

London Borough of Hillingdon (LBH) response to National Safeguarding Review

Committee name	Children, Families and Education Select Committee
Officer reporting	Alex Coman – Children’s Services
Papers with report	London Borough of Hillingdon (LBH) response to National Safeguarding Review
Ward	All

HEADLINES

The report attached informs the Children, Families and Education Select Committee of the Hillingdon’s review of Children with disabilities and complex health needs who are children looked after and placed in residential special schools which are also registered as children’s homes.

This report was considered by the Corporate Parenting Panel on 24 January 2023 but has been brought to the Select Committee to highlight the work undertaken.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee notes the content of the report and the outcome of the review.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

In October 2022 the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel published phase 1 of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel’s review into the safeguarding of children with disabilities and complex health needs in residential settings. The phase 1 report looks in particular at the experiences of 108 children and young adults placed from 55 local authorities at three specialist, independent, residential settings between 1 January 2018 and 21 March 2021. These settings were located, Doncaster, and run by the Hesley Group.

The investigation uncovered abuse and serious harm of some of the most vulnerable children in our society and a complex criminal investigation into what happened to these children is being progressed by South Yorkshire Police. The Panel is of the view that it should not wait for the outcomes of criminal investigations before we seek to learn what changes to safeguarding practice are needed.

In light of the seriousness of the review’s findings, the Panel asked Directors of Children’s Services (DCSs) to initiate urgent assurance action about all children placed in similar types of provision.

DCSs in every English local authority completed quality and safety reviews of every child placed

in similar types of provision for whom they are responsible.

This is intended to provide reassurance that the setting meets the child's needs. Equally the DCSs have been asked to review any Local Authority Designated Officer investigation in such settings in their area.

DCSs are asked to report the findings of their review to the Children Partnership Safeguarding board and to Corporate Parenting Panel.

The report attached provides Hillingdon's response to the points above.

PERFORMANCE DATA

None.

RESIDENT BENEFIT

When a child or young person enters the care of the Council, the role of being a parent is shared by the local authority with the child's parents. The Corporate Parenting principles and ethos support the delivery of services and support to all our children who are in the care of Hillingdon Council, regardless of where they live.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Safeguarding children with disabilities in residential settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/107222/Safeguarding_children_with_disabilities_in_residential_settings.pdf)