****

**TOWER HAMLETS SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP**

**(THSCP) ARRANGEMENTS**

December 2024

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## **Introduction and background to the partnership**

The core objectives of the Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership (THSCP) are to coordinate local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to ensure the effectiveness of what the member organisations do individually and together.

[Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/669e7501ab418ab055592a7b/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_2023.pdf) sets out clear expectations on how local safeguarding partnerships should develop a responsive and agile system to ensure all children are safeguarded.

In line with this statutory guidance, the purpose of these local arrangements is to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where:

* Children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted.
* Partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children.
* Organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively.
* There is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats.
* Learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice.
* Information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families.

These revised multi-agency arrangements will come in to force from December 2024 in compliance with Working Together 2023. The THSCP commits to reviewing these arrangements on an annual basis and at the point of any future updates to Working Together to Safeguard Children.

## **Tower Hamlets Context and Demographics**

Key Demographic Data for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets:

* At the time of the most recent census in March 2021, Tower Hamlets had the fastest-growing population of any local authority area across England and Wales. Between 2011 and 2021 the local population grew by 56,200 (**22.1%**) to 310,300.
* Tower Hamlets was the most densely populated borough in England with **15,695 residents per square kilometre** compared to an average of 424 people per square kilometre in England – that is over 37 times higher than the mean average population density for England.
* In 2021, the median age in Tower Hamlets was **30** – the youngest of any area in England and Wales. The borough had the smallest proportion of older people aged 65+ in England and Wales.
* Children and young people represent a slightly smaller proportion of all residents than in 2011, despite a numerical increase. By contrast, the number of older children grew significantly since the last census, with **almost 6,000 more children aged 11-17** in 2021 than in 2011.
* **15.8%** of households were overcrowded (had too few bedrooms for their needs), representing 30% of residents. **44%** of all households with dependent children are overcrowded. **75%** of all overcrowded households have dependent children in them.
* 32,666 households had dependent children. This was **27.1%** of all households. This was a lower proportion than both England and Wales (28.3%) and London (31.3%)
* Just under two thirds (63.4%) of adults (aged 16+) identified themselves as economically active with **58.7% of adults** being in employment. The proportion of female Tower Hamlets residents who are in employment is significantly below the levels for both London and Great Britain.
* In 2021, Tower Hamlets had a total economic output, or ‘gross value added’, of around **£38.8 billion**, accounting for 8% of the economic output in London. This makes it the third highest of any area in the UK and higher than any of the core UK cities outside of London
* **19.2%** of the population was income-deprived in 2019. Of the 316 local authorities in England (excluding the Isles of Scilly), Tower Hamlets is ranked 22nd most income deprived.
* **26.5%** of children in Tower Hamlets were living in relative low-income families and **20.7%** in absolute low-income families before housing costs in 2023. That was the equal 42nd highest proportion and 46th highest proportion respectively among UK local authority areas (of 361). Tower Hamlets had the 2nd highest proportion of children living in relative and absolute low-income families among London Boroughs after the City of London. After peaking in 2020, there has been a general downward trend in the proportion of children living in both relative and absolute low-income families.
* Recorded crime in Tower Hamlets rose to a peak in October 2023 and has fallen since. The number of recorded offences in the year ending September 2023 was **36,147**.
* The number of children cautioned or sentenced per year has been steadily declining, with a total of **72 in 2022-23**. This is 68% lower than 2013-14 (222).

