



# Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR)

## Operation Lanark: A Short Guide to the Review

We recognise that this is an extremely difficult and upsetting situation, and we want to acknowledge the emotional impact it may have on you. Please take care when reading this and go at a pace that feels right for you.

### 1. Operation Lanark - Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR)

A Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) is a formal process that takes place when something very serious happens that affects a child's safety. The purpose of the review is to understand what happened and to learn how agencies and organisations can work better together to keep children safe in the future. A review must be carried out when a situation:

- Shows that changes may be needed to improve how children are protected, even if these issues have been raised before.
- Reveals patterns or recurring themes about children's safety and wellbeing.
- Highlights concerns about how well different agencies worked together, such as children's service, health, education, police, or early years services.
- Has been considered by the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, who then recommend that the review should happen locally.

The Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) has initiated a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) following a serious safeguarding incident involving child sexual abuse perpetrated by Vincent Chan (VC), at a nursery, and an education setting. The purpose of this review is to fully understand what happened, identify learning, and strengthen the way agencies and services work together to keep children safe. This summary outlines what the review will cover, how it will be conducted, who will be involved, and what the expected outcomes are. Sarah Lawrence has been appointed as the Independent Reviewer supported by Kate Haythornthwaite who is an independent early years sector expert.

## 2. Operation Lanark – Police investigation

Operation Lanark was a Metropolitan Police investigation into child sexual abuse carried out by Vincent Chan (VC). The investigation first looked at his work at a nursery in the London Borough of Camden, where concerns were identified. Police subsequently discovered indecent and digitally altered images of children on his devices, prompting them to review his earlier employment in schools and community settings in Barnet.

Between December 2025 and February 2026, VC pleaded guilty to 56 offences committed over many years in nurseries, school and community environments. These offences included sexually assaulting young girls, creating and taking indecent images, upskirting, and acts of public indecency. On 12 February 2026, he received an 18-year prison sentence, followed by an eight-year extended licence period, meaning he will continue to be monitored after release. He is also subject to a Sexual Harm Prevention Order, and his details will be monitored for life through the Disclosure and Barring Service.

## 3. Scope of the Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR)

The Review will examine events from 1 November 2006 to 31 December 2025, focusing on how safeguarding arrangements operated within the nursery, school and wider education settings, and how agencies responded during this period. Its purpose is to understand what happened, identify system-level learning, and strengthen safeguarding practice across the partnership. The Review will adopt a whole-system approach, considering how organisational culture, recruitment, oversight, decision-making, and multiagency processes interacted over time.

## 4. Methodology

The review will use an approach that looks at how the whole system around a child works, following the guidance in *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023*. This means the review will not focus only on individual actions, but on how different services, processes and decisions interacted over time. To do this, the review will:

- look at key documents and evidence, and create a clear timeline of events to gain a good understanding of what happened
- hold focus groups with different agencies to gain a clear understanding of safeguarding practice and how agencies worked together
- listen carefully to families and giving them space to reflect on what happened
- identify themes, patterns and key learning and consider local and national recommendations.

Reviewers will bring all of this information together and produce a full Overview Report, along with short Learning Briefings to share key messages with professionals across all agencies.

## 5. Engagement with Victims, Families and the Community

Family involvement in the review will be handled with great care. We understand how difficult this situation is, and any contact with families will be undertaken with compassion, and sensitivity. An Independent Family Engagement Facilitator has been appointed to ensure that families are supported, informed, and able to participate safely and meaningfully in the LCSPR. Families will have chances to share their views on a range of topics – including the safeguarding culture, how communication worked, the use of digital devices, staff changes, and how confident they felt when raising concerns.

The Independent Reviewer will offer a range of ways for families to take part, so each family can choose what feels right for them. Throughout the process, safeguarding partners will make sure families have access to independent support, so they feel safe, heard and supported every step of the way. Families whose children have been identified as victims will continue to receive support from their Specialist Police Contact Officers, as well as from specialist services working with children affected by child sexual abuse.

## 6. Key Lines of Enquiry - What the Review will look at

The review will look closely at several important areas to understand what happened and how safeguarding can be strengthened. Main themes include:

- **Safeguarding oversight and culture in the nursery and the school settings**  
The review will look at how well safeguarding was understood and put into practice, and whether there were any gaps between what policies said and what happened day-to-day.
- **Safer recruitment and safeguarding checks**  
The review will examine what checks were carried out pre-employment, and how they contributed to risk identification and workforce safety.
- **Staff stability in the nursery sector**  
It will consider whether staff turnover, may have affected the culture of the nursery and made it harder for staff to challenge poor practice.
- **Digital device use including CCTV**  
The review will look at how digital devices were managed within the nursery/school, how policies on technology use were applied, and whether there was enough oversight to keep children safe.
- **Whistleblowing and “speak up” culture**  
The review will explore whether staff had safe, trusted, and accessible pathways to raise concerns, and whether the organisational environment supported transparency and professional challenge.
- **The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) process**  
It will review how concerns about staff were managed, timescales involved and how decisions were made.
- **Regulation, inspection and local intelligence**

*This document includes sensitive information that some readers may find upsetting.*

It will consider how regulatory and inspection checks worked in practice, and how local knowledge and professional insight could be used more effectively, to strengthen safeguarding.

These areas of focus are not exhaustive, and additional lines of enquiry may be identified by the independent reviewer as the review progresses.

## 7. Agencies Involved in the Review

A wide range of organisations will be invited to contribute to the review to help build a full and accurate picture. These include:

- London Metropolitan Police Service
- Camden Council Children's Services
- Bright Horizons nurseries
- The Lighthouse
- Central North-West London - Health Visiting
- NHS Health Services
- Barnet Council Children's Services
- Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)
- Ofsted
- NSPCC
- School in London Borough of Barnet
- Teaching agency located in London

Other agencies may be included in the review if they become relevant as the work progresses.

## 8. Governance and Oversight

Governance for the review includes an LCSPR Oversight Group, an LCSPR Panel, Family Engagement Groups and several focus groups involving different agencies. National bodies such as the Department for Education, Ministry of Justice, Ofsted and the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel will also provide additional information and advice on how any local learning might help to shape national policy.

## 9. Timeline

The LCSPR will take place from January 2026 to autumn 2026. During this time, the review will include evidence-gathering, family engagement, focus groups, analysis, report writing, and publication of the findings. This timeline may be extended if further evidence emerges that would be helpful to include in the review.

## 10. Communication and sharing key messages

We aim for our communication to be clear and compassionate throughout the review. Updates will be shared on [Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) and [Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) websites. Families will have the opportunity to engage with the review throughout. Regular updates will be provided as the review progresses and before anything is published.