



**Kingston and Richmond
Safeguarding Children Partnership**

Yearly Report 2025-26

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Introduction



This report is published in line with statutory requirements ([Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026](#)) and aims to provide a transparent, accessible account of safeguarding children in Kingston and Richmond. It demonstrates the strength of our partnership working, while recognising that there is more to do to ensure that every child grows up safe, supported and able to thrive. This report uses some professional abbreviations; please refer to the glossary at the end of the report for an explanation of these terms.

This report explains how partners across Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Children Partnership (referred to hereafter as the partnership) have worked together to keep children and young people safe between **April 2025** and **March 2026**. It reflects the shared responsibility of safeguarding partners, including children's social care, health services, police, education, and the voluntary and community sector. Through our **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA – see [local safeguarding arrangements p.9](#))**, partners work collectively to ensure that children are protected from harm and that families receive the right support at the right time. It reflects our shared commitment, as safeguarding partners, to work together to protect children and young people across both boroughs and to continually strengthen the effectiveness of our multi-agency arrangements.

Throughout the year, partners across children's social care, health, police, education and the wider system have worked collaboratively to respond to safeguarding need, learn from practice, and improve outcomes for children and families. This report provides an overview of safeguarding activity across Kingston and Richmond, alongside an assessment of how well our local arrangements are working in practice. It highlights the difference our joint work has made, as well as areas where further improvement is required.

Safeguarding activity has remained high across both boroughs, with increasing demand reflected in the number of referrals, strategy discussions and section 47 investigations. Alongside this, partners have continued to prioritise early identification, targeted intervention and strengthening support for the most vulnerable children, particularly in relation to **neglect, child sexual abuse and exploitation**, and **adolescent risk**.

A key focus for the partnership this year has been delivering against our **2024–26** strategic priorities.

This includes embedding learning from local and national safeguarding reviews, strengthening our response to neglect through the implementation of the **Love & Care, Child Neglect Toolkit**, improving our understanding of contextual and online harm, and progressing the implementation of **Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023**.

Listening to the voices of children, young people and their families has remained central to our work. Their lived experiences have informed both our learning and our priorities for improvement, ensuring that the partnership remains focused on what matters most to those we serve.

The report also outlines how we have assured ourselves of the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements through multi-agency audit, scrutiny and performance data, and how learning from serious incidents has been translated into tangible improvements in practice.

Looking ahead, the partnership has identified new strategic priorities for **2026–2029**, including a focus on **technology-enabled harm, anti-racist and culturally competent practice**, and **protecting babies and young children at the earliest stages**. These priorities reflect both local learning and emerging national risks, ensuring that the partnership remains responsive and forward-looking.

Ian Dodds, Executive Director of Children's Services in Kingston and Richmond, and Chair of Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Children Partnership





This is a sample of some key demographic data for our local population. Further detailed information can be accessed via the following links for [Kingston](#) and [Richmond](#).

Children make up around one fifth of the population in both Kingston and Richmond. Most children experience positive outcomes, but some face additional challenges, including special educational needs and disability (SEND), mental health needs, and the effects of economic disadvantage. These needs can significantly shape their daily experiences, wellbeing, and access to opportunities.

The number of children living in different parts of the boroughs varies, with some neighbourhoods having higher concentrations of families and children than others. This creates differing levels of demand for local services, meaning support must be planned carefully and targeted where children need it most.

Schools have reported an increase in the number of young carers they have identified. This rise is encouraging, as it reflects improved awareness and stronger partnership work to ensure young carers are recognised early and connected to appropriate support that helps safeguard their wellbeing.

Indicator	Kingston	Richmond
Child population	~36,000	~44,000
% Children living in absolute low-income families (under 16s)	8%	5.2%
% of overall population by ethnicity	Asian 17.8% Black 2.8% Mixed or Multiple 5.4% White 68.3% Other 5.7%	Asian 9.61% Black 4.22% Mixed or Multiple 2.96% White 81.05% Other 2.18%
Number of school aged children known to be young carers	498	441
0-25 with an Education, Health and Care Plan (24-25 academic year)	1,958	2,018

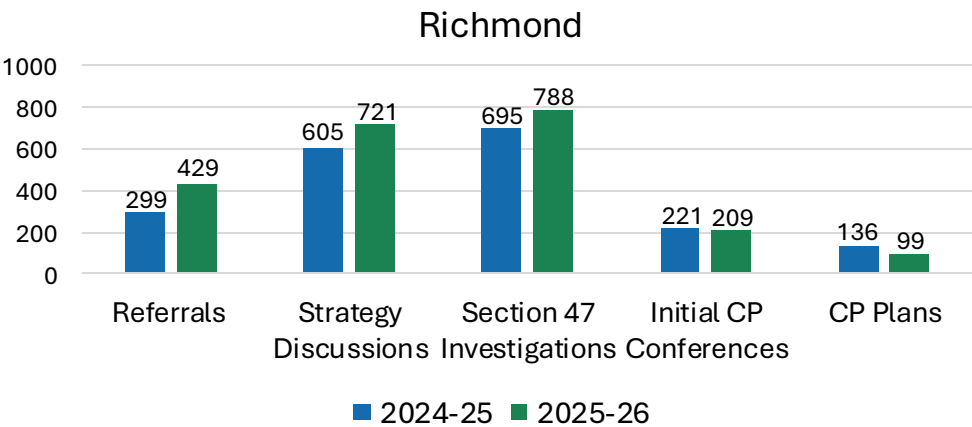
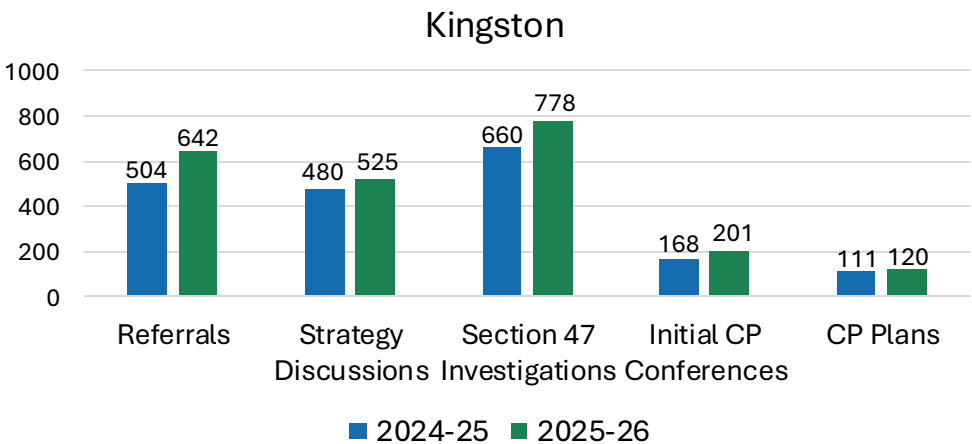
Data reflects the most recent release; 2025-26 figures are currently pending publication.

Children’s Journeys through Safeguarding



- Across 2025-26, safeguarding activity increased in both boroughs (see bar charts for comparison), with more referrals, strategy discussions, and section 47 investigations (a child protection enquiry by children's social care and/or the police). However, outcomes differed, with Kingston seeing more children entering child protection processes, while Richmond saw a reduction despite higher initial activity.
- In 2025-26, **2,238** individual children were considered at a strategy discussion, with **1,612** progressing to a section 47 investigation. Where these indicate a continued risk, an initial child protection conference is convened.
- During 2025-26, 206 initial child protection conferences were held, which resulted in child protection plans being put in place for 219 children.

	2025-26 Total	2025-26 Kingston	2025-26 Richmond
Strategy Discussions	2,238	1,120	1,118
Section 47 Investigations	1,612	804	808
Initial CP Conferences	206	105	101
Child Protection Plans	219	120	99
Public Law Outline Initiated (Children)	54	38	16
Care Proceedings Initiated	36	14	22

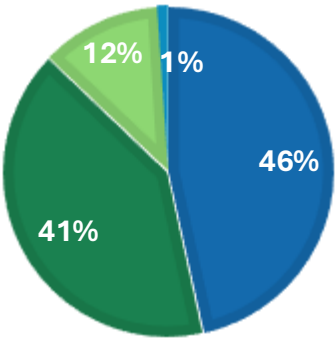


Children’s Journeys through Safeguarding Child Protection Plans (2025-26)



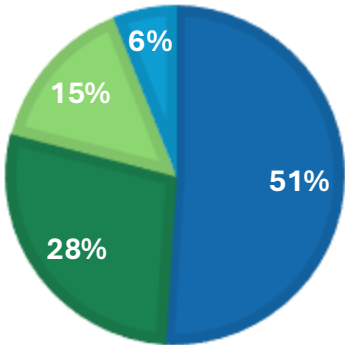
Kingston

2024-25



■ Neglect ■ Emotional ■ Physical ■ Sexual

2025-26



- The pie charts show the proportion of child protection plans over the last two years for each borough, by primary category of concern.
- Neglect is the most common category for a child protection plan across both boroughs, totalling **109** plans. This is split between **61** plans in Kingston and **48** plans in Richmond.