## **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements**

### Membership of THSCP

The Working Together Arrangements state that:

*‘A safeguarding partner in relation to a local authority area in England is defined under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act, 2017) as:*

*(a) the local authority*

*(b) an integrated care board for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area*

*(c) the chief officer of police for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area’*

In line with the latest guidance, the lead safeguarding partners (LSPs) and delegated safeguarding partners (DSPs) are as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Agency** | **Lead Safeguarding Partner** | **Delegated Safeguarding Partner** |
| London Borough of Tower Hamlets | Chief Executive | Director of Children’s Services |
| North East London Integrated Care Board | Chief Executive/Chief Nursing Officer | Deputy Director for Safeguarding Children |
| Metropolitan Police | Assistant Commissioner – Frontline Policing | BCU Commander – Central East |

The allocation of the LSP role, specifically for the Police, presents some challenges in a large, urban region such as London. The Chief Officer in the Metropolitan Police is the Assistant Commissioner (Frontline Policing) who has responsibility for all 32 boroughs and therefore is not practically able to have real strategic input into London’s Safeguarding Children’s Partnerships[[1]](#footnote-1). Therefore, although the Assistant Commissioner is listed as the LSP, the Borough Commander will be significantly more involved in local safeguarding practice and attend bi-monthly meetings with the Chief Executive of the local ICB on the LSP’s behalf. Further opportunities to engage the Assistant Commissioner are being explored through the [London Safeguarding Children Partnership](https://www.londonscb.gov.uk/about-the-board/) (LSCP), of which they are a member, and any changes will be reflected in these arrangements. The LSCP is a regional body which meets quarterly and aims to support London’s local safeguarding children partnerships to meet their statutory obligations to safeguard children.

The LSPs named above are ultimately responsible for discharging their individual statutory and legislative functions and assuring themselves of the effectiveness of local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. They are responsible for setting the strategic direction, vision and culture of the local safeguarding arrangements and will be kept updated through an annual system-wide meeting with the Chief Executives and Borough Commanders from across the NEL footprint.

In line with existing local agreements, the named DSPs will maintain day-to-day responsibility for decision making and approvals within the partnership and holding relevant agencies to account for their agreed contributions. This enables timely and efficient responses from the three statutory partners. Oversight will be achieved through the established Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership Board (see section below on governance) which is chaired by the DSPs on a 6-monthly rota.

The three statutory agencies have representation at every THSCP meeting.

### Geographical area of the partnership

As with the majority of Safeguarding Partnerships, the THSCP is set on the Local Authority geographical footprint where the two other local statutory agencies cover a wider local footprint.

Metropolitan Police Basic Command Unit covers two local authority areas: Tower Hamlets and Hackney

Integrated Care Board North-East London Health and Care Partnership covers eight local authority areas: Barking & Dagenham, City of London, Hackney, Havering, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest.

### Relevant Agencies

The THSCP is made up of a wide range of agencies who contribute to all areas. These agencies include but are not limited to:

* Local Authority including:
  + Childrens Social Care
  + Early Help
  + Early Years
  + Exploitation
  + Housing
  + Education Safeguarding
  + Public Health
  + Young People’s Service
  + Youth Justice Service
* Health Services including:
  + Integrated Care Board - North East London Health and Care Partnership
  + Barts Health (including Midwifery)
  + East London Foundation Trust
  + GP Care Group
* Metropolitan Police
* Education Providers
  + Post-16 Providers
  + Secondary
  + Primary
  + Early Years
  + Special
  + Faith
* Voluntary & Community Organisations
* Relevant Providers
  + Residential Homes
  + Secure Settings
  + Clearsprings Ready Homes
* Adult’s Services

### Principles of the partnership

The THSCP has three principles which underpin all aspects of the partnership.

**Child Protection**

Working Together 2023 defines safeguarding as:

* Providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge
* Protecting children from maltreatment
* Preventing impairment of children's health or development
* Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
* Promoting the upbring of children with their birth parents, or otherwise their family network through a kinship care arrangement, whenever possible and where this is in the best interests of the children
* Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Ultimately all of these involve a focus on the protection of children, the THSCP has adopted an all-encompassing definition of Child Protection to ensure all safeguarding agendas refine their focus and impact to support the overall child protection offer in the borough.

**Assurance**

The THSCP oversees agencies are compliance with the wider safeguarding agenda and ensures the voices of the child is captured in all areas of work.

