



city & hackney
safeguarding
children board

CHSCB Business Plan 2017-2019

Updated April 2017

Vision

“Children and young people in the City of London and Hackney are seen, heard and helped; they are effectively safeguarded, properly supported and their lives improved by everyone working together.”

The City & Hackney Safeguarding Board (CHSCB) Business Plan sets out the strategic intent of the CHSCB in making this vision a reality. It underlines the statutory objectives of the CHSCB to coordinate and ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements with priorities set for 2017/19 being updated following partnership development sessions held in both the City of London and Hackney.

Our Principles

- Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility.
- To foster a single child-centred culture, that focusses all of our work on the safeguarding needs of vulnerable children and young people and improving their outcomes.
- At the core of our safeguarding and child protection work is the commitment to ensuring that children and young people are seen, heard and helped
 - **Seen in the context** of their lives at home, in friendship circles, health, education and public spaces (including social media).
 - **Heard** through professionals taking the time to listen to what children and young people are saying, putting themselves in the child or young person’s shoes and thinking deeply about what their life might truly be like.
 - **Helped** by remaining professionally curious and by implementing effective and imaginative solutions that make children and young people safer.
- To understand the quality of a child or young person’s individual experience in the unique context of their lives within the City of London and Hackney.
- To learn from these experiences and ensure that all of our work has a positive impact upon young lives.
- To foster a culture of continuous review and learning with evidence based practice.
- To characterise our work by an attitude of constructive professional challenge.
- To capitalise on the unique opportunities presented by a dual-borough board.

Priorities

The CHSCB Business Plan 2017-2019 is intentionally brief and focused on **strategic priorities** that form the basis of the work of the Board over the next two years. These priorities support the statutory functions of the CHSCB and the partnership response to protecting vulnerable children and young people, preventing harm and promoting their welfare.

For this plan, the CHSCB is enhancing its focus on responding to the **priorities of children and young people** that live in the City of London and Hackney, what they have specifically told us matters most to them and what needs to happen to make them feel safer and be safer. These priorities will remain flexible for the duration of this Business Plan and will be sharpened through the CHSCB’s ongoing engagement with children and young people.

Annually, the CHSCB will identify the specific actions required against each of these priorities with the detail being set out in the specific work plans of the Board’s sub groups and working groups.

Priorities of Children & Young People

The views and experiences of children and young people are currently captured through a range of different mechanisms used by both individual agencies and the CHSCB. Over 2017-19, the CHSCB is eager to capture the **authentic voice of children and young people**. We will do this through:

- Ad-hoc engagement based on specific projects
- Continuing to capture the voice of children and young people through well-established forums such as Children in Care Councils and Youth Parliaments.
- Implementing a range of new mechanisms designed at widening our reach and learning about what matters most to children and young people in the area that they live and in the context of how they live their lives.

Based on our engagement to date, the following top three priorities will be scrutinised by the CHSCB in terms of the action being taken to make children and young people safer.

Priority 1: Hearing and acting on our voices

Priority 2: Support for Friends

Priority 3: Safer Street Lighting

CYP Priority	Outcome	Actions 2017-19
Hearing and Acting on our Voices - Children and young people have told us that often, they don't feel listened to and that adults don't act on the issues or concerns that they raise	The voices of children and young people are better reflected in the CHSCB's business planning process and that actions taken by the CHSCB directly respond to issues and concerns raised by young people. Children and young people feel safer and are safer.	Implement a strategic framework that enables the CHSCB to systematically engage children and young people, identify key issues of concern to them - with the CHSCB coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of the response to these issues.
Support for Friends - Young people have told us that they are concerned about mental health / emotional wellbeing of their friends - arising from a range of sources such as social media, school exams and friendships.	Children and young people have access to effective support that helps them deal with a range of pressures arising from the different contexts in which they live their lives.	The CHSCB to facilitate engagement with children and young people to further explore the solutions that they see as applicable to this issue of how they can help support friends / peers in need.
Street Lighting Children and young people have told us that they feel less safe in areas where street lighting is poor	Street lighting in areas that children and young people feel less safe is improved – alongside ensuring there is a range of safe places and spaces that young people can go to learn and enjoy activities.	Engage with children and young people across the City and Hackney to identify geographic locations that are of concern and engage key agencies to develop improvements.

