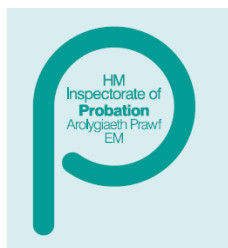


London Borough of Camden

Joint inspection of multi-agency child protection arrangements

Short report for children and young people



What is this report about?

This report is to tell you what we found when we did an inspection in Camden in December 2012. The inspection looked at how good the different services in Camden are at helping to keep children safe.

Who wrote this report?

Inspectors from the organisations in the list below worked together to do this inspection:

- Ofsted – looked at how children and young people are kept safe by workers in children’s social care services and education
- Care Quality Commission – looked at how children and young people are kept safe by health workers
- Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary – looked at how children and young people are kept safe by police
- Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Probation – looked at how children and young people are kept safe by probation and youth offending team workers

How did we find out what to put in the report?

The inspectors watched and spoke to lots of different people whose job it is to keep children safe, including: social workers, teachers, doctors, nurses, police officers, probation officers, and youth offending workers. We also spoke to a number of children and young people and their families/carers.

We call the different people who work together to protect children the ‘agencies’.

In the area where you live, the local council and a group of people called the Camden Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB) watch over the agencies to make sure that everyone is doing their bit. We spoke to the local council and CSCB to find out if they were doing a good job at getting everyone to work together.

Overall we think that the agencies in Camden are good at protecting children and young people and keeping them safe.

All of our grades are shown in the table below:

OUTSTANDING ✓✓✓

Doing really well at keeping children and young people safe.

GOOD ✓✓

Good at keeping children and young people safe.

ADEQUATE ✓

Just about OK at keeping children and young people safe.

INADEQUATE X

Not doing enough to keep children and young people safe.

The difference that the agencies make to keeping children, their families and carers safe is good.
The things the agencies do to keep children safe are good. They are good at listening to children and understanding what they need.
The agencies are good at working together to make sure children are safe and things get better for them.

Here is a summary of the things we found at the inspection that were generally **good or outstanding** and the things we told the agencies:

Camden is good at meeting children and young people's needs when they need specific help. Many services are helping parents to improve their children's health and general well-being.

When children and families want advice, professionals ensure that the diverse background of families is taken into account and translators help parents and carers who need support to communicate their views.

Children centres are good places where help is given to parents who have very young children. Many workers in these centres can speak different languages and they do 'Welcome Calls' to families as soon as they arrive to live in Camden.

The senior people who lead on protecting children in the borough are very good at listening to children and young people so that they can improve services for them. For example, young people are given opportunities to tell health people what to do better through the 'You're Welcomed' and 'Real Talk' initiatives. The sorts of topics being discussed are sexual health, mental health and services provided by GPs.

Staff from agencies are clear about what they have to do to protect children from harm. Work to protect unborn babies is excellent when adults have health issues or take risks which could affect their unborn child.

School staff coordinate support for young people quickly where there are serious problems at school or at home. Teachers work well with family support workers, social workers and local police officers to protect young people from taking unnecessary risks.

When there is an investigation into serious concerns about the safety of a child, police officers do the interview very carefully and sensitively to ensure that they get all their facts right. They also use well thought-out interview questions to ensure that young people with disabilities can respond fully.

Young people who have broken the law receive support to make sure that they are engaged in positive activities and continue their education or training.

Here is a summary of the things we found at the inspection that were generally **adequate** and the things we told the agencies:

All agencies still need to ensure that they share information quickly if young people need help. For example when young people who break the law are discussed at what officers call the 'Youth Disorder Panel' it is important that everyone avoids delay so that these young people re-engage in learning, training or other positive activities. Also, GPs or the police must provide detailed information promptly when they need the help of social care professionals.

Parents who have children on a child protection plan are not always able to talk to someone who could help them say what they think. This means that some parents lack confidence and do not always understand how to make things better for their children. Also few children attend child protection meetings and this means that they miss an opportunity to have a say in what is planned for them.

Here is a summary of the things we found at the inspection that **needed improving** and the things we told the agencies:

It may not always be possible for young people who really want to speak to a school nurse to be able to do so because there are not enough of them currently and, as a result, they have to focus on the young people who have the highest needs.

In a few cases, some young people have been detained overnight in police cells when they shouldn't have been.

More work needs to be done to keep some young people safe including those who are at risk of being taken advantage of by adults who try to use money and drugs as a way of getting them to have sex.

More work needs to be done make sure that people working for Probation understand how children and young people can be hurt and upset when an adult is violent in the home.

We gave the agencies the full inspection report on *insert publication date*. If you would like to look at this you can find it at:

insert link. **Publication details not applicable to pilots.**

The agencies will now prepare a plan to show how they will improve things. It will also say when they are going to talk to children and young people about what they are going to do and which groups they are going to talk to.

If you would like to talk to someone about this report, you can get in touch with Ofsted:

- phone us on 0300 123 1231
- email us on enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

If you are worried about something, big or small, you can phone Childline on 0800 1111. You can also get in touch with the Children's Right Director on 0800 528 0731, who can raise issues that he thinks are important about the rights and welfare of children or young people.