Building upon Ofsted, CQC and JTAI recommendations the partnership has developed into a dynamic approach to assurance. Which includes a programme of:

* Clear lines of governance and scrutiny
* Audit activity
* Reviews
* Using data to inform practice.
* Assurance reports
* Engagement activities
* Annual Report

**Learning**

Learning and supporting partners is critical to ensure children are safeguarded and lessons learnt from statutory reviews are disseminated, implemented, and embedded.

The THSCP ensures that partner agencies take on board recommendations from reviews and audits.

The THSCP has a ‘whole system approach’ to learning.

The THSCP supplies a small amount of training but brings partners together in opening training courses for other agencies, running awareness events, conferences, and update on key safeguarding topics via an e-bulletin.

### Financial arrangements

The Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership has a shared budget to further its objectives. Partner agencies agree contributions at the end of the calendar year for the following financial year. There are significant differences between the Statutory Partners in terms of both remit and available resources available to support the funding partnership system. The local policing budget is determined by the Mayor’s Office of Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and discussion of available budget for local safeguarding is held at Pan London level. The THSCP is working towards an equal funding model. The expenditure of the partnership funds the following:

* THSCP Business Salaries
* Independent Scrutineer
* Young Scrutineers
* Training & Awareness Programme
* Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews
* Events – Venues etc.
* Targeted Improvement Programmes

### Priority setting

The priorities projects work on a 2-year cycle and the aim is to improve multi-agency practice into targeted areas. Every two years the Executive will have an extra-ordinary meeting to set priority areas. For the decision making a consultation period is held with, they are invited to workshops or wide scale event and a survey is sent out. Pre-established children’s and young people’s groups are consulted alongside the Young Scrutineers.

The Executive are supplied with the following for decision making:

* Feedback from partnership consultation events
* Feedback from children and young people’s groups
* Survey analysis
* The most recent data dashboard
* Overview of audits from the last 2 years
* Overview of themes from Rapid Reviews and CSPRs from the last 2 years
* Summary of priorities from other boards

Once the priorities are decided an event is held with partners to feedback. Priorities are set in early summer and established in September.

The priorities fall under the ‘Delivery Group’ which oversees all the improvement activity into the priority areas.

When the lifespan of the priorities ends, a ‘reflections session’ is held with partners involved to review ‘what went well’ and ‘what could be improved’ to carry learning on to the next phase of projects.

### Thresholds

The THSCP have adopted the Pan-London Thresholds, this is to ensure consistency with neighbouring boroughs and to ensure families are supported who may move across London. Thresholds training is now set up to take place 3x per year for all partners.

### Escalations and dispute resolution

The THSCP has published an escalation and dispute resolution policy with named individuals in each agency which can be used for immediate operational or strategic escalations. Partner agencies can escalate to the THSCP Executive Group/ the three named partners within any sub-group via an escalation tracker which is utilised for more long-term strategic escalations directly related to the partnership.

In the event of a disagreement between any of the DSPs or LSPs, advice may be sought from the Independent Scrutineer to enable resolution as quickly as possible. Where this is irresolvable, legal advice may be sought by statutory partners.

## **Structure of the partnership**

### Governance arrangements

The THSCP has a robust governance structure led by a small executive group, named the Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership Board, which consists of the three delegated statutory partners and the chairs of the core multi-agency sub-groups. The Executive Group has the day-to-day accountability for ensuring the THSCP upholds its statutory responsibilities and duties and holds agencies to account for their works.

Below the Partnership Board is a series of multi-agency sub-groups, chaired by relevant senior leaders nominated by the DSPs. These key leads are responsible for chairing, engaging, contributing, and carrying out actions within their relevant group. Each group has its own terms of reference and objectives.

The below graphic outlines the structure of the THSCP and its core sub-groups. This structure will be live from January 2025.



#### Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership Board

**Purpose:** The Executive Group oversees the THSCP, which aims to continue to promote and support multi-agency working across all areas of safeguarding. Fixed agenda items include a quarterly performance update report on all sub-groups and key business, Independent Scrutineer reflections, multi-agency data dashboard, escalations, and Rapid Reviews and CSPRs updates. The Board includes representation of senior leaders from all of the statutory partners and the Director of Education to ensure the views of the education sector influence strategic discussions.

**Chair:** The chairing function is rotated between the DSPs every six months. The individual who chairs is ultimately responsible for the THSCP and signs off on all decisions within their period of governance.

**Membership:** DSPs, chairs of sub-groups, Independent Scrutineer, THSCP Strategy Manager, THSCP Coordinator

**Meeting frequency:** The group meets quarterly, with an additional four topical meetings in between core board meetings.

#### Quality Assurance and Performance

**Purpose:** The Quality Assurance and Performance Group oversees the business part of the partnership, which includes (but is not limited to) reviewing multi-agency data, new policies and procedures, audits and action plans that arise from statutory reviews. This group enables appropriate challenge of the work of individual agencies and the wider partnership.

**Chair:** Director, Supporting Families – Local Authority

**Membership:** Local Authority Representatives from Education Safeguarding, MASH, Quality Assurance, Youth Services, Exploitation Team, Learning Academy, Community Safety. Health Representatives from: Barts Health, GP Care Group, East London Foundation Trust, Designated Dr, Designated Nurse, Public Health. Police, Community and Voluntary Sector, THSCP Manager and THSCP Apprentice for note taking. Membership is subject to change depending on agendas and forward plans.

**Meeting frequency:** Quarterly.

#### Delivery Group

**Purpose:** The THSCP Delivery Group is responsible for collaboratively building a workable project plan in relation to the agreed partnership priorities. The group will oversee the delivery of the key actions, escalating risks to the Partnership Board as necessary.

**Chair:** Detective Superintendent, Public Protection - Police

**Membership:** Representatives from the key statutory partners, key leads for each priority area, THSCP Strategy Manager, THSCP Coordinator or Apprentice for notetaking.

**Meeting frequency:** Bi-monthly.

#### Education Safeguarding Forum

**Purpose:** This group meets to discuss the themes of safeguarding they are seeing on the ground in education settings. These meetings may include speakers from THSCP agency partners to share awareness with schools into key topics. This group provides an opportunity for all education settings to be consulted at an operational level to impact on decision making in the partnership.

**Chair:** Director, Education – Local Authority

**Membership:** Representatives from all education settings (primary, secondary, post-16, specialist, nurseries, AP), Education Safeguarding representatives, THSCP Coordinator, THSCP Apprentice for notetaking.

**Meeting frequency:** Termly.

#### Rapid Review and Learning Forum

**Purpose:** The Rapid Review and Learning Forum is responsible for ensuring that learning from Statutory Reviews is implemented across the Partnership and that partners collaborate on training delivery, awareness raising events and disseminating single agency training offers.

**Chair:** Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children, NEL ICB – Health and Principal Social Worker, Supporting Families Division – Local Authority

**Membership:** Representatives from the following organisations – Met Police, NEL ICB, GP Care Group, CAMHS/ELFT, Barts, Health Visiting, School Nursing, Learning Academy, LA CSC (Safeguarding & Quality Assurance, MASH/FSP, LADO, Education Safeguarding Team, Early Help, Exploitation), Adult Social Care, Public Health, Education Settings

**Meeting frequency:** Quarterly.

#### Strategic Missing and Exploitation Group

**Purpose:** This meeting is delivered through the Supporting Families Division and runs alongside MACE (THSCP do not support the MACE meetings as they are operational). The group reviews exploitation data, strategies and emerging themes from MACE.

**Chair:** Director, Supporting Families - Local Authority

**Membership:** Representatives from Met Police, Local Authority (Youth Justice Service, Exploitation Team, SQA, Virtual School, CLA), Health (GP Care Group, NEL ICB)

**Meeting frequency:** Bi-monthly

#### Rapid Review Panel

**Purpose:** The Rapid Review Panel meets within 10 days of a Serious Incident Notification being made to the Department for Education. The members must review all information from agency checks, identifying any immediate learning and accessing the threshold for a CSPR.

