**THE LIGHTHOUSE PILOT**

**Partnership Agreement**

**This Partnership Agreement defines the agreed ways of working between partners and agencies involved in The Lighthouse in London. The aim is to ensure all organisations involved are clear about their roles and responsibilities and are aligned in their vision to provide a child-centre journey** **after a child or young person has experienced sexual abuse.**

The UK’s first Child house - **The Lighthouse;** has been funded by the Home Office, NHS England, MOPAC and DfE. NHS England has commissioned the health and wellbeing services, which will be provided by University College London Hospitals (UCLH), The Tavistock and Portman (TPFT) and National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), supported by Morgan Stanley.

The Lighthouse provides a child-centred journey after a child or young person has experienced sexual abuse. It provides a coordinated approach to supporting children and young people who have experienced sexual abuse. The aim is that children, young people and their families receive the justice, support and therapy in a timely manner meaning that they can move forward towards recovering from the abuse.

Instead of putting a child through an adult-facing system, The Lighthouse focuses on meeting the needs of the child.

The concept is simple and in line with best practice, the European PROMISE agreement and evidence from abroad. The aim is to provide a service, which is centred around the child. Rather than the child/ young person having no choice other than to go to numerous agencies and buildings to access different services, The Lighthouse provides support ‘under one roof’. The environment is reflective of the circumstances with an emphasis on being safe, secure and focused around the needs of the child/young person.

During the pilot all acute Forensic Medical Examinations (FMEs) will continue to be undertaken at the Children and Young People’s Havens i.e. where the alleged abuse has taken place within the window for collection of intimate body swabs and other materials The Lighthouse will act as the central point for support all children and young people reporting historic CSA i.e. where the alleged abuse has taken place beyond the window for collection of DNA.

Most of the services the child and their family need to access are located at The Lighthouse premises including initial assessments, ABE interviews and therapeutic support. There is also access to therapeutic, advocacy and sexual health support closer to the child’s home. The particular circumstances are informed by the child/young person’s needs and wishes, together with those of their non-offending families. Specifically services provided include:

* + - * Initial holistic assessment including paediatric, sexual health and wellbeing assessment
      * Medical and sexual health follow-up and aftercare
      * 6 weeks health and well-being assessment
      * Long-term therapeutic services, including group therapy and 1:1 sessions for the child/young person and family/carer
      * Specialist advocacy and support
      * Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) interviews conducted by trained clinical psychologists

The aspiration is also to provide pre-trial cross examination interviews and/or live links to court all overseen by a presiding judge, for which we are waiting judicial approval.

It is intended that during the pilot The Lighthouse will develop and establish a reputation for its expertise and be in a position to share learning arising from the project, including the most effective ways of working with / engaging children and young people. The long-term ambition is that there will be more than one Lighthouse, becoming centres of excellence serving as a place for the advancement of child safeguarding, safety and security as well as family supportive practices. In time, the aim is for The Lighthouses to contribute to the international body of literature on all matters relating to child sexual abuse, help change societal attitudes, tackle and support the prevention of sexual abuse in its broadest sense, as well as providing training opportunities for nation and international visitors.

**The Scope**

The role of UCLH as lead provider is twofold - one of co-ordination and local leadership and another as the provider of health and well-being services.

In its co-ordination role, the lead provider is required to bring together a range of services under the umbrella of The Lighthouse – health, social care, the police, criminal justice and the voluntary sector. The lead provider has a key role in co-ordinating criminal justice and social services involvement in the support offered to children and young people alongside the health and well-being services, which it will have a responsibility to deliver.

The lead provider is required to provide the health and well-being services either directly, work in partnership or sub contract with other providers, including the voluntary sector.

**The Lighthouse health and wellbeing partners:**

The Lighthouse partners include: UCLH, TPFT, NSPCC, Solace, Respond and The Brandon Centre

**The Lighthouse health and wellbeing partners agree to:**

* Abide by the principles and terms of this Partnership Agreement
* Support the development of The Lighthouse by contributing staff time and resource as agreed in Sub-Contract or Service Level Agreement
* Provide expertise to enable the development of The Lighthouse pathway and an improved journey for the child/young person and their family/carer
* Participate in the governance and oversight process for The Lighthouse through attendance at The Lighthouse Delivery Board and partnership meetings
* Adhere to agreed referral routes and pathways
* Support the evaluation of The Lighthouse by recording all service user data on The Lighthouse case management system, enabling service user feedback and participating in staff feedback
* A multidisciplinary team approach of The Lighthouse for assessment, case management and long-term support
* Contribute to multidisciplinary team training and supervision to local partner organisations in North Central London such as local authorities, Metropolitan police, Crown Prosecution Service, local charities with an expertise in sexual abuse, exploitation, trafficking and domestic violence.
* Support the development and improvement or expansion of The Lighthouse as well as any further models based on the approach operating within London

