

# London Rapid Reviews Analysis Report (2024-2025)

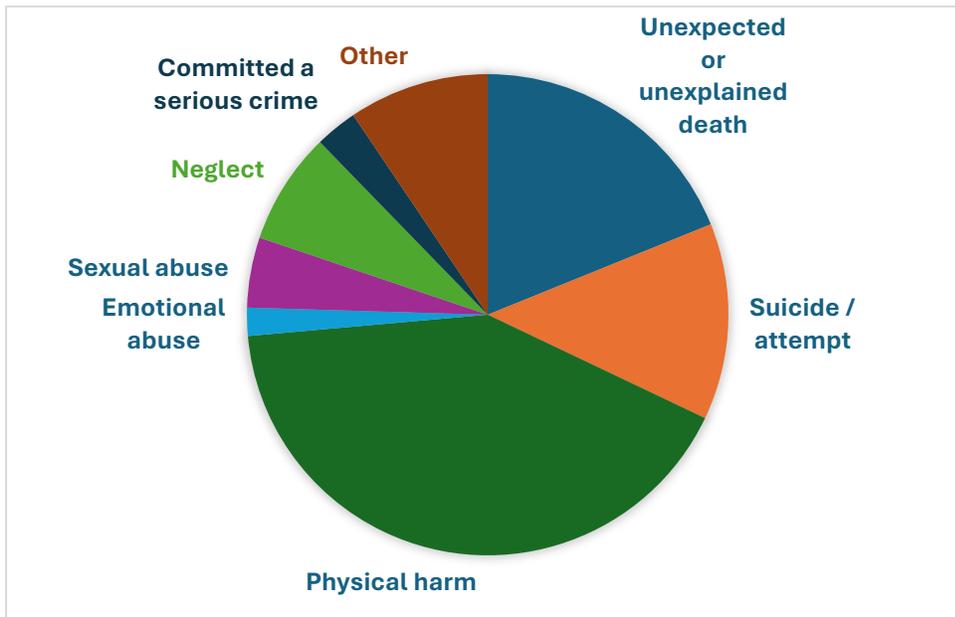
## Executive Summary

# Executive Summary: London Rapid Reviews Analysis Report 2026

## Context & Purpose

This report is the second annual analysis of Rapid Reviews carried out by Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships (LSCPs) in London between April 2024 and March 2025. The analysis is carried out with the aim of helping the Partnership to prioritise work around emerging themes, informing the training offer and providing information and resources to LSCPs. This year's report focusses on the changes in trends and themes from last year's report, in particular housing, children not in education and cross-border information sharing.

## Overview



This year, a lower proportion of Reviews were carried out due to neglect, however neglect remained a feature in over a third of Reviews. There were also fewer Reviews where the subject child was accused of committing a serious crime. Close to 50% of Reviews were about children who had experienced physical abuse, with half experiencing extra-familial harm, predominantly stabbings. Thirteen children who were victims of physical harm died as a result, with several others suffering life changing injuries. The next most common type of harm was an unexpected or unexplained death. The fact that Reviews have to be completed within fifteen working days means that often full post-mortem results are not yet available.

## Key Findings

- Less than half of school aged children subject to reviews were attending school, instead accessing alternative provisions, Elective Home Education (EHE) or being out of education altogether.
- 59% of children had Special Educational Needs, Disabilities (SEND) or mental health issues.
- A quarter of children aged 5-15 were being educated at home. All of these children had SEND, and several had their health needs unmet.
- There was a theme of poor implementation of 'Was Not Brought' policies in health settings and a lack of consideration of children not being brought to health appointments as a possible indicator of neglect. Similarly children experiencing neglect were often not attending school or had low attendance and this was not always appropriately considered as an indicator of neglect.
- Housing insecurity and overcrowding affected 29% of families, an increase of 50% compared to last year's report. This increased the vulnerability of already vulnerable children and their families.
- A quarter of children moved between local authority areas, often several times, prior to the notifiable incident and in many circumstances, this impacted information sharing and the quality and consistency of support they received.
- Multi-agency working was also challenging where children were accessing services in different Local Authority areas to where they lived. This was a particular issue for children experiencing extra-familial harm and especially where children were Looked After and were placed outside of London.
- Finding appropriate education and social care placements was a challenge for children who were Looked After who had complex needs. This increased their vulnerability to extra-familial harm.

## Areas for Improvement

- Cross border information sharing, both where the multi-agency team was situated in different areas and when families were moving between areas
- For strategy meetings to be more robust and effective in terms of the agencies represented, professional curiosity and challenge and the prompt and consistent sharing of actions
- A need for a consistent 'Think Family' approach. This was a particular issue in cases of extra-familial harm where the risks posed to younger children in the home were not always considered
- For practitioners to always consider the impact of domestic abuse on children, even when there had not been recent reported incidents. When relationships had ended, ongoing coercive control was not always considered. Additionally, the potential impact of having witnessed domestic abuse in their childhoods was not considered in terms of how children perceived violence, particularly in cases of extra-familial harm
- A more robust approach to engaging housing in multi-agency safeguarding work, from MASH referrals up to a strategic level

## Recommendations

Recommendations have not been made for every issue identified in this report. This is because there is already extensive work being undertaken by LSCPs on some topics and recommendations would not necessarily contribute to this.

- For the London SCP and Editorial Board to work with LSCPs and other partners to review the London Safeguarding Children Procedures with regard to cross border information sharing and case transfer and to establish if changes are required or if work is needed to improve practice
- For the London SCP and Editorial Board to work with LSCPs and other partners to review the London Safeguarding Children Procedures with regard to Strategy Discussions and to establish if changes are required or if work is needed to improve practice. The London SCP should also work ensure that improved practice in this area is embedded through the Social Care Reforms
- For the London SCP training programme to include training in their offer to help practitioners to understand the long term impact of domestic abuse on children and to have a trauma informed approach to working with families who have experienced domestic abuse, even if it is believed to be historical
- For the London SCP to work with the London Housing Directors Group and other housing agencies to develop best practice on engaging housing in multi-agency safeguarding work, both operational and strategic
- For the London SCP to work with LSCPs to build on the work of the Rapid Review Analysis to create a repository of London LSCPRs and develop real time intelligence regarding ongoing SINS and Rapid Reviews

The logo for the London Safeguarding Children Partnership is centered at the top of the page. It consists of the text "London safeguarding children Partnership" in a white, sans-serif font, enclosed within a white, stylized oval shape that resembles a protective shield or a protective embrace.

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