**Chair:** Head of Service for Quality Assurance – Local Authority

**Membership:** Head of Service for Quality Assurance, Met Police, Designated Doctor for Safeguarding (NEL ICB), Designated Nurse for Safeguarding (NEL ICB), Named GP (NEL ICB), THESS, Lead Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children (Barts), Named Safeguarding Professional (ELFT), THSCP Manager and Co-ordinator. Additional partners invited on a case-by-case basis.

**Meeting frequency:** Whenever triggered by a referral/SIN.

### Reporting and data

* A Business Management Report is supplied to the THSCP Executive each quarter outlining key activity of the partnership, subgroups, Rapid Reviews, Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, budget position and horizon scanning of national updates to note.
* An Independent Scrutineer Reflections Report is supplied to the THSCP Executive each quarter, outlining key scrutiny activity and key challenges.
* Forward Plans are supplied for each group.
* An annual report with partners' contributions is written to cover all activity of the THSCP; the THSCP Executive signs off the Report and goes via the Local Authority democratic processes for Cabinet and Member oversight and information. The Report is published in July/August of Each Year.
* A Multi-Agency Safeguarding Children Data Set is supplied to the Quality Assurance and Performance Group, where it is analysed in detail with key partners presenting; the analysis is added in annotation to the dashboard and then supplied to the THSCP Executive for consideration. All data is anonymised. The following partner agencies/ teams feed into the dashboard:
  + Childrens Social Care
  + Exploitation Service
  + Early Help
  + Young People’s Service
  + GP Care Group
  + East London Foundation Trust
  + Metropolitan Police
  + Integrated Care Board
  + Child Death Overview Panel
  + THSCP Business Unit – CSPRs, Rapid Reviews and Training Compliance.
* On an annual basis, the Quality, Assurance and Performance Group reviews all annual reports from key safeguarding agencies, including but not limited to Child Protection, Local Authority Designated Officer, Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, Integrated Care Board, and Barts Health.

### THSCP Business Unit

The THSCP is supported by a business unit, hosted by the Local Authority, which consists of:

* Strategy Manager
* Safeguarding Children Partnership Coordinator
* Safeguarding Governance Apprentice

The Business Unit are responsible for:

* Administration including setting up all meetings and boards, minutes, papers, action trackers and agendas.
* Annual report
* Audits
* Briefings
* Collation of data dashboard
* Commissioning CSPR authors/ support for authors
* Communications, including website and bi-monthly bulletins.
* Compliance
* Escalations
* Finance/ budget
* Forward plans
* Membership and support for partners
* Performance and update reports
* Programme/ project plans
* Rapid review support and decision sheets
* Strategy and policy
* Training, awareness, and engagement events
* Young Scrutineers

### Information sharing

Transparency and appropriate and timely sharing of information underpins the entire safeguarding partnership. The [Pan-London Information Sharing Procedures](https://www.londonsafeguardingchildrenprocedures.co.uk/info_sharing.html) are adopted in Tower Hamlets, which gives guidance and a framework to all agencies involved with safeguarding children.

Agencies share information on operational levels to continue supporting and safeguarding children when necessary, proportionate, and justified to do so. In addition, anonymised data is shared for the multi-agency data dashboard, and case-level information is shared for Rapid Reviews, Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Multi-Agency Audits, compliant with Working Together 2023. Partner agencies are expected to contribute data to these key areas to support the continuous improvement of safeguarding for children.

