



**Lewisham  
Safeguarding**  
Children Partnership

## **Safeguarding Practice Review City & Hackney Child Q**

### **Lewisham Safeguarding Children Partnership Publication Statement**

**April 2022**

#### **Statement**

In March 2022, City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership released its review Child Q. The review looked at the experience of a Black female child of secondary school age, who was stripped and searched by female police officers from the Metropolitan Police Service.

The search took place on school premises, without an appropriate adult present and with the knowledge that Child Q was menstruating.

The review concluded that Child Q should never have been strip searched, and found across many of the professionals involved that day, there was an absence of a safeguarding-first approach to their practice.

Lewisham, as a partnership, have considered the report and its findings. Like others working with children and families, we were shaken by the report and the experience of Child Q. As a partnership we are committed to addressing discrimination in practice, and ensuring that organisations working with children comply with our agreed safeguarding arrangements and procedures.

In response to the report we have been assured that a local police briefing and training has been undertaken. Data on stop and searches involving intimate searches has been reviewed. To ensure that intimate searches are compliant with procedures, our police partners have commitment to undertaking an audit of stop and searches of children in Lewisham.

To prevent such an incident happening in Lewisham we are working closely with our partners to ensure that professionals working with children and young people have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities. The LSCP have a robust training and development programme in place for all those working with children and young people in the borough.