**The Safeguarding and Care Planning Service** is currently split into two services East & West, this is due to the geographical size of the borough.

We work on the premise that children should be raised within their families wherever possible and providing it is safe for them. We recognise that unfortunately some families struggle to care and/or consistently meet the needs of their children and need our support. We work with children who are subject to Child in Need Plans and Child Protection Plans and we strive to work with their family to create and promote the enabling environment where children can thrive and reach their full potential.

Our Safeguarding and Care Planning Service has grown in order to meet the demand during and post covid. Members of the Council supported Childrens Social Care with two new Safeguarding Teams, and we are now creating a further two teams, making a total of four new social work teams to strengthen our Safeguarding service in response to demand. The service also benefits from a specialist Court Team and a Court Case Progression Manager. Est and West are led by two Heads of Service and are supported by Group Managers, each team (15 including Court) has a Team Manager.

Further oversight of the progress and protection of children is strengthened through Child in Need Panel, CP scrutiny Panel and Assurance Panel.