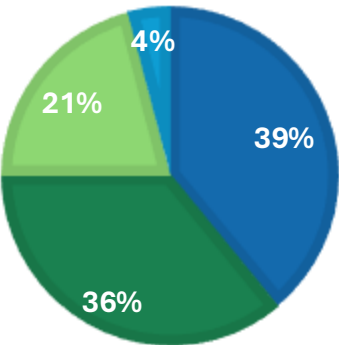
- Emotional abuse is the second most common category with **65** plans in total across the two boroughs; this is relatively even between them, with **34** in Kingston and **31** in Richmond.

- Physical abuse accounted for **38** plans (**18** in Kingston and **20** in Richmond).

- Sexual abuse was the least common category with **7** plans, all of which were recorded in Kingston (Richmond had **0**). The partnership is taking forward a range of work regarding child sexual abuse to ensure that it is effectively identified and responded to and to give us assurance in the context of the low proportion of child protection plans where this category of concern is the primary one.

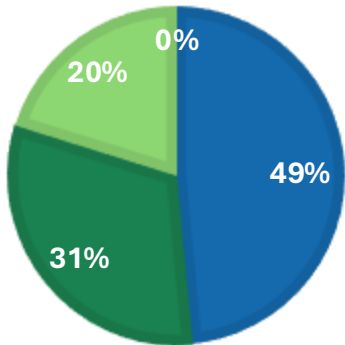
Richmond

2024-25



■ Neglect ■ Emotional ■ Physical ■ Sexual

2025-26



Children's Journeys - Children in care and permanence



	2024-25 (both borough total)	2025-26 (both borough total)	2025-26 Kingston	2025-26 Richmond
Children looked after (throughout the year)	331	324	153	171
* Of whom are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC)	79	44	22	22
Eligible children with a health assessment within the year	88%	85%	91%	79%
Initial health assessments (IHA) completed on time	-	-	48%	25%
Eligible children with an SDQ completed during the year	65%	93%	89%	96%
Children adopted into families	4	8	4	4
Age assessments (UASC cohort)	132	-	-	-
Total fostering Households	68	64	-	-
New fostering households approved	9	3 permanent 3 not permanent 14 family and friends	-	-
Fostering households currently in assessment	9	8	2 Mainstream 2 Kinship	1 Mainstream 3 Kinship

In 2025-26, there were **324** children in care across Kingston and Richmond, with **153** children looked after by Kingston and **171** by Richmond. Within these totals, each borough is caring for **22** unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC).

Safeguarding partners continued to monitor the timeliness and quality of health assessments for children looked after through the Corporate Parenting Panel and multi-agency oversight arrangements.

Annual health assessment performance shows some improvement, with Kingston achieving **91%** compliance, **87%** for dental checks and **81%** for immunisations and Richmond **79%**, **82%** and **78%** respectively.

The timeliness of initial health assessments (IHA) remains a priority for improvement to meet the statutory timescale of 20 days. IHA compliance was **48%** in Kingston and **25%** in Richmond, meaning too many children waited longer than expected for their first health assessment after entering care. IHA performance can be affected by small cohort sizes, late notification of a child becoming looked after, out-of-borough placements, difficulties securing timely appointments and instances of non-attendance. This is noted to be a national challenge.

Work has continued to strengthen quality and timeliness through improved data assurance, continued joint working, and the implementation of new [Coram BAAF assessment processes](#).

The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ – which is a way to measure child development) completion was high in both boroughs, particularly in Richmond (**96%**), and adoption numbers remained low and stable. Within this reporting year approved fostering households included three permanent carers, three non-permanent carers, and fourteen 'family and friends' carers (a kinship care arrangement), with a further eight households currently in assessment increasing the range of safe, nurturing homes available for children who cannot live with their birth families.

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Activity



The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) oversees allegations against people in positions of trust with children, including both professionals and volunteers. Referrals to the LADO are made when it is alleged that a person has behaved in a way that has harmed, or may pose a risk of harm, to a child in their personal or professional life.

Referral Overview

The service received **508** referrals (Kingston **264**, Richmond **244**) and consultations in 2025-26, showing continued use of the LADO process across the partnership.

Referral Source

Education remained the largest source of referrals (**277**), followed by early years (**103**) and residential care staff (**27**), reflecting where children most commonly engage with services.

Allegation Themes

Professional conduct was the most common allegation category (**192**), followed by physical harm (**129**), and suitability (**75**), indicating the main areas of casework managed during the year.

Outcomes

The largest outcome groups were substantiated cases (**211** in total: **99** Kingston and **112** Richmond), followed by unsubstantiated cases (**173** in total: **81** Kingston and **92** Richmond). A further **108** cases were recorded as advice and information only (**47** Kingston and **61** Richmond), while false, malicious and other outcomes remained low across the year.

Partnership Working

The LADO Service has continued to deliver training across the partnership including sessions for the voluntary, community, faith and sports sectors, helping to strengthen understanding of safeguarding responsibilities and processes. Although some complex investigations take longer to conclude, particularly with police-led enquiries, quarterly meetings with the local police Child Abuse Investigation Team have supported stronger joint working, improved management of escalation, and more timely progression of LADO casework.

Our Safeguarding Arrangements and Governance



The governance structure of the partnership is described in our [local safeguarding arrangements](#) which details who our partners are and how we work together to meet the requirements of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and the Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance. The contribution of the statutory partners to the function and structure of our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements during 2025-26 has included a range of activities which are listed here:

Annual financial contribution (see [Our Budget](#) for breakdown)

Annual engagement meetings with Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) have been held, and Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs) have continued to chair our partnership on an annually rotating basis with our current chair being our DSP for the local authority. DSPs have been actively involved in decision making for our partnership and engaged in fortnightly operational meetings with the partnership manager to keep updated on the work of the partnership, providing scrutiny and sign-off of partnership reviews, reports, and policy documents, and have been involved in planning and decision making regarding the partnership's workstreams. Senior leaders from each of our statutory partners have attended quarterly executive meetings and chaired the partnership subgroups.

In addition, subgroup chairs have attended quarterly meetings which aim to align activities of each of the subgroups and ensure they are progressing the partnership business plan and priorities.

The expectations set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children, alongside the Children's Social Care: National Framework and the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, emphasise the role of education providers and childcare settings as equal and influential partners in multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. To support this ambition, the partnership has worked to strengthen the education sector's involvement in strategic planning and decision-making through our Education Subgroup and termly forums for Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) in schools and early years settings. Further information can be found in this [section](#) of this report.

Safeguarding themes arising from data scrutiny and learning from reviews have informed partnership activities and dissemination of learning during 2025-26 and this has included ongoing work on neglect, identification and response to online harm and exploitation and identification of safeguarding training needs in the early years sector and housing. Detailed examples can be seen throughout this report.

Our Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements will be updated to reflect Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026.



Our partnership seeks to understand children's experiences and include their voices and views across a range of activities, both individually and collectively. Partners are encouraged to regularly seek and use feedback from children, young people and families, to inform safeguarding practice and partnership development. Children also have a range of opportunities to participate in forums to help shape their community including Kingston and Richmond Youth Council, Children in Care Council, and Youth Out Loud. Through these forums children have been making remarkable content that powerfully illustrates issues affecting them, and we seek to share and collaborate to respond to these.

The insights we receive from these engagement activities help us to build a clearer picture of their lived experiences, identify emerging needs and understand what is working well and where improvements are needed. We are committed not only to listening but also to demonstrating how children and young people's views lead to real change.

Please see [page 11](#) for examples of how we have listened to children and young people this year and the difference their contributions have made.



Experiences shared by a Care Experienced Young Person at our Child Neglect Learning Event in September 2025



What did we hear?

Multi-agency audits as part of our deep dive into child neglect confirmed that children's voices are being heard and included in decision-making. Insights from care-experienced young people informed our learning event to highlight the real impact of neglect and support learning.

Impact

Hearing personal experiences highlighted the need to recognise and act on neglect quickly and showed the value of The Love & Care, Child Neglect Toolkit in helping practitioners better understand and respond to children's needs; its use continues to be promoted and monitored.

What did we hear?

Kingston's Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy focuses on raising awareness, supporting child victims, and working with young people to design solutions, while recognising higher risks for children with neurodivergence and SEND.