**Metropolitan Police agree to:**

* Abide by the principles and terms of this Partnership Agreement
* Provide two Police Liaison Officers (PLOs)
* Provide expertise from BCU Safeguarding Teams and leads for CAIT/Sapphire/CSE to enable the development of The Lighthouse pathway and an improved journey for the child/young person and their family/carer
* Participate in the governance and oversight process for The Lighthouse through attendance at The Lighthouse Delivery Board and partnership meetings
* Raise awareness within the Metropolitan Police and refer appropriate cases into The Lighthouse.
* Ensure that all requirements are met to provide ABE interviews within The Lighthouse.
* Support the evaluation of The Lighthouse by ensuring PLOs record relevant data on The Lighthouse case management system, enabling service user feedback and participating in staff feedback
* Contribute to a multidisciplinary team approach of The Lighthouse for assessment, case management and long-term support
* Contribute to multidisciplinary team training and supervision to local partner organisations in North Central London such as local authorities, Metropolitan police, Crown Prosecution Service, local charities with an expertise in sexual abuse, exploitation, trafficking, domestic violence.
* Support the development and improvement or expansion of the current The Lighthouse ,as well as any further Houses to operate within London

**British Transport Police agree to:**

* Abide by the principles and terms of this Partnership Agreement
* Raise awareness within the British Transport Police and refer appropriate cases into The Lighthouse – namely children and young people that live in one of the five North Central London Boroughs (Camden, Islington, Barnet, Enfield and Haringey).
* Liaise with Lighthouse on a case by case basis where an assault on BTP takes place in one of the five North Central London boroughs and it may be in the best interests of the child to have their ABE at the Lighthouse.
* Abide by The Lighthouse practice and procedures when using the ABE suite within The Lighthouse or when contributing to the Forensic Interviewing Pilot of clinical psychology led ABEs.
* Inform the Lighthouse of the Met Police safeguarding team that are supporting the ABE process and investigation
* Contribute to a multidisciplinary team approach of The Lighthouse for assessment, case management and long-term support, for cases that are being investigated by BTP.

**Camden Local Authority agree to:**

* Abide by the principles and terms of this Partnership Agreement
* Provide two Social Care Liaison Officers (SCLOs)
* Contribute to multidisciplinary team training and supervision to local partner organisations in North Central London such as local authorities, Metropolitan police, Crown Prosecution Service, local charities with an expertise in sexual abuse, exploitation, trafficking, domestic violence.
* Support the development and improvement or expansion of The Lighthouse as well as any further models based on the approach operating within London

**All five Local Authorities in North Central London (Camden, Islington, Barnet, Enfield, Haringey) agree to:**

* Provide expertise from Safeguarding teams, MASH and children’s social services across the five North Central London boroughs to enable the development of The Lighthouse pathway and an improved journey for the child/young person and their family/carer
* Participate in the governance and oversight process for The Lighthouse when appropriate through attendance at The Lighthouse Delivery Board, and at the quarterly social care feedback meetings
* Adhere to agreed referral routes and pathways
* Contribute to a multidisciplinary team approach of The Lighthouse for assessment, case management and long-term support, where appropriate

**Local partner organisations:**

Local Partner organisations are those who will come into contact/use The Lighthouse Pilot through referral or associated working with a partnership member - such as hospitals, schools, local charities with an expertise in sexual abuse, exploitation, trafficking, domestic violence.

The local partner organisations agree to:

* Abide by the principles and terms of this Partnership Agreement
* Work with us as we develop The Lighthouse pathway and an improved journey for the child/young person and their family/carer
* Adhere to agreed referral routes and pathways
* Access training and support from The Lighthouse as required to support children and young people locally

**Crown Prosecution Service agree to:**

Where possible, support the delivery of child focussed pathway through the criminal justice process through closer working with The Lighthouse.

* Ensure CPS employees are briefed on The Lighthouse model and its pathways
* Ensure CPS employees work in partnership with the Police Liaison Officer and Officer in Charge of the case, to expedite decision making and progress of the case through the criminal justice system (CJS) pathway
* Participate in pathway review and quality improvement with The Lighthouse team
* Where possible, enable an early case conference to take place post-charge and ideally at The Lighthouse, with Officer in Charge, reviewing lawyer and prosecution counsel
* Where possible, comply with the Young Witness Initiative for children and young people from The Lighthouse
  + - * Facilitate cross examination questioning via Live Link to court within the Lighthouse
      * Facilitate cross examination questioning (under section 28 special measures) within The Lighthouse.

**HMCTS agree to: (await agreement)**

* Where possible, support the alignment of the principles of the section 28 pilot with The Lighthouse sectors, and with the principles of remote site working, utilising existing section 28 IT requirements
* Ensure that cases for The Lighthouse are allocated to the appropriate court