Hackney Drug Action Team
- London Probation Service
- Metropolitan Police Service - including Borough Police and the Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT)
- NHS East London & City
- Young Hackney

In addition and to ensure political scrutiny, the Local Authority **Lead Member for Children's Services sits on the Board as a 'participant observer' (non-voting).**