Impact

Partners agreed to contribute to a task and finish group to further explore the links between neurodiversity, violence against women and girls, and exploitation.

What did we hear?

Attendance at the Kingston and Richmond Youth Council (KRYC) conference where *Survivance*, a powerful film produced by the Kingston and Richmond Youth Council, was showcased. The film explored experiences of racism and highlighted the importance of both challenging racism and encouraging active allyship.

Impact

This work contributed to the partnership including Anti-Racist Practice and Cultural Competency within the consultation on potential priorities for the partnership's 2026–29 business plan.

[*Survivance*](#) – a powerful Kingston and Richmond Youth Council film

What did we hear?

Kingston Healthwatch got in touch to invite partners to contribute to a strategic review of youth engagement to work towards a streamlined approach to involving children locally.

Impact

The partnership has been meeting to discuss how we can work consistently to support best practice in children's participation and ensure their voices effectively guide our work to support them.



The small partnership business team has worked closely with partners across Kingston and Richmond to raise awareness of all aspects of safeguarding children and to strengthen practice. This has included delivering a comprehensive training programme, undertaking rapid reviews and child safeguarding practice reviews (**CSPRs**) where required, engaging with schools and early years settings, engaging with the voluntary, community, and social enterprise (**VCSE**) sectors, faith sector, sports sector and coordinating child death reviews - all of which are described in detail in this report. Given the size of the team, this substantial level of activity represents strong value for money.

The expenditure for the partnership during 2025-26 including salaries (including partnership coordinator hours allocated to child death review coordination), the training offer, and costs of case reviews, totalled **£335,418**. The breakdown of income and expenditure for the partnership can be seen on the next page.

This financial year, the contribution from South West London Integrated Care Board (ICB) was distributed differently from previous years, with £25,500 allocated to the Richmond and Wandsworth Safeguarding Adults Board, £25,500 to the Kingston Safeguarding Adults Board, and £51,000 to the Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Children Partnership (£25,500 per borough). As a result, the funding available to the Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Children Partnership was lower than in previous years. The partnership will reflect this revised funding allocation in its future financial planning and budget-setting arrangements.

The capacity of the current business team of the partnership to meet the demands of the partnership was discussed with the delegated safeguarding partners and Wider Safeguarding Executive Group to ensure that we prioritised workstreams for the team to ensure that the statutory functions of the partnership were fulfilled during 2025-26.



The following table outlines the partnership's income

Detail	Contribution
Kingston Council contribution	£140,000
Richmond Council contribution	£140,000
SWL ICB contribution	£51,000
Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) for Kingston and Richmond	£10,000
Training Income	£36,290
Total income/budget	£377,290

The following table outlines the partnership's expenditure

Expenditure Category	Amount
Business team staffing (salaries and on-costs)	£250,027
Multi-agency training programme	£56,218
Independent scrutiny	£13,200
Commissioned reviews (CSPRs/rapid reviews)	£9,000
Conferences and events	£3,370
Website/communications/publications	£3,603
Total expenditure	£335,418.00

Strategic Priorities 2024-26: CSA and Exploitation



Priority 1	Partnership Activities	Progress
Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation	Undertake and implement recommendations from the deep dive into Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) and Exploitation.	Completed. Agreed to integrate the action plan into the benchmarking against the national review, 'I wanted them all to notice'.
	The multi-agency partnership training offer will include CSA and Exploitation.	The partnership's level 2, level 3 and level 3 refresher have continued to include CSA and Exploitation.
	The partnership's Vulnerable Child and Adolescent (VCA) Subgroup to monitor partnership data and response to contextual safeguarding and ensure effective identification and support to vulnerable children.	VCA subgroup has continued to monitor Kingston and Richmond Pre-MACE and MACE (Multi-Agency Child Exploitation) dataset which includes data regarding the children discussed at panel and missing children. Contextual Safeguarding is a standing item on the agenda of the VCA Subgroup where the multi-agency response to local incidents has been scrutinised.
	Dissemination of learning from local and national child safeguarding practice reviews and rapid reviews relevant to this priority.	Dissemination has continued through the Learning from Child Safeguarding Practice training.
	The partnership's Child Sexual Abuse Pathway to be kept updated with best practice and commissioning arrangements and regularly promoted to partners.	Updates to the pathway are pending as commissioning of support services has changed during the year. These changes will be reflected as soon as possible in an amended pathway and promoted to all partners.

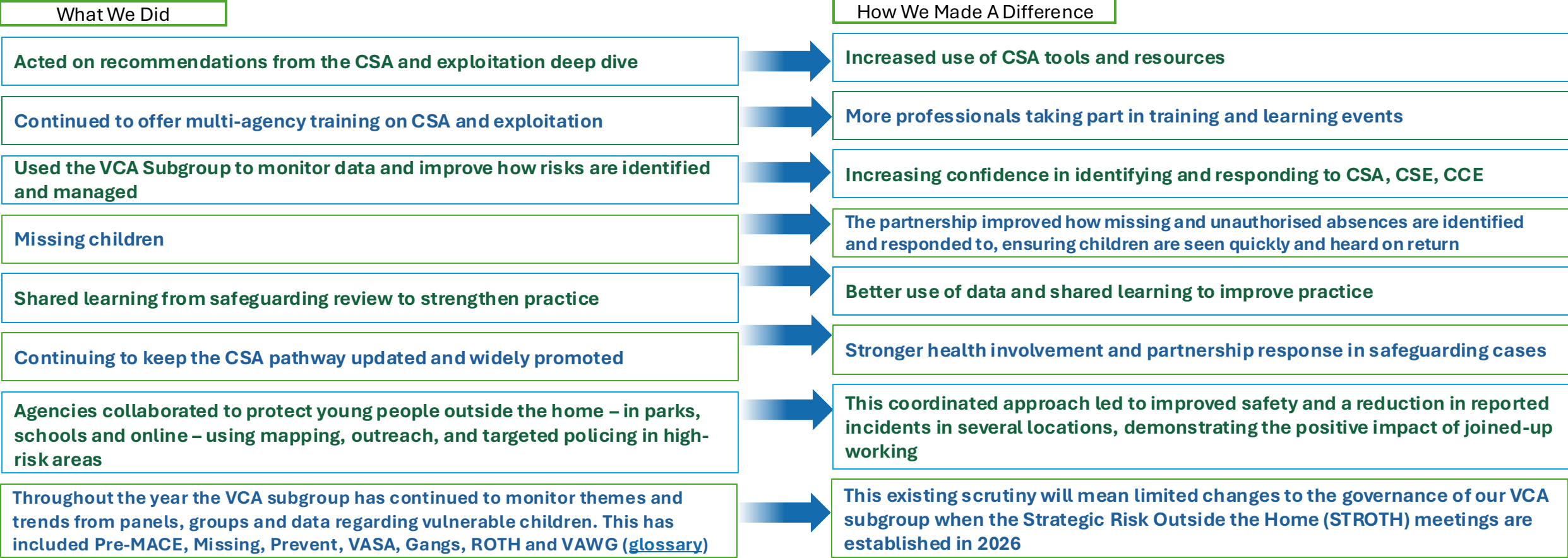
Please see [page 15](#) for evidence of the progress and impact.

Strategic Priorities: Progress and Impact



Priority 1: Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

Over the past 12 months, work on Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) and Exploitation has been led by the Vulnerable Children and Adolescents (VCA) Subgroup, strengthening how services work together to prevent harm.





Priority 2	Partnership Activities	Progress
Neglect	Review and refresh neglect strategy and toolkit.	The refreshed toolkit launched as The Love and Care, Child Neglect Toolkit at a partnership multi-agency learning event in September 2025. Training for Trainers sessions being rolled out across the partnership to embed the toolkit and its use across the partnership is being monitored.
	Extend Think Space programme to offer consultations to multi-agency practitioners on neglect; pilot neglect sessions for spring term.	Four pilot-neglect focused Think Space sessions held from January to March 2026, concerning eight families.
	The partnership to review and relaunch the Was Not Brought (WNB) Policy.	Completed and shared across the partnership.

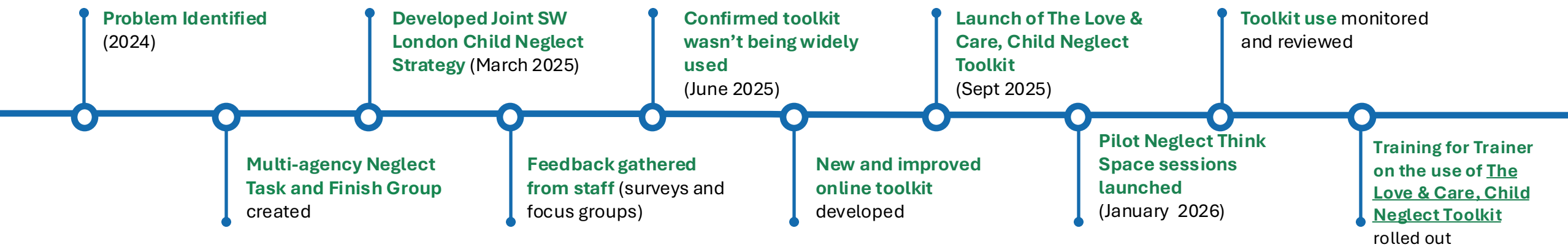
Please see [page 17](#) for evidence of the progress and impact.



