



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. Please contact the Independent Review Team on Safeguardingreview-Oplanark@camden.gov.uk with any questions or to find out more about support services available to 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 children are seriously harmed. 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 by local safeguarding partners 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 abuse perpetrated by Vincent Chan (VC), at a nursery, an education setting and in the community. 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 is the Independent Reviewer supported

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by Kate Haythornthwaite, an independent early years sector expert and Cindy Gilmore as the Family and Victim Engagement Facilitator.

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 focused on concerns arising from his work at a nursery in the London Borough of Camden. VC was initially arrested on suspicion of child cruelty following concerns raised by a colleague regarding videos he had recorded of male children in his care at the nursery. During the subsequent police investigation and examination of his electronic devices, officers identified a significant volume of indecent images of children, including Category A material depicting the most severe forms of child sexual abuse. This prompted police to review his earlier employment in school and community settings in Barnet.

Between December 2025 and February 2026, VC pleaded guilty to 56 offences committed over many years across nursery, school and community environments. These offences included sexual offences against female children, the taking and making of indecent images of children, voyeurism offences and offences relating to the covert filming of children and adult women. He pleaded guilty to 26 offences relating to his time at the nursery. Following the discovery of further material on his electronic devices, he admitted an additional 30 offences, some of which related to his employment at a Primary School between 2007 and 2017. On 12 February 2026, VC was sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment, followed by an extended license period of eight years. He was also made subject to a Sexual Harm Prevention Order and will remain subject to notification requirements for life.

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

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

4. Methodology

The reviewers follow the guidance given by the Government in *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026*. The focus of the review is on how different services, processes and decisions interacted over time. To support this, the Independent Reviewers will;

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- look at key documents and evidence, creating a detailed timeline of events to gain a good understanding of what happened over the 20 years covered by the review
- hold meetings and focus groups with people working in different agencies to gain a clear understanding of safeguarding practice and how agencies worked together
- listen carefully to families and victims 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 and adult victim involvement in the review continues with great care. We understand how difficult this situation is, contact with families is being undertaken with compassion and sensitivity. Cindy Gilmore is an Independent Family and Victim Engagement Facilitator who has been appointed to ensure that families are supported, informed, and able to participate safely and meaningfully in the LCSPR. Families and victims will continue 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 Reviewers will continue to 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. Victims and 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, parents/carers and adult victims affected by sexual abuse.

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

The review looks 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 looks 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 examines what checks were carried out pre-employment, and how they contributed to risk identification and workforce safety.
- **Staff stability in the nursery sector**

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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 looks 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 explores 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 reviews how concerns about staff were managed, timescales involved and how decisions were made.

- **Regulation, inspection and local intelligence**

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

- **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and perpetrator-focused practice**

This theme examines how well services identify and respond to VAWG, with a strong focus on understanding, managing, and holding perpetrators accountable, while ensuring the experiences of victims and children remain central.

- **Diversity, Equality and Cultural Context**

The review will explore how well Equality Diversity and Cultural context is embedded in safeguarding practice, including the impact of community or faith dynamics on recognising and responding to concerns.

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.

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8. Governance and Oversight

Governance for the review includes an LCSPR Oversight Group, as well as national bodies such as the Department for Education, and the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, who 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 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 and victims will have the opportunity to engage with the review throughout with updates provided as the review progresses and before the report is published.