

7-minute briefing: Safeguarding self-assessment audits

Aug 2025

1) Background: the LSCP is responsible for measuring the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements and ensuring agencies in Lambeth with functions relating to children and their families are effectively discharging their duties under S11 of the Children Act 2004 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Self-assessment audits are one method of discharging this duty.

2) About the audit: the LSCP issued self-assessment tools to statutory partners, education providers and relevant agencies. 131 tools were returned, including 88 schools and colleges, key NHS organisations and 28 GP providers, 3 public protection agencies and key local authority services.

3) What did we learn – areas of strength?

- ✓ Leadership across Lambeth is committed to safeguarding and multiagency working.
- ✓ Agencies have named people responsible for safeguarding at both leadership and operational levels.
- ✓ Safeguarding training is provided in all staff and volunteer inductions, with staff in key safeguarding roles accessing more specialist training.
- ✓ Recruiting staff are trained in safe recruitment practices.
- ✓ Most agencies have comprehensive safeguarding and child protection policies, reviewed at least bi-annually.
- ✓ Most agencies are confident their staff and volunteers are aware of safeguarding duties and able to identify children who would benefit from early intervention.
- ✓ Staff and volunteers can access support after traumatic incidents and allegations of abuse/complaints against them.

4) What did we learn – areas for improvement?

- Limited participation from voluntary & community sector (VCS) agencies means effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in this sector was not measured.
- Not all adult providers were aware of or able to evidence compliance with safeguarding duties.
- Not all job descriptions included clear safeguarding roles and responsibilities.
- Not all safeguarding leads receive appropriate supervision.
- Not all commissioners made arrangements to comply with LSCP minimum standards.
- Not all induction, training and policy includes specific reference to harm outside the home, peer-on-peer abuse and violence against women and girls (VAWG).
- VAWG topics are not consistently included in school keeping safe curriculum.
- There was an apparent lack of awareness of the LSCP Multiagency Escalation policy.
- Not all agencies make children aware of their right to be protected and display information about how to report safeguarding concerns.
- Not all agencies have access to interpreting services.

5) What will we do next?

- ✓ We will seek assurance from adult providers that they are compliant with safeguarding duties.
- ✓ We will develop and publish model statements, processes and guidance on our website.
- ✓ We will explore ways to ensure safeguarding leads receive specific safeguarding supervision.
- ✓ We will raise awareness of our multiagency escalation policy.
- ✓ We will explore the feasibility of pooled interpreting services.
- ✓ We will consider how to strengthen links to the VCS sector and measure effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in this area.

6) What can I do next?

- ✓ Visit our [website](#) to access multiagency policy, procedure and guidance.
- ✓ Watch a [short video](#) about our multiagency escalation pathway or read our policy.
- ✓ Access our [free training](#) to develop knowledge and skills on key safeguarding themes.