

NHS North West London Child Death Review Team

Annual Report 2023 - 2024
Health and Wellbeing Board



What we look for

- Cases that should be notified as a serious incident
- Cases affecting the safety and welfare of children
- Wider public health or safety concerns
- Ways to improve holistic care for any children and their families
- Good practice and opportunities to improve



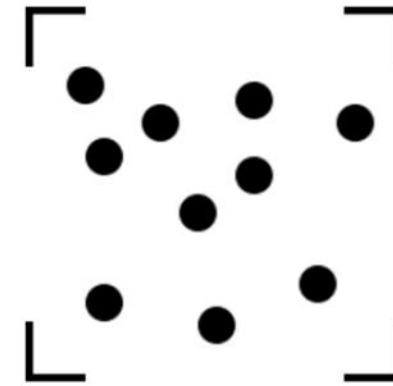
Seeking clarity

- Clarify the cause of death
- Determine whether there are contributory factors
- Identify any learning that may prevent future deaths
- Make recommendations to relevant organisations where actions have been identified that might prevent future deaths
- Provide data to the National Child Mortality Database.

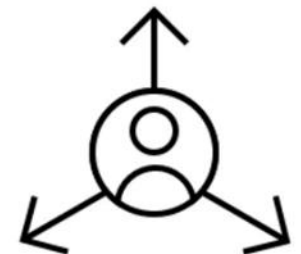


2024 From geography to typology; themed panels

- During 2023-2024 NWL convened three different CDOPs
 - A neo natal panel for all babies under 28 days old (neonates)
 - Flute panel which reviewed non “neonates” resident in Brent, Harrow, Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and the City of Westminster.
 - Triangle panel which reviewed non “neonates” resident in Hounslow, Ealing and Hillingdon.
- In September 2024 we have made a change to themed panels:
 - Neonatal
 - Trauma
 - Sudden and unexplained deaths (SUDI)
 - Medical
 - Palliative



