



**Hillingdon Safeguarding  
Partnership**



## **Independent Scrutiny: Areas for Consideration 2020-21**

Hillingdon Executive Leadership Group welcomes the findings of the Independent Review and Scrutiny of our safeguarding arrangements undertaken by Alan Caton OBE in 2021. In particular we are pleased with the conclusion that there are *'many strengths to the safeguarding arrangements for both children and adults across Hillingdon. I have found a strong partnership that is open to scrutiny and challenge and one that strives to continually learn and improve practice. I have not come across any areas of poor practice or weaknesses in the safeguarding arrangements.'*

The following summary outlines our response to the areas for consideration highlighted within the Outcome Letter.

The funding arrangements for the safeguarding partnership have been agreed by the Executive Leadership Group as meeting our local requirements. Our annual report provides an analysis of work undertaken across the Safeguarding Partnership, it is published on our websites and widely available across the partnership.

The chairing arrangements across the three strategic boards are considered on an annual basis. In 2021-2022 the responsibility for chairing our Executive Leadership Group has passed to the Metropolitan Police Service, our Safeguarding Adults Board is chaired by the Clinical Commissioning Group and our Children's Partnership Board by the Local Authority. The representation of all three statutory partners ensures that the ethos of shared and equal responsibility for safeguarding is integral to our safeguarding arrangements. Furthermore, our approach of 'rotating' the responsibility for leading each board builds scrutiny into the system.

We remain committed to ensuring the voices of children, adults, carers and their families are central to safeguarding practice. Hillingdon Healthwatch and Safeguarding Adults Board are contributing to the development of a pan-London Board consisting of adults who have lived experience of safeguarding. This will complement our local engagement strategy ensuring the contribution of community members.

Hillingdon Safeguarding Children Partnership has adopted the Pan London Threshold Document, this meets the criteria set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. The introduction of



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Stronger Families as the model for Early Help Services provided an opportunity to review and refresh the existing arrangements.

We recognise the value of accurate analysis of multiagency data to inform our local safeguarding arrangements and are building upon our existing 'dashboard' reporting system to the Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children Partnership Board.

Safeguarding does not happen in isolation; we acknowledge the need for relationships and joint planning with other existing strategic boards and work closely with our partners and leads across the strategic network.

Hillingdon ELG will continue to commission Independent Scrutiny on an annual basis in line with our statutory duties. As set out above our approach to leadership within, across and between the statutory partners promotes ongoing scrutiny of our arrangements informed by a detailed knowledge of local need, our strengths, and our opportunities for development as a partnership.

Fran Beasley  
Chief Executive  
London Borough of Hillingdon

Peter Gardner  
Borough Commander  
Metropolitan Police Service

Jennifer Roye  
Chief Nurse  
North West London CCG