### Coordination with wider boards

To effectively deliver the functions of the Safeguarding Children Partnership, the Business Unit holds a quarterly meeting with the leads for other relevant boards in Tower Hamlets to ensure our activity is aligned and that any shared risks are appropriately escalated. This includes the following boards:

* Safeguarding Adults Board
* Community Safety Partnership
* Tower Hamlets Together
* Health and Wellbeing Board
* Corporate Safeguarding Board
* Partnership Executive Group

## **Independent Scrutiny**

*“The role of independent scrutiny is to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases” and “The independent scrutineer should consider how effectively the arrangements are working for children and families as well as for practitioners, and how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership and agree with the safeguarding partners how this will be reported.”* – Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

The functions of the Independent Scrutineer, as set out in Working Together 2023, are to:

* Provide safeguarding partners and relevant agencies with independent, rigorous, and effective support and challenge at both a strategic and operational level.
* Provide assurance to the whole system in judging the effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements through a range of scrutiny methods.
* Ensure that statutory duties are being fulfilled, quality assurance mechanisms are in place, and that local child safeguarding practice reviews and national reviews are analysed, with key learning areas identified and effectively implemented across the safeguarding system.
* Ensure that the voice of children and families is considered as part of scrutiny and that this is at the heart of arrangements through direct feedback, informing policy and practice.
* Be regarded as a ‘critical friend’ and provide opportunities for two-way discussion and reflection between frontline practitioners and leaders. This will encourage and enable strong, clear, strategic leadership.
* Provide independent advice when there are disagreements between agencies and safeguarding partners and facilitate escalation procedures.
* Evaluate and contribute to multi-agency safeguarding published arrangements and the annual report, alongside feeding into the wider accountability systems such as inspections.

The THSCP employes an Independent Scrutineer for 2 days a month. The Independent Scrutineer attends the THSCP Executive and Quality Assurance and Performance Group. As above, their role is to ensure the THSCP is compliant, act as a critical friend and support the continuous improvement and development of the partnership.

The Independent Scrutineer routinely meets with partners via 1:1’s, focus groups and workshops. Each quarter the Independent Scrutineer submits a ‘reflections report’ to the Executive Group.

### Young Scrutineers and the voice of the child

Listening to the voice of children and acting on their feedback is crucial to the success of the Partnership. To enable us to effectively involve children and young people in all areas of the Partnership’s work, the THSCP hosts three Young Scrutineers aged 16 or 17 to support with wider scrutiny activity. They work up to 4 hours a week and are paid employees. The contracts last for 2 years giving a wide range of children and young people in Tower Hamlets opportunities for the roles.

They have a pivotal role in setting priority improvement projects, reviewing new policies and procedures and creating their own documentation for the THSCP. They also engage directly with senior leads across the statutory partners and relevant agencies, presenting feedback and findings to key THSCP groups as appropriate.

The Young Scrutineers also link with other pre-established young people’s engagement groups to ensure a wide range of voices influences our activity. This includes working with the Young Mayor and the wider Youth Council, the Children in Care Council, our Young Carers, Police Cadets and the CAMHS Participation Group.

## **Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews**

The THSCP Rapid Review Protocol is a guidance that gives all partners practical advice on the process for safeguarding reviews locally, including Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. This protocol is continuously updates when any changes to the procedures are made.

The overall aims of Rapid Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR) are:

* To improve the safeguarding of children and young people where possible within Tower Hamlets through review of local processes, procedures and cases.
* To support the delivery of high-quality services through identification of areas for improvement.
* To strengthen through proportionate candour and constructive challenge the safeguarding partnership to deliver an integrated and comprehensive offer for children and young people.

The Rapid Review Panel is a multi-agency partnership group of the THSCP tasked with considering cases that have hit a Serious Incident Notification Threshold.  The THSCP may conduct a CSPR when a child is seriously harmed or dies because of abuse or neglect and the Threshold is met. But meeting the criteria does not mean that safeguarding partners must automatically carry out a CSPR. Factors include whether there is already a CSPR open or recently conducted containing the same themes and whether there is a need for further systemic learning.