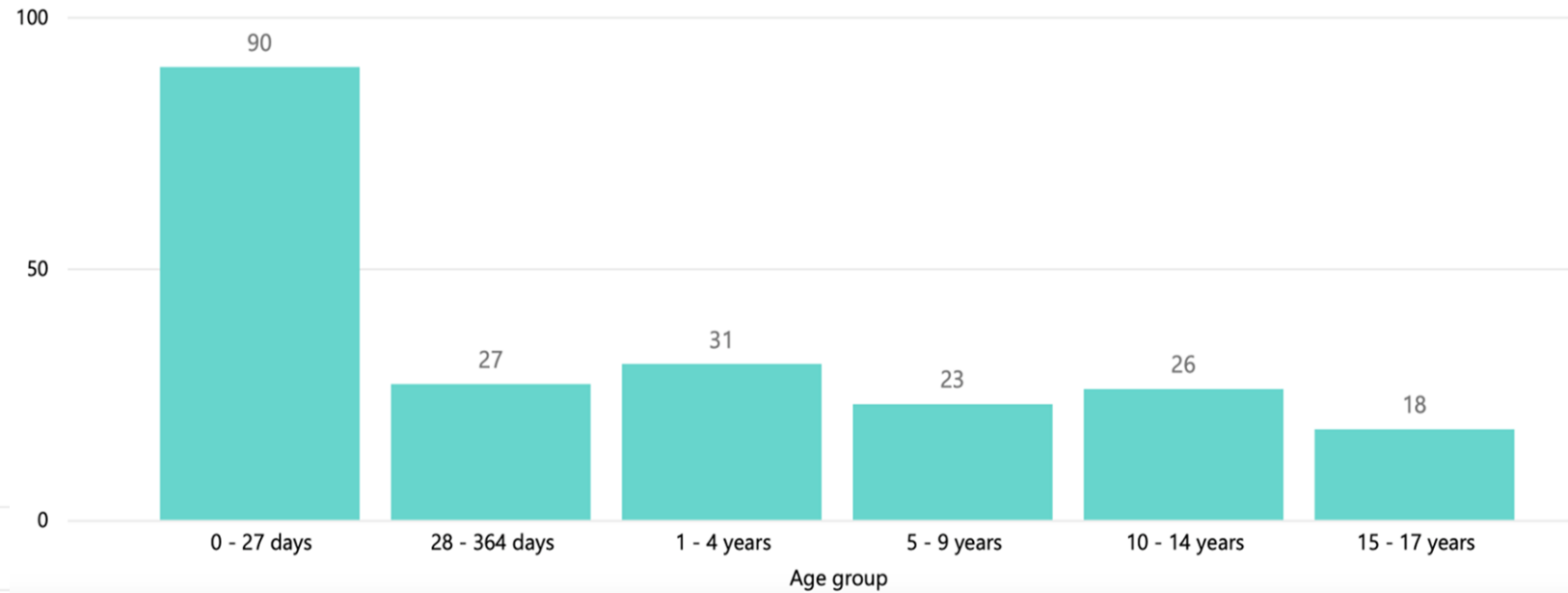
CONTEXT



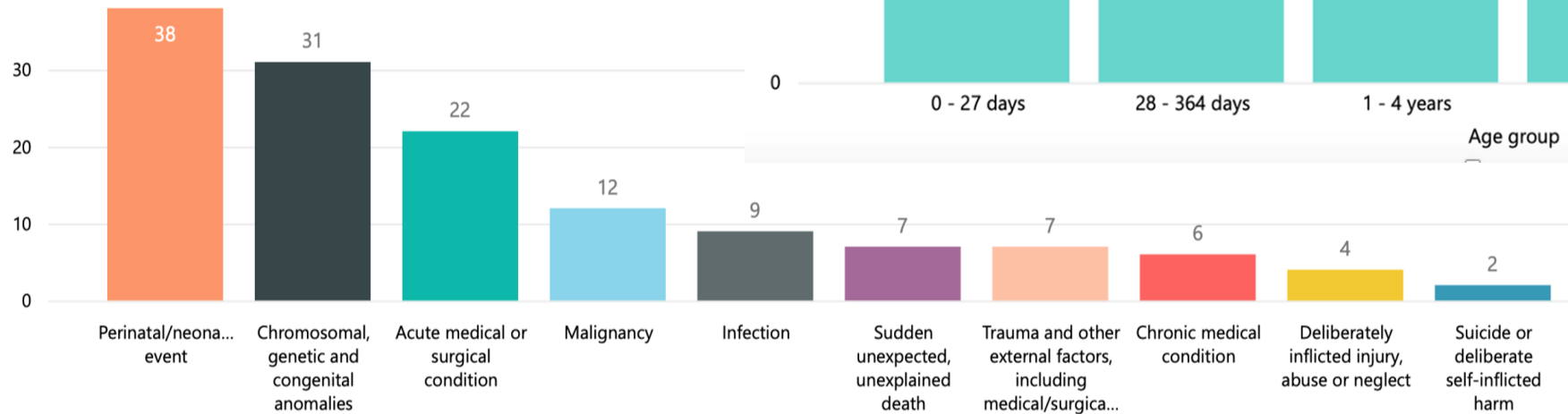
PRESENTATION/

Causes and ages of Death

Number of ongoing cases by age group and status of case



Completed CDOP reviews by primary category of death



Cases by local authority area

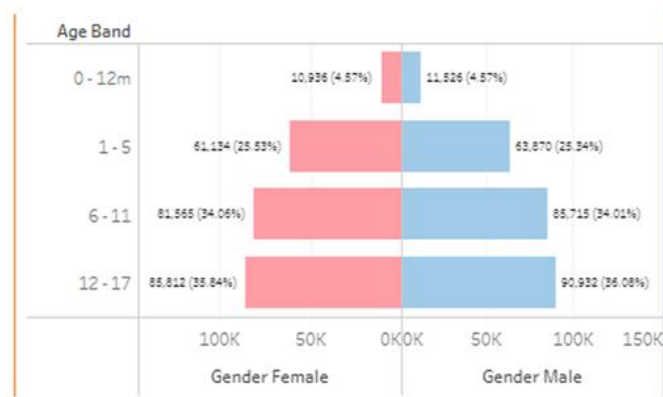
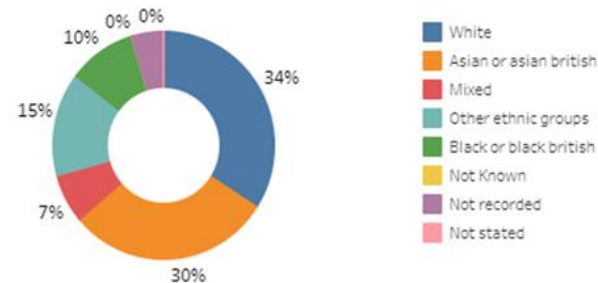
Local Authority	Deaths Notified	Cases Finalised
Brent	26	21
Ealing	24	22
Hammersmith and Fulham	14	12
Harrow	16	23
Hillingdon	20	22
Hounslow	28	16
Kensington and Chelsea	4	5
Westminster	12	17
Total	144	138