Priority 2: Neglect

In 2024, a theme from local learning reviews highlighted that neglect wasn't always being recognised or acted on early enough.

Our Journey to Improve Practice; Step-By-Step Progress



What This Means in Practice

- **Better Recognition:** Professionals are now better supported to spot signs of neglect earlier
- **Earlier Identification:** Concerns are recognised and acted on sooner, helping ensure timely support for children
- **Improved Tools:** A new, easy-to-use online toolkit helps guide decision-making. Focus on identifying tangible concerns about neglect and the child's living experience
- **Multi-agency use** and impact of The Love & Care, Child Neglect Toolkit being monitored and will be reported on in 2026-27 Yearly Report
- **Stronger Skills Across Services:** Training helps staff feel more confident and take a consistent approach. Learning is shared across all partner organisations
- **Ongoing Improvement:** Toolkit use is monitored to assess whether it is working. Neglect focused Think Space sessions held for practitioners. Think Space is a partnership initiative offering a multi-agency space to do something different about complex or 'stuck' cases. These sessions give professionals time to reflect and learn together



Priority 3	Partnership Activities	Progress
Adolescent and Transitional Safeguarding and Serious Youth Violence	The partnership worked to ensure effective linkages to parallel plans and partnerships to promote transitional safeguarding. To include: - AfC Youth Justice Plan. - Serious Youth Violence Duty Plans for Kingston and Richmond. - Interface meetings with the respective Safeguarding Adult Boards.	The partnership has contributed to the Violence Reduction Action Plan for Kingston, and Richmond and Wandsworth, and work with our colleagues in both Kingston Safeguarding Adults Board , and Richmond and Wandsworth Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs).
	Raising awareness of Transitional Safeguarding and promotion of best practice.	The partnership have continued to promote transitional safeguarding across the partnership.

Please see [page 19](#) for evidence of the progress and impact.



Priority 3: Adolescent and Transitional Safeguarding and Serious Youth Violence



Improved awareness, training, and joint working are leading to faster, more effective support for young people at risk.



Priority 4	Partnership Activities	Progress
Implementation of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023	Create a fixed term 12-month post using the Department for Education (DfE) grant funding to implement the changes required by Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 and embed across the partnership.	Completed.
	Create an action plan to ensure alignment with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 statutory guidance.	Alignment with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 was completed during this reporting period. As Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026 was published at the end of the reporting period, consideration and implementation of its requirements will form part of the partnership’s future work programme.

Please see [page 21](#) for evidence of the progress and impact.



Priority 4: Implementation of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023

Throughout 2025–26, the partnership has been putting Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 into practice — making sure services work better together to keep children safe.

Working Together Across Leaders

We continue to work closely with our lead and delegated safeguarding partners, and the independent scrutineer. This strengthens leadership, ensures clear direction, and promotes shared responsibility.

Keeping Track of Changes

The Wider Safeguarding Executive Group and subgroups closely monitor safeguarding themes and trends across children's social care, health services, and policing. This ensures the partnership can adapt quickly and respond effectively to new developments.

Understanding Our Roles

A review was carried out to clarify roles, including the business team's duties, responsibilities, and overall capacity. This helps ensure the team stays focused on its statutory functions, effective, and realistic about what can be delivered.

Reaching the Community

We have strengthened connections with local community groups, including faith organisations, the voluntary sector, charities, and sports clubs. This has increased awareness of safeguarding responsibilities and led to more concerns being identified and reported earlier.

HOW IT ALL CONNECTS

Working Together

- Strong leadership and partnerships
- Oversight of changes
- Clear roles and responsibilities
- Better safeguarding for children

LOOKING AHEAD

With the release of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026, the partnership will:

- Review and update its multi-agency safeguarding arrangements
- Make sure it continues to meet national expectations
- Stay responsive to new challenges



What is a serious child safeguarding incident?

When a child dies or is seriously harmed and abuse or neglect are known or suspected, safeguarding children's partnerships must notify these serious incidents, and undertake learning reviews, including rapid reviews and sometimes, child safeguarding practice reviews (CSPRs). We do this to help us identify any improvements needed to how we work together to safeguard children. Locally, this work is overseen by our Case Review Subgroup (CRS). For more information on the work of this subgroup, visit our [CRS webpages](#).

Local serious incidents and our response

4

**Rapid Reviews
Undertaken**

1

**Local CSPRs
Completed
(Child Y)**

1

**Local CSPR
Initiated
(ongoing)**

Rapid reviews help us understand more about the incident, involvement of multi-agency services, and any urgent action required to safeguard children. They also help us decide if we need to undertake a local child safeguarding practice review. We do this in cases where we consider the partnership should gather more information from children, their families and carers, and professionals, about what we may learn. This year we undertook rapid reviews in respect of four serious incidents. In one case, we are taking forward a local child safeguarding practice review, which was ongoing at the end of the year.

Our review of serious incidents this year highlighted some key themes (babies, online harms, and cultural competency), and these will be addressed through agreed action plans and through our partnership priorities and business plan for 2026-29. The actions we have agreed are aimed at ensuring assessments are better informed through use of tools and resources that support thorough enquiry and understanding of risk, and plans for children are holistic and tailored to individual children's needs.



Learning theme	What are we doing?
Understanding children and families' identity and their past	• Offering multi-agency training in cultural genograms • Ensuring use of interpreters in health assessments for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children • Trauma informed practice training content amended to highlight the different presentations that children affected by adverse childhood experiences may display.
Self-harm, and suicide	• Promotion of training and resources to the multi-agency workforce, on supporting children regarding self-harm and suicide, including PORTUS • Awareness-raising of online dimension to self-harm and suicide content and support, under our online harm priority for 2026-29.
Safer sleep for infants	• Promoting our Baby and Infant Safe Sleeping Practice Guidance • We will be seeking assurance of rollout of guidance to pharmacies to consider safer sleep advice provision when dispensing medication that may cause drowsiness • We will include the need for safer sleep advice to be provided consistently across our partners under our priority on protecting babies.
Children looked after; placement sufficiency and related challenges	• Partnership Manager/Wider Safeguarding Executive Group to revisit outcomes from South West London Integrated Care Board Complex Needs Project to ensure any learning that may be implemented locally has been.



Child Y Practice Review

We completed a local child safeguarding practice review concerning Child Y and published an [anonymised learning summary](#).

An action plan has been developed in response to the recommendations. We expect to report on impact in 2026-27.

Themes Identified:

Behaviour as communication.

Response to disclosures.

Cultural competence.

Engaging children and families and understanding their past.

Using our [escalation process](#) when things are not improving for children.

Risk assessment that considers all the issues affecting a child.

Acting on learning from earlier reviews

[Neglect learning](#)

We held a neglect learning event and promoted the SWL Child Neglect Strategy, and The Love & Care, Child Neglect Toolkit.

[Neglect thinking spaces](#)

A pilot of neglect thinking spaces was well attended and reviewed. Evaluation is planned to test whether these reflective spaces improve multi-agency practice.

[Safeguarding cultures in early years settings](#)

We have undertaken a range of work to promote strong safeguarding cultures in early years settings.

National reviews considered and our response

[“It’s Silent”: race, racism and safeguarding](#)

We have continued to offer equality, diversity and inclusion workshops. We have been updating our local serious incident process to support analysis of the impact of race and racism.

[CSPR Panel Annual Report 2023-24](#)

Reflective questions allocated across the partnership, with the extra-familial harm questions referred to our VCA subgroup.

[“I wanted them all to notice”](#)

Our Safeguarding Executive Group agreed an action plan to respond to recommendations for safeguarding partners, including using [Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse](#) resources to develop our strategic response to child sexual abuse. A steering group commenced towards year-end. We will report on the impact of this work in 2026-27.

[Protecting all vulnerable babies better](#)

Recommendations for partnerships will be addressed under our forthcoming priorities and business plan.



Responsibility for reviewing the deaths of children under 18 years of age is not a function of the safeguarding children partnership, but since 2019 has been the specific responsibility of two of the statutory partners, the local authority and the integrated care board according to the [statutory guidance for child death reviews](#).

