

## Final Conclusion and Recommendations

This CSPR has gathered a wealth of information from a wide variety of multi-agency services, community services, community members, practitioners and families. Based on this very significant breadth of knowledge and lived experience, a number of suggestions have been made to strengthen the local and national response to extra-familial harm and serious youth violence. It is important to acknowledge that the challenges of preventing extra-familial harm/serious youth violence are systemic, involving significant national, strategic and resourcing issues many of which are out of reach of local services and the CSCP. However, this does not mean that services have stood still since the tragic deaths of these three children/young people and the convictions of those associated with their deaths.

There has been a very significant local response by the partnership and the community to these tragedies. Community and statutory services have adapted and evolved with new initiatives and new ways of working being established. It is of critical importance to note that since 2022, whilst there has been an increase in knife enabled offences, there have been a significant reduction of children/young people dying from serious youth violence in Croydon. This is a testament to the dedicated work, of statutory and community services and the people of Croydon, to find creative solutions together.

This CSPR is concluding at the time of the Government response to the independent review of social care<sup>28</sup> has been published<sup>29</sup>. This response sets out five key pillars that underpin the forthcoming changes in how children/young people and their families will be supported – several of these key pillars are relevant to the experiences of the children/young people who are the subject of this CSPR. In recognition of these expected national changes, and of the local initiatives that have commenced, it was concluded that it would be unhelpful to set out a set of recommendations that may be at risk of duplication, may be redundant now/overtime or may contradict the direction of travel of the Croydon partnerships which has been informed by contemporary local intelligence and service evolution.

When consulting with families, panel members, community representatives, community members, senior leaders and practitioners about the recommendations that need to be made, it is clear that it is they who know the local area best, and it is they who are best placed to conclude what more needs to be done in Croydon to progress the learning detailed in this CSPR. Therefore, three recommendations are made accompanied by a broad set of principles (set out at the beginning of this report) to support the future direction of travel.

### Recommendations

1. **Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership to actively seek evidence to demonstrate how the 10 Key Principles (K.I.D.S. V.O.I.C.E.S.) are being applied across multi-agency services, schools, and across various panels and strategy forums and seek evidence of impact.**
2. **The voices of children/young people, family members and the community should be actively sought to achieve co - production in the future design of services.**
3. **Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership to highlight the national issues raised in this CSPR with relevant national bodies such as the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.**

<sup>28</sup> The independent review of Children's social care. Final Report. J. Mac Alister May 2022

<sup>29</sup> Children's social care: Stable homes built on love. DfE Feb 2023 h