Priorities of the Partnership

Based on our own learning and that arising from a range of external inspections of Board partners, all of our work is underpinned by a focus on making sure that **Basic Practice** (as prescribed within statutory guidance and local procedures) is effective and of high quality.

Priority 1: The Local Safeguarding Context

Priority 2: Early Help & Early Intervention

Priority 3: Strong Leadership & Strong Partnership

Priority 4: A Healthy Workforce

A key focus within Priority 3 is how the CHSCB and partner agencies commit to **“Making the Invisible Visible.”** This reflects the importance that the CHSCB and partner agencies apply to **ALL** children and young people living in the City of London and Hackney and our collective focus on hard-to-reach groups and communities that are less engaged with public safeguarding services.

Strategic Priority	Outcome	Actions 2017-19
The Local Safeguarding Context	<p>Children and young people at risk of specific vulnerabilities in the City of London and in the London Borough of Hackney are seen, heard and helped. They are effectively protected from harm by robust and coordinated multi-agency intervention and support.</p> <p>The CHSCB and partner agencies focus on how to safeguarding children and young people in the context of their lives and in the context of what matters most in the areas that they live – context is key</p>	<p>To monitor the ongoing effectiveness and impact of the partnership in responding to previous Business Plan priorities of Domestic Violence, Neglect, Radicalisation and Female Genital Mutilation.</p> <p>To work with partners to deliver comprehensive, multi-agency arrangements that tackle the identified safeguarding priorities set out below; and to evaluate their impact on children and young people.</p> <p>Safeguarding children and young people in the context of their access to technology and use of social media.</p> <p>Vulnerable Adolescents</p> <p>Special Educational Needs and Disabilities</p> <p>Safer Workforce</p> <p>Strengthening oversight and safeguarding interventions across the diverse communities of the City of London & Hackney</p>
Early Help & Early Intervention	<p>Children and young people receive effective early help and appropriate interventions when needs are identified and/or problems arise.</p>	<p>To evaluate the effectiveness of early help arrangements across both the City of London and the London Borough of Hackney</p>

<p>Strong Leadership & Strong Partnership</p>	<p>The CHSCB leads the safeguarding agenda, challenges the work of partner organisations, and commits to an approach that learns lessons, embeds good practice and is continually influenced by children, young people and their families.</p> <p>Making the Invisible Visible: ALL children and young people are seen, heard and helped; with the public and professionals alike being alert to risk, being able to identify it and knowing how to respond to make sure children are safeguarded.</p>	<p>In the context of the Children and Social Work Bill and the proposed abolition of LSCBs, partner agencies will continue to commit to engaging in robust arrangements that coordinate and ensure the effectiveness of how children and young people are safeguarded.</p> <p>The CHSCB and partners successfully deliver against the Business Plan and associated work plans set for the CHSCB and its sub groups / working groups.</p> <p>Continue to strengthen the governance interface between the CHSCB and other key strategic forums and Chairs.</p> <p>Maintain the CHSCB Learning & Improvement Framework; scrutinise & challenge performance; identify, disseminate and embed lessons; engage with children, young people and families and evaluate the impact on outcomes.</p> <p>To communicate and raise awareness about safeguarding to individuals, organisations and communities.</p> <p>To consistently promote the importance of effective and swift information sharing, promoting a culture that puts the protection of children before the protection of information.</p>
<p>A Health Workforce</p>	<p>In the context of reducing public sector funding, the CHSCB is reassured that agencies have in place effective arrangements to support their staff deliver high quality safeguarding practice.</p>	<p>The CHSCB sets up a task and finish group to lead on designing and implementing a thorough health check of the organisational arrangements in place to support effective safeguarding practice.</p>