From this time, Kingston and Richmond have shared a joint South West London Child Death Overview Panel (SWL CDOP) with Croydon, Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth which is centrally managed by NHS South West London Integrated Care Board (SWL ICB). Until September 2025, SWL CDOP had an independent chair. Since this time the ICB has not renewed the contract in the context of budget constraints and organisational restructures associated with the ongoing changes to ICB resourcing nationally, and chairing has been managed internally on an ad-hoc basis.

Support for deaths of children resident and/or occurring in Kingston and Richmond continues to be resourced locally through the partnership coordinator who acts as the single point of contact (0.5 FTE), and there is a joint designated paediatrician for child deaths across Kingston and Richmond, Dr Rowan Heath. There is also significant support to the process from other local designates and wider multi-agency professionals. There are strong links between the child death review and partnership's serious incident processes as required.

In 2025-26, **7** child deaths were notified in Kingston, and **6** child deaths were notified in Richmond. Of the **13** deaths across Kingston and Richmond, **6** required a joint agency response.

Child death review meetings (CDRMs), relating to deaths occurring both within and before this reporting period, were convened by the partnership coordinator for **5** deaths of Kingston resident children, **4** deaths of Richmond resident children, and **3** children resident in other boroughs whose deaths occurred locally. The partnership coordinator and other local professionals contributed to a further **2** CDRMs convened by other areas in respect of Richmond resident children.

During 2025-26, **5** child deaths in Kingston and **10** child deaths in Richmond had final reviews at SWL CDOP (these deaths include some notified in previous reporting periods). Across SWL CDOP a total of **86** child death reviews were completed. Of all the deaths reviewed, **51%** were identified as having modifiable factors; these are factors which may have contributed to the death of the child, and which might be modified by any action to reduce the risk of future child deaths either at a local, regional, or national level.

The SWL CDOP Annual Report for 2025-26 will be finalised in summer 2026 and presented to the ICB and respective local authorities to share the summary learning in detail.

The partnership coordinator and other child death review colleagues attended events provided by the National Child Mortality Database throughout the year, to support best practice.

KRSCP has been involved in a range of activities to share the learning from child deaths locally and nationally, including featuring regular content on learning and prevention in our newsletters.

Excerpt of awareness-raising undertaken through the [KRSCP Newsletter Summer 2025](#).





Following consultation across the partnership, learning from local reviews and informed by horizon scanning of emerging local and national safeguarding priorities and risks, the following areas have been identified as the key strategic priorities for the partnership over the next three years.



Why this matters

Priority 1: Digital spaces are increasingly central to the lives of children and young people, bringing complex and evolving risks, such as online abuse, coercion, bullying, and the misuse of AI, that necessitate a confident and coordinated multi-agency safeguarding response.

Priority 2: Effective child safeguarding relies on understanding a child’s unique identity and context. Implementing anti-racist and culturally competent practices is vital to addressing bias, ensuring fairness, and achieving equitable outcomes for children and families.

Priority 3: Babies face the highest risk of serious harm, making early identification, robust information-sharing, professional curiosity, and timely intervention essential to protecting them effectively.

Across all three priorities, the partnership will aim to deliver stronger, more effective safeguarding by keeping the child’s voice central, using data and learning to drive improvement, strengthening leadership and accountability, and aligning practice with statutory guidance and national insights.



Message from the partnership's Independent Scrutineer:

Throughout the period April 2025 to March 2026, I have continued to work alongside members of the Kingston and Richmond partnership in the role of Independent Scrutineer, continuing to provide objective, constructive challenge to the partnership in accordance with Working Together to Safeguard Children.

My findings and conclusions for the 2025-26 reporting period are drawn from a robust, evidence-based methodology, which included:

- **Performance Data Review:** Regular analysis of multi-agency key performance indicators (KPIs) through provided datasets.
- **Practice Audits:** Direct oversight of multi-agency thematic deep dive audits, focusing this year on neglect.
- **Frontline Engagement:** Direct engagement with frontline practitioners across health, social care, education, and policing to assess the realities of multi-agency working.
- **Voice of the Child:** Evaluating the work of the partnership to ensure children lived experiences directly inform and influence strategic decision-making. This included individual meetings with children with lived experience.

- **Meetings with Senior Leaders:** Regular attendance at meetings with DSPs and Subgroup Chairs and an annual meeting with LSPs.
- **Rapid Review and Case Review Oversight:** Scrutinising the approach adopted within the review process to extract learning and assess its impact. As part of my scrutiny activity, I examined the partnership's response to serious incidents. This included a tabletop review of the activity relating to rapid reviews and local child safeguarding practice reviews between March 2018 and June 2025. I viewed all documentation relating to the rapid reviews that resulted in a local child safeguarding practice review in the period between June 2021 to June 2025 and made a range of recommendations aimed at:
 - enhancing strategic oversight and accountability, through improvements to the case review tracker
 - strengthening sharing of learning, including with families, professionals, and through the website, ensuring published content remains current
 - improving the representation of practitioner voice in rapid review reports.



Key Findings: Areas of Strength and Effectiveness

During the past year, the partnership has demonstrated strong leadership and a shared commitment to keeping children safe. I have observed clear evidence of effectiveness in the following areas:

- **Robust Strategic Leadership:** The three statutory partners have demonstrated mature, collaborative leadership and shared accountability.
- **Progression Towards Effective Early Intervention:** There is demonstration of the ongoing commitment towards multi-agency early help interventions.
- **Responsive Rapid Review Processes:** The partnership's response to serious incidents has shown significant development throughout the reporting period. I have continued working closely with the business team and case review subgroup chairs to support implementation of the recommendations from my scrutiny activity.
- **Early Signs of Impact from Partnership Activity:** Multi-agency audit activity from the previous cycle has shown early indications of successfully driving systemic change, with recommendations and subsequent development activity implemented during this reporting period.
- **Progression of Areas of Priority:** There is clear evidence of progress with actions aligned to the priority areas of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, Neglect, Adolescent/Transitional Safeguarding and Serious Youth Violence and Implementation of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023.

Areas for Challenge and Development:

While the partnership functions effectively, the following areas require systemic focus and accelerated action over the next 12 months:

- **Shared and Equal Budget:** While scrutinising the budgetary contributions and its impact this is an area that needs ongoing review and agreement to work towards the expectations within Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026.
- **Embedding Learning into Practice:** While learning from case reviews is well-identified strategically, multi-agency audits show inconsistent application of this learning by frontline staff in daily practice.
- **Data Integration:** Despite improvements in identifying data needed there remains challenge in this reflecting a true partnership picture with improved data from both Police and Health partners still to be fully achieved.
- **Sustaining Workforce Resilience:** The partnership data shows rising demand and increasing neglect as the main reason for child protection plans, alongside workforce pressures that challenge consistent, relationship-based safeguarding.



Over the 2025–26 period, the **Education Subgroup** has maintained a strong strategic focus on safeguarding, inclusion, mental health, digital risk, and effective multi-agency working across all education settings.

- **Mental health:** This was the increasing complexity of safeguarding needs, particularly relating to children’s mental health. Schools and families were frequently identified as holding high levels of risk in the context of long child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS) waiting times. Mental health was highlighted as a weakness in multi-agency communication with suicide and self-harm being a consistent theme, the impact of online platforms and social media, and the need for clearer preventative and post-incident support for education settings.
- **Education subgroup:** The subgroup also examined attendance, absence and children missing education in depth. Rising numbers of pupils on reduced timetables, particularly those with SEND and anxiety, alongside growing elective home education registrations, were identified as significant risk factors. The development of clearer oversight mechanisms (including Risk Of Missing Education (**ROME**) processes and refreshed educational neglect guidance) demonstrated a shared commitment to early identification, proportionate thresholds and child centred responses rather than punitive approaches.
- **Digital risk and emerging technology:** This featured increasingly prominently across meetings. Incidents linked to online harm, AI generated content and community disorder (“school wars”) reinforced concerns about rapid escalation, parental anxiety and the need for consistent messaging.
- **Safeguarding system changes:** Changes to the wider safeguarding system and partnership landscape were also a key focus. This included the changing role of police engagement with schools, pressures on social care and LADO

services, and the importance of effective information sharing (for example through Operation Encompass, a police initiative that alerts schools when a child has been affected by a domestic abuse incident). Feedback from children and families was used to inform practical improvements to professional practice, including child protection conference processes.

