

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN TOWER HAMLETS 2015-16

Tower Hamlets
Safeguarding
Children
Board



The Local Safeguarding Children Board is here to help keep children and young people free from abuse or neglect.

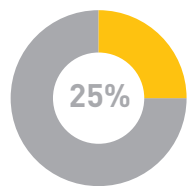
POPULATION

284,000

We have the fastest growing population in the country



53% of state school pupils are eligible for free school meals

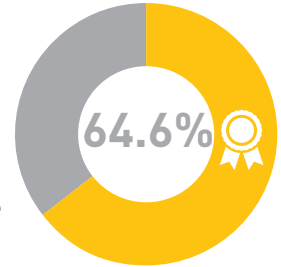


25% of our population are under 19

49% of children are living in poverty. Compared to London average of 37%

EDUCATION

64.6% of children achieved 5 grade A*- C passes including English and Maths, compared to the national average of 57.3%



84% of 11 year olds exceeded the national average for reading, writing and maths. The national average is 80%.

VULNERABLE CHILDREN



Most children grow up safe, happy and well. However, a small number of children and young people face some serious challenges in their lives.

The rate of children subject to a child protection plan per 10,000 population is 50.1. The percentage of children subject to child protection plan by category are:
Emotional Abuse **49%**
Neglect **28%**
Physical Abuse **19%**
Sexual Abuse **3%**
Multiple Abuse **1%**

Children living with domestic violence is the most common reason why children become subject to a child protection plan (emotional abuse)

HEALTH

77.5 years – life expectancy for a man vs. 79.4 years national average

82.6 years – life expectancy for a woman vs. 83.1 years national average

45% of five year old children experienced tooth decay compared to 28% nationally

9.3% of babies born have a low birth weight compared to 7.7% in London



22.5% of children aged 4-5 years are obese compared to 21.9% nationally

A SAMPLE OF THE BOROUGH

If you took a sample of 10,000 children in the borough, you would find:

529 would be referred to Children's Social Care in a year, compared to 594 in London

8.3% referrals required no further action compared to 13.8% for England. This suggests appropriate support at the point of contact.

53 children would be looked after, compared to 70 in London

50.1 children would be subject to a child protection plan compared to 42 across England

779 children in need would get help and support from Children's Social Care, compared to 702 across London



ACTIVITY OVER THE LAST YEAR

COMMUNITY WORK



2 female genital mutilation (FGM) community mediators appointed

4 specialist FGM child protection advisors appointed

87 children were identified and accessed FGM specialist support

40 community events reached **142** women, **120** men and recruited **20** peer champions to deliver FGM preventative messages



FGM training in schools reached

480 girls

180 boys

200 school staff

PRIORITIES FOR 2016-17

Priorities for next year will continue to focus on improving our work in the following areas:

1. Early Help and Early Identification

Ensure we are working well to provide the right help at the right time

2. Radicalisation and Extremism

Improve our knowledge, practice and multi-agency response to children and young people at risk

3. Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing Children

Ensure we have effective arrangements in place to support victims and perpetrators of sexual exploitation and those at risk of serious youth violence.

LEARNING FROM SERIOUS CASE REVIEWS:

The LSCB has completed one serious case review this year. The findings suggest professionals need to:

- Learn more about emotional abuse & neglect experienced by young and older children and how this impacts on their behaviour and relationships
- Recognise harmful sexual behaviour earlier in childhood
- Work better with parents who are harder to engage
- Help children living outside Tower Hamlets receive the therapeutic support they need



The LSCB analysed learning from all case reviews completed in the last four years. These suggest professionals working with children need to know more about:

- Fractured family relationships
- Violence from children towards parents and siblings
- Impact of childhood trauma on later life
- Vulnerable children becoming dangerous adolescents



For more information, visit www.lscb-towerhamlets.co.uk