In 2023/24 The CDR Team chaired 55 JAR meetings. Table 1 shows how over five years, while the number of child death notifications (except for a fluctuation during COVID) has remained consistent, the number of JARs has increased. This could suggest an increase in unexpected deaths.

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
No of Death Notifications	150	131	117	145	144
No of JARS	25	25	30	58	55

Ethnicity & Disproportionality

Ethnicity



While it seems reasonably clear from the data that children from minority ethnic communities are disproportionately represented in the child death data base, the gathering of ethnic data remains a challenge for the CDR process and more work needs to be done on this to fully understand disproportionality.

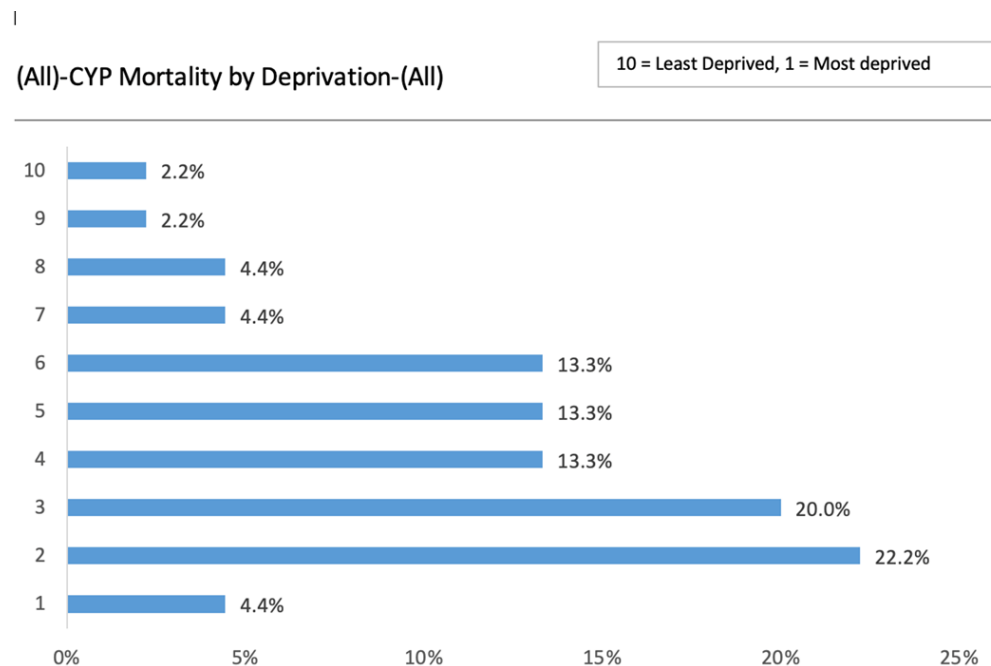
Deprivation – a mixed picture

Health Inequalities

- 1 in 10 people have diabetes or non-diabetic hyperglycaemia (NDH) (1 in 16 nationally).
- 1 in 5 adults (18+) has two or more long-term conditions compared to 1 in 4 nationally.
- Alcohol admissions in Ealing are above the average in England, with 2,200 admissions a year per 100,000 people (England 1,815).
- Rates of emergency hospital admissions for self-harm are twice as high in Hounslow as they are Harrow.
- 1 in 4 of our 10-11 year-olds are obese (1 in 5 nationally).
- 17.1% of people in Hillingdon smoke, versus 9.2% in Ealing (13% across NW London - 14% nationally).
- 38,000+ (11%) children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years have a mental health disorder (12% nationally).