- **Safeguarding training and school engagement:** During 2025-26 the partnership has hosted three forums for schools’ DSLs which have been attended by over 300 DSLs from primary and secondary schools across Kingston and Richmond.
- **Child neglect focus:** Key themes included a sustained focus on child neglect, particularly education and medical neglect, supported by regular updates from Achieving for Children’s Single Point of Access (SPA) to improve early identification and referral quality.
- **Multi-agency working and inclusion:** Strong multi-agency partnership working was reinforced through ongoing engagement with SPA, LADO and health colleagues, alongside learning from local reviews, including child death reviews and the management of medical conditions. Forums also highlighted inclusion and vulnerability, with updates on Virtual School extended duties, kinship care and contextual safeguarding. The Virtual School supports the education of all children with a social worker.
- **Emerging risk:** Emerging risks such as online safety and smartphone use, alongside attendance as a safeguarding concern, were explored collaboratively. The year concluded with a strengthened emphasis on racist incident reporting and inclusive school cultures. Overall, the forums supported DSLs to remain informed, confident and proactive, embedding consistent safeguarding practice across schools and settings.



Outcomes of Section 175 audits by schools - An assessment of a school's compliance with its safeguarding responsibilities under **Section 175 of the Education Act 2002**.

Area	What Schools Are Doing Well
Leadership and Governance	All schools have safeguarding leads. Safeguarding is regularly discussed by leaders and governors and is a clear priority.
Recording and Systems	Most schools use secure digital and virtual systems (e.g. CPOMS/MyConcern) to log and track concerns clearly and quickly.
Staff Awareness and Safer Recruitment	Staff understand how to spot and report concerns. Recruitment checks and training are strong and consistent.
Mental Health and Wellbeing	Schools provide counselling and emotional support for pupils, with growing focus on staff wellbeing.
Inclusive and Safe Culture	A “safeguarding first” approach to behaviour, strong inclusion values, and clear ways for pupils to share worries.

Area	What Needs Strengthening
Consistency and Use of Data	Safeguarding data is not always used effectively to spot patterns over time. Reasons for “no further action” decisions are not always clearly recorded.
Training and Knowledge	Some gaps in specialist training, including LADO and low-level concerns, harmful sexual behaviour, domestic abuse and Operation Encompass, cyber security and monitoring roles. Governor training is not always regularly updated or recorded.
Online Safety and Digital Risk	Most schools have systems in place, but some risk assessments are outdated or unclear. Understanding of online risks varies, especially for families with English as an additional language.
Accessibility and Child-Friendly Practice	Need for more child-friendly policies. Safeguarding information is not always accessible for families with additional needs or limited English.
Emergency Preparedness	There are gaps in lockdown and critical incident drills, limited learning from incidents or trips, and inconsistent tracking of safeguarding records when pupils move schools.





Across 2025-26, the partnership jointly delivered four **Designated Safeguarding Lead** (DSL) Forums for early years settings. These forums were attended by **156** early years providers (childminders, pre-schools and nursery settings, private and voluntary and maintained nursery school-based settings and out-of-school settings). The topics covered included **national safeguarding reforms, updates to the Early Years Foundation Stage framework, Single Point of Access (SPA) processes**, and **Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) data and trends**. There was a clear emphasis on learning from practice reviews and serious incidents, including child death review processes and learning related to early years settings, national safeguarding reviews, and local learning. The forums highlighted priority safeguarding risks in early years, including child sexual abuse, child neglect, non-attendance as a safeguarding indicator, and infant safety issues such as safer sleep and aimed to contribute to developing a strong safeguarding culture, with a focus on building safeguarding cultures within their settings, safer recruitment, reflective safeguarding practice, embedding professional curiosity, and whistleblowing.

Between autumn 2024 and summer 2026, **67** early years settings attended the Role of the DSL and Local Authority Procedures workshop, including **24** Kingston settings and **43** Richmond settings. This represents engagement from **49.3%** of settings across both boroughs, with repeat attendance demonstrating sustained commitment to strengthening DSL practice and local procedure knowledge.

The programme covered **EYFS Section 3 requirements, Ofsted expectations**, and **local safeguarding systems**, ensuring DSLs understood referral pathways and partnership working with agencies including SPA, LADO, and children's social care. It reinforced core responsibilities such as managing concerns and allegations, maintaining effective policies and procedures, and communicating confidently within multi-agency networks.

Beyond compliance, the training helped strengthen safeguarding culture across early years settings by promoting **leadership, professional curiosity, reflective practice**, and **effective staff support**. Through case studies and local learning, DSLs were better equipped to identify emerging risks, respond to low-level concerns, and embed robust whistleblowing, supervision, and accountability arrangements. This contributed to a more proactive, child-centred approach to safeguarding across both local authorities.

Quality Assurance and Audit: How We Assured Ourselves



The [Quality and Innovation Subgroup](#) provides strategic oversight, multi-agency challenge and learning, to assure the effectiveness of safeguarding practice across Kingston and Richmond. During the year, the subgroup strengthened its focus on data-led scrutiny, system learning and translating insight into improvement.

Themes and learning 2025-26

- Persistent challenges remain in data consistency, linkage and interpretation across agencies, limiting the partnership's ability to track children's safeguarding journeys over time. Recurrent concerns included repeat child protection plans, visibility of assessment outcomes, and under representation of some harm types at later stages. The subgroup increasingly focused on moving from raw data to meaningful narrative and impact.
- The subgroup received updates on the **Child Neglect Deep Dive**, highlighting chronic and multi-faceted neglect (including medical, educational and emotional neglect). Neglect remained the most prevalent safeguarding concern across both boroughs. Reviews and audits highlighted chronic neglect linked to parental mental health, domestic abuse and systemic drift. **The Love & Care, Child Neglect Toolkit** use and impact remain inconsistent outside children's social care, reinforcing the need for stronger multi-agency ownership, professional curiosity and evidence of change for children.
- Domestic abuse featured prominently across datasets and audits, including its role in child neglect, repeat planning, unborn and newborn risk, and adolescent vulnerability. MARAC (multi-agency risk assessment conference regarding people at high risk from domestic abuse) data reinforced the scale and complexity of cases involving children. The subgroup emphasised early identification, alignment with VAWG priorities and consistent recording and response across agencies.
- Following the 2024 [Joint Targeted Area Inspection](#) (JTAI) in Richmond, [Operation Encompass](#) progress is being monitored; however, notification levels remain inconsistent despite increased school participation, risking delays in enabling support to children. Work with the Metropolitan Police Service will continue to improve consistency and timely information sharing.
- Inconsistencies between referrals, assessments and planning pathways prompted further scrutiny of thresholds, front door decision making and access to specialist safeguarding panels.
- Dip sampling and partner updates highlighted inconsistent recording of ethnicity and variable confidence in culturally informed practice. Progress was noted in organisational responses (including policing), but the subgroup recognised the need for partnership wide learning, inclusive language and stronger challenge to disproportionality and bias.
- Audits identified that educational outcomes are not always prioritised within safeguarding plans, despite their protective role. School exclusions and suspensions were scrutinised as markers of vulnerability, with education positioned as central to early help and long-term safeguarding impact.
- Health assessments, CAMHS waiting times and workforce instability continued to pose risks to timely and effective safeguarding responses. While improvements were noted in some areas, systemic pressures require sustained escalation and collective problem-solving beyond single-agency solutions.
- [Think Space](#) reflective sessions continued to be offered to partners, with six sessions delivered during the year, including the introduction of a pilot **Neglect Think Space** in January 2026 to support the partnership's Neglect priority.



Revision of partnership dataset

During 2025-26, the partnership undertook a comprehensive review of its performance dataset and reporting framework to ensure it remains proportionate and meaningful, strengthening the approach so that information is clearer, more purposeful, and better supports learning and improvement in alignment with safeguarding priorities. In doing so, the partnership has been mindful to reduce duplication of scrutiny undertaken in other forums where primary responsibility for oversight and assurance sits.

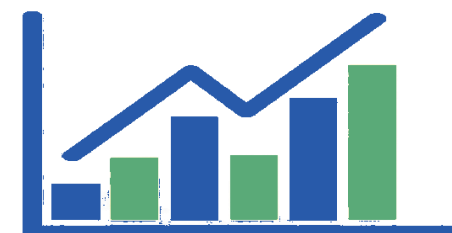
The dataset has now moved to a themed approach to understanding safeguarding. Information is grouped into 12 key safeguarding themes that reflect a child's journey through services - from early help and referral to child protection, support for children in care, and longer-term outcomes.

This approach has enabled the partnership to streamline its data collection processes by eliminating unnecessary or redundant information. As a result, less data is gathered overall, reducing complexity and administrative effort. At the same time, greater emphasis is placed on capturing high-quality, relevant data that directly supports business objectives. This ensures that the information collected is more targeted, meaningful, and actionable, ultimately improving decision-making and overall efficiency.