When the criteria for a CSPR is not met but there are possible learning / key issues arising from the case, actions for agencies will be added to the ‘Statutory Review Action Plan’, which is where all actions from Rapid Reviews or CSPRs are kept and monitored. The Action Plan sits under the Rapid Review and Learning Forum who have responsibility for ensuring actions are completed and embedded.

The final decision about conducting a CSPR lies with the THSCP Executive Group. When the criteria for a CSPR is met, the THSCP Executive will recommend the methodology which will be decided on a case-by-case base. The National Panel is notified of the THSCPs final decision.

Each CSPR is conducted in partnership with all agencies involved in the case, as detailed above a bespoke approach is taken for each case which could include external or internal authors. The THSCP aims to ensure the reviews are thematic and they may incorporate more than one case. Reviews aim to be complete within 6 months of the Rapid Review. They are anonymised and published.

The family/ support system around the child will always be consulted and asked to feed into the process if appropriate. They are notified at the beginning of the process, throughout and will see draft reports prior publication where their views will be taken into consideration if appropriate.

Above is a high-level overview of the 15-day Rapid Review process.

## Learning cycle

The most crucial part of Rapid Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews is embedding the learning. In addition to the actioning all the recommendation via the Rapid Review and Learning Forum, the THSCP delivers the following:

* 1 month after each Rapid Review a 30-minute online session open to all THSCP partners is held to give anonymised learning from the case discussed at panel.
* An anonymised log is kept with all Rapid Review and Child Safeguarding Practice Review Themes. A separate log is also kept for themes from cases considered at Serious Incident Notification. This is used in management meetings across agencies.
* The Rapid Review Chair, THSCP Manager and Co-ordinator visits agencies to present on the key themes and findings from reviews.
* After each CSPR a half a day learning workshop is held with all partners at publication stage.
* Bulletins with key learning from cases is sent out to all partners.
* One year after a CSPR is published a half day partnership workshop is held to review the implementation of learning and raise awareness of key themes.

## **Multi-agency learning, training and development**

## Audits

To ensure the THSCP has a full overview of safeguarding multi-agency audits are held into topical areas. The THSCP aims to hold at least 2 multi-agency audits per year. Agencies rotate in chairing the audits. Cases are requested from all agencies and 6 cases are chosen to audit, all agencies submit analysis of their involvement, and a half-day workshop is held to highlight good practice and areas for improvement. The outcomes of the audits are picked up by the Rapid Review and Learning Forum and the Quality Assurance and Performance Group.  
Training, awareness and communication

The THSCP commissions a small amount of training, covering the basics of safeguarding and more advance safeguarding courses. In addition, the THSCP liaises with key charities, national and local partnerships to open training for the partners. This is compiled into a Training Calander which is sent out via an e-bulletin and within papers to sub-groups.

The THSCP host awareness sessions throughout November ‘Safeguarding Month’, which consists of a large-scale conference and smaller online workshops into relevant topics to the priority areas. Additional awareness session may take place throughout the year.

The THSCP delivers e-bulletins to the partnership distribution list at least twice a month containing information on:

* + Training courses
  + Advice on safeguarding topics
  + Updates on priority areas
  + CSPR Recommendations
  + Request for feedback such as workshops and surveys.
  + National updates on Safeguarding

## Child death review system links

The system of Child Death review is held by the Local Authority and Clinical Commissioning Group the geographical footprint covers City and Hackney, Waltham Forest, Newham, and Tower Hamlets. The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is responsible for reviewing the death of every child in the local area and carry out themes review meetings for high volume or high complexity deaths.

The CDOP feeds into Rapid Reviews when required via the Named Nurse for Safeguarding, and learning is reviewed by the Rapid Review and Learning Forum. In addition, learning is disseminated and shared via the THSCP e-bulletin.

1. In line with feedback from The Association of Safeguarding Partners, [*Letter to DfE r.e. LSPs and DSPs*](https://www.theasp.org.uk/MEMBERSSITE2020/MEMBERSSITE2020/NEWS/Policy---Government-Engagement.aspx), August 2024 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)