Social and Economic Inequalities

- 28.6% of people do not have English as a first language (8% nationally)
- 8.7% households are overcrowded (3.5% nationally)



Modifiable Factors and Achievements

- **Modifiable Factors:**

- 33% in NWL v 48% nationally
 - GPs prescribing to patients abroad
 - Epilepsy in drivers
 - Defibrillators in public spaces
 - Risks of teenagers placed on adult ITU wards
 - Out of hours community nursing
 - Shooting Stars as keyworkers

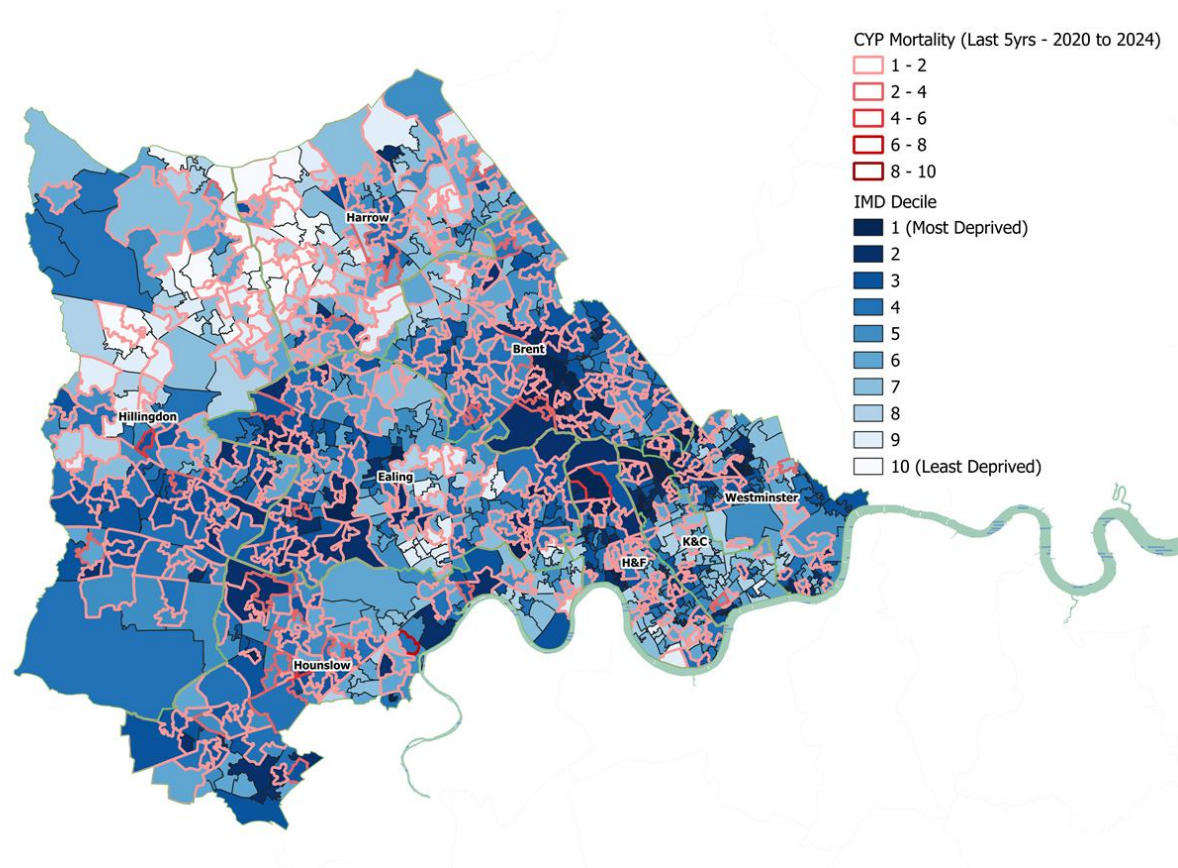
- **Achievements in 23/24:**

- Worked with local bereavement charities across NWL to ensure that CDR staff and partners understand what is available for families.
- Collaborated with South West London CDR service to produce a London learning event concerning the deaths of young people from knife wounds.
- Encouraged Coroners to reopen cases where the Panel concluded that the coronial outcome had not been informed by all the evidence that had subsequently become available.
- Requested forensic post-mortems where significant concerns had been identified through information shared at JARs.

Further action required

- Interpreters
- Misaligned long lines
- Consanguinity
- Gestational diabetes and race / ethnicity
- Placental histology
- GBS trial (reporting in 2025)
- Parents not calling emergency services when children are seriously unwell

The H&F Challenge



- Nearly four times as many children live in poverty in Hammersmith and Fulham's poorest ward 45% as in the richest ward 12.2% (30% nationally).