Across all safeguarding themes, we pay particular attention to what we call our shared safeguarding principles, including:

- listening to children and young people and understanding their lived experience
- strong joint working between organisations
- considering the whole family and wider community
- being culturally aware and actively addressing inequality
- using trauma informed and reflective practice
- focusing on strengths as well as risks

These principles help ensure that information is used thoughtfully and responsibly, not just as numbers, but as part of a wider understanding of children's lives.



Learning and Development and Training



The Learning and Development Subgroup continued to play a central role in strengthening safeguarding practice across Kingston and Richmond by ensuring the workforce is **skilled, informed and confident to protect children and young people**. Across 2025–26, the subgroup focused on improving the reach, quality and impact of learning, while adapting to emerging risks and pressures on the multi-agency workforce.

During 2025–2026, the partnership delivered a **strong and comprehensive multi-agency safeguarding training programme**, reinforcing the shared responsibility to safeguard children across Kingston and Richmond. In total, **88 training events** were delivered, reaching a total of **2,257** professionals across education, early years, health, social care, justice, voluntary and community sectors. Compared with last year there has been a reduction in the number of learning events offered (93 during 2024-25) but it is positive to note that the attendance figures have remained similar (2,258 for 2024-25).

A wide range of safeguarding training topics was delivered over the year (see [Appendix 1](#) for details of all of the events offered), with strong engagement from schools and early years settings, showing a shared commitment to improving practice.

The success of our larger face-to-face events including a multi-agency conference on Online Harms and Learning Event on Child Neglect which launched the **Love, Care and Child Neglect Toolkit**, demonstrated the value of in-person multi-agency learning spaces for shared understanding and system-wide improvement.

The partnership reviewed training attendance to understand who was engaging well and where more support was needed. This helped identify groups that needed targeted outreach, such as voluntary organisations and some statutory services, to ensure learning opportunities are available to everyone who works with children.

It has been encouraging to see an increase in attendance by our police colleagues during 2025-26. However, attendance at safeguarding training from our housing partners was identified as a concern which led to engagement with senior leads from housing to explore this sector's attendance at safeguarding training.

To make learning easier to access, the partnership introduced more flexible options, including shorter sessions, online and hybrid delivery. These changes helped widen participation and ensured learning remained accessible and relevant across diverse professional roles.

A key focus this year was supporting professionals to recognise and respond to child neglect earlier and more consistently. To support the launch of **The Love & Care, Child Neglect Toolkit**, a programme of 'Training for Trainers' sessions has been developed and delivered to embed the use of the toolkit across the partnership.

Alongside professional learning, the partnership recognised the importance of clear, simple information for parents, carers and communities. A [safeguarding poster](#) for the community was refreshed to make it easier for people to know:

- what safeguarding means
- when to be worried
- how to raise concerns

Ongoing safety became a more important learning topic. The partnership held a well-attended Online Harms Conference, covering online grooming, social media impacts, AI risks, and how parents can help keep children safe online.

Feedback showed people want more learning in this area, so plans are in place to provide ongoing, up-to-date training as online risks change.

Guidance for partner agencies was updated to clearly set minimum safeguarding training requirements. This ensures all organisations working with children follow consistent safeguarding standards.



Kingston and Richmond
Safeguarding Children
Partnership

Important Contacts

**Kingston and Richmond
Single Point of Access**
020 8547 5008
(out of Hours 020 8770 5000)

In an emergency
call 999

NSPCC
0808 800 5000

Childline
0800 1111

Child Safety and Wellbeing in the Community

See it!
Hear it!
Report it!

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility this includes the actions we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play.

Do you have concerns about a child? Don't wait for someone else to do something about it.

Organisations

All organisations that work with or come into contact with children must have safeguarding policies and procedures to ensure that every child, regardless of their age, gender, religion ethnicity, disability, sexuality, or sexual orientation can be protected from harm.

Setting up and following good safeguarding policies and procedures means children are safe from adults and other children who might pose a risk.

This includes voluntary and community organisations, faith groups, private sector providers, as well as schools, hospitals and sports clubs.



Voice of **child** is heard and acted on



Child Welfare: Think **Child**, Think **Parent**, Think **Family**



All know **how** and **where** to record safeguarding concerns



Check safeguarding **policies** and a **lead** safeguarding person



Roles and **responsibilities** clearly defined



Regular safeguarding **training**, according to role

Parents

Do your children attend clubs? Do you employ personal tutors?
Do you work or volunteer for a club?

You may want to consider the following:

- Does the club have a safeguarding policy?
- Are staff trained in safeguarding?
- Has your nanny completed the local safeguarding training?
- Is there always more than one adult on site during the club/tuition?
- Are DBS checks (a Police check to check eligibility for working with children) conducted within the organisation?

Think the unthinkable; do not leave it to others to take action.



Multi-Agency Safeguarding Training 2025-26

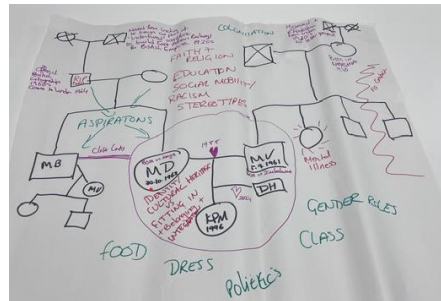
Attendance and Engagement

While attendance levels remained strong, **438** bookings were recorded as booked but not attended, most commonly within high demand sectors such as early years, education, and social care. Improving attendance and encouraging responsible booking and cancellation remains an identified priority to ensure training capacity is used effectively.

Impact and Learning

The continued popularity of Level 3 training, DSL forums and themed safeguarding sessions highlights ongoing workforce demand for:

- Clear understanding of child protection processes
- Shared learning from practice and reviews
- Increased confidence in responding to neglect, trauma and emerging safeguarding risks
- The Safeguarding Children Online Conference 2025 provided a valuable Multi-agency learning space, strengthening shared understanding and partnership working.



Example of a genogram – KRSCP Cultural Genograms Training

eLearning

During 2025-26, the partnership aligned its eLearning offer with AfC which enabled us to offer a wider range of eLearning topics with a total of **2,805** learners completing our eLearning modules. For a breakdown of the courses offered please see [Appendix 1](#).

During 2025-26, we moved away from commissioning the Level 1 safeguarding children eLearning and developed an in-house course to ensure local themes are included and it is regularly updated. We will be monitoring feedback and uptake of this course. We will also be reviewing the Child Sexual Exploitation Level 2 and Gangs and Youth Violence courses due to their low uptake this year.

Looking Ahead

Overall, the 2025–26 programme reflects a robust, accessible and responsive safeguarding training offer. Learning from participation data will inform future planning, with a focus on:

- Sustaining high levels of multi-agency engagement
- Engagement from housing
- Reducing non-attendance rates for booked places
- Measuring the impact of the Love & Care, Child Neglect Toolkit training by monitoring use of the toolkit
- Continuing to align training to emerging risks and local safeguarding priorities.

The programme continues to play a key role in supporting a skilled, confident workforce capable of safeguarding children effectively across the partnership.



Safeguarding Children: Child Protection Process Level 3

"Mike was an excellent course leader and very knowledgeable. He was engaging and gave huge amounts of resources which were helpful and will be useful points of reference moving forward"

Trauma Informed Practice - Introductory Session

"The delivery of the course was great; the facilitator was obviously very passionate and knowledgeable, and I loved the way she talked about each topic Would like more interactive time - breakout rooms are great for this and then discussion, encourage to use mic rather than chat to break up the sessions."

Safeguarding Children Online Conference 2025

"Safeguarding Conferences are excellent, albeit sad in so many cases. The reality hits one. Regarding online I found the most relevant was the last presentation on Devices. These are serious challenges on an everyday level to families."

Learning from Child Safeguarding Practice

"Confident, need guidance only in more complex situations. Good information sharing and recommendations for child protection cases"

Designated Safeguarding Leads Forum (Early Years)

"Very informative and delivered at a good pace which allowed time for discussions. Enjoy going into break out rooms to hear others' opinions, thoughts and ideas as makes the event more reflective as what I then take back into my setting."

Designated Safeguarding Leads Forum

"Inspiring, Illuminating, Practical, Professional, Thought Provoking, Valuable"

Safeguarding Children: Child Protection Process Level 3 – Refresher

"Flexible, Practical ,Reflective, Professional. Carla makes this training interesting and very relevant, including all the most up to date guidance and legislation that is needed in my role as DDSL"

Lunch and Learn: Working with Genograms

"More confidence in completing these with the children and families I work with. More confidence to obtain this information and build rapport with families"

Learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

"Confident, need guidance only in more complex situations. Good information sharing and recommendations for child protection cases"

Safeguarding Children: A Shared Responsibility Level 2

"More aware of issues surrounding safeguarding, Reflective, Professional, Informed, Valuable"

The Love & Care, Child Neglect Toolkit

"Really good training and I feel I have the knowledge to support staff and provide training sessions at YH"

Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP):

"It was a great course and really helped my understanding of prevent and how to identify those at risk of extremism. I thought this session was excellent with clear information on the slides. The presenters were knowledgeable."

Q and A for Voluntary, Community and Faith settings

"I am better informed with regards to contact with SPA, and their threshold levels. It is so helpful to know that we can just call up for advice. Also helpful to hear from other organisations in the borough, whom we can refer to and/or signpost our families to."



During 2026–27, the partnership will work collaboratively with partners through its subgroups and associated workstreams to develop and deliver a coordinated programme of activity aligned to our strategic priorities for 2026–29.

Priority 1: Responding to Technology-Facilitated Harm

We will strengthen multi-agency understanding and responses to technology-facilitated harm by embedding online safety within safeguarding practice. This includes improving the identification of risk and ensuring consistent, effective responses across agencies. Learning from practice will be used to inform approaches, and practitioners will be supported to engage in confident, informed conversations with children and families about online risks.

Priority 2: Embedding an Anti-Racist Safeguarding Approach

We will embed an anti-racist approach across safeguarding systems by building practitioner confidence to explore identity and experiences of racism. We will use data more effectively to identify and address inequalities, ensure that learning reflects diverse perspectives, and actively engage with communities to help shape inclusive and equitable safeguarding practice.

Priority 3: Safeguarding Unborn and Newborn Babies

We will strengthen safeguarding arrangements for unborn and newborn babies by improving early identification and intervention pathways. This includes enhancing multi-agency information sharing and risk assessment, promoting professional curiosity and constructive challenge, and ensuring consistent decision-making across agencies. Learning from reviews will be embedded to support continuous improvement.

Cross-Cutting Approach

Across all priorities, the partnership will focus on delivering improved safeguarding outcomes by:

- Keeping the voice and lived experience of the child central to all activity
- Using data, evidence, and learning to drive continuous improvement
- Strengthening leadership, accountability, and scrutiny across the partnership
- Aligning local practice with statutory guidance and national developments

We will work with partners to identify gaps and emerging needs, undertake multi-agency audits, deliver targeted learning and awareness-raising activities, and, where required, develop strategic responses. Feedback from practitioners will be actively sought, alongside meaningful engagement with children, young people, and families, to ensure their voices inform and shape our work and to assess the impact of our activity.

Ongoing Priority Areas

Alongside this programme, we will continue to:

- Evaluate and strengthen our response to child neglect
- Develop a coordinated strategic response to child sexual abuse
- Address the impact of violence against women and girls (VAWG), exploitation, and mental health
- Progress these areas through established “business as usual” workstreams.



Conclusion and Assurance Statement

As Independent Scrutineer, I am satisfied that the partnership demonstrates a strong culture of self-awareness, openness, and accountability. It operates as a transparent and resilient partnership, where statutory partners are willing to engage honestly in critical self-reflection and to respond constructively to both internal and external challenge.

The evidence reviewed indicates that local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are continuing to strengthen and improve, with a clear commitment to learning and development across the partnership. There is a shared understanding of priorities and a willingness to address areas for further progress.

I look forward to continuing to support and provide constructive challenge to the partnership as it works to implement and respond to the evolving recommendations outlined in this report, ensuring that safeguarding practice continues to develop and improve for the benefit of children and families.



*Amanda Boodhoo, Independent Scrutineer,
Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Children
Partnership*

Scrutiny of Yearly Report

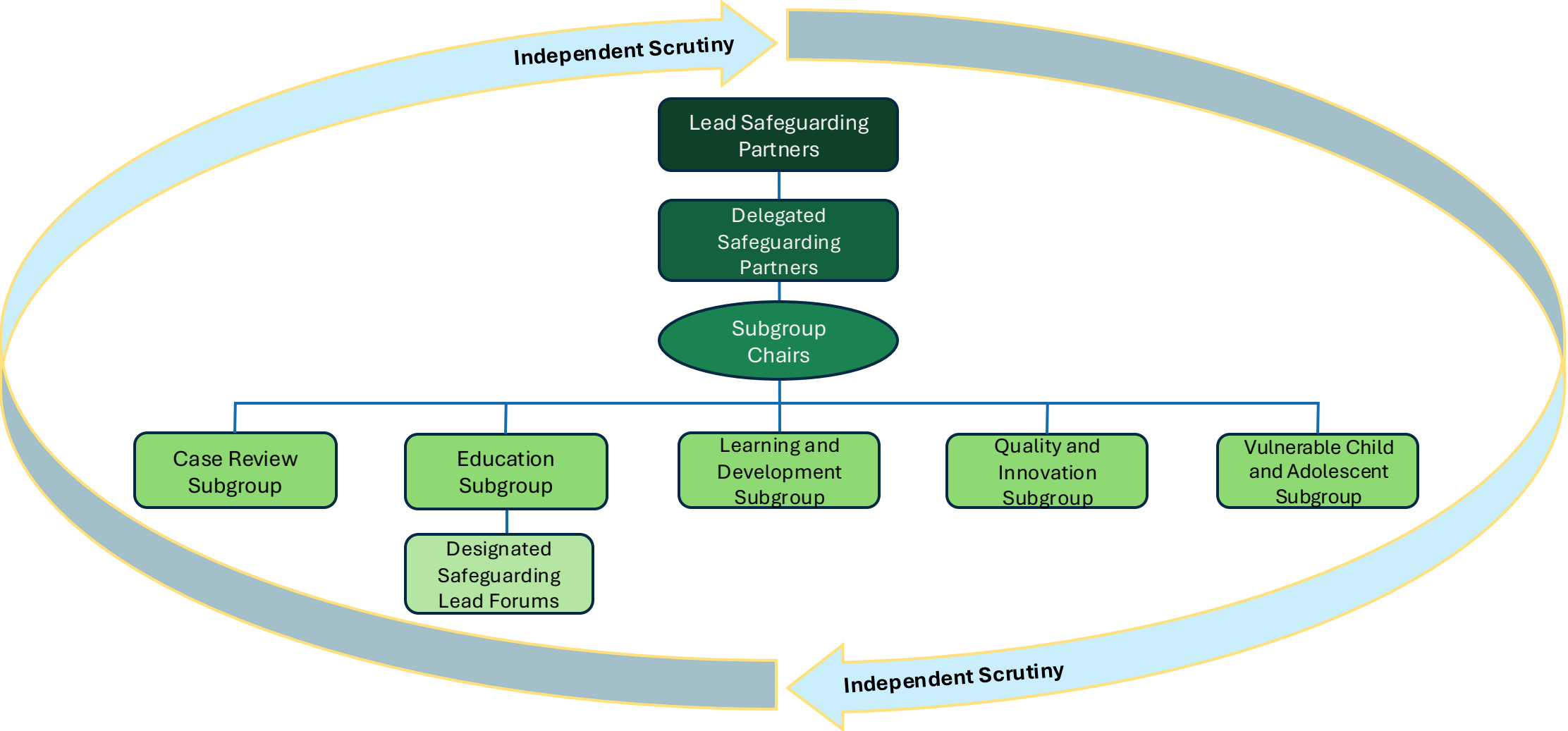
This summary outlines my oversight as Independent Scrutineer of the 2025-26 Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Children Partnership's Yearly Report. The report comprehensively captures the collective efforts of the three safeguarding partners and is an accurate reflection of the effectiveness of local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and the continuous implementation of national reforms.

The report reflects the continuous efforts to develop the design and content, ensuring it presents information in a clear, accessible, and transparent way that meets the needs of both strategic leaders and the wider community.

There is evidence of the efforts made to ensure the voice and direct experiences of children and young people are woven into the evaluation of local services.

In addition to identifying achievements, it provides an honest account of ongoing challenges.

There is clear evidence that lessons learned from statutory child safeguarding practice reviews have directly shaped the priorities outlined for the upcoming year.



Appendix 1 – Learning and Development



KRSCP Training

Safeguarding Children: A Shared Responsibility Level 2
Safeguarding Children: Child Protection Process Level 3
Safeguarding Children: Child Protection Process Level 3 Refresher
Shared learning event for Multi-Agency Practitioners focusing on child Neglect
KRSCP, VCSE and Faith Organisation
Designated Safeguarding Leads Forum (Early Years)
Designated Safeguarding Leads Forum (Maintained and Independent Schools)
Learning from Child Safeguarding Practice
Lunch and Learn: Working with Genograms
Neglect Toolkit: A Bitesize Webinar
Q and A for Voluntary, Community and Faith settings
Technology Facilitated Abuse Workshop
The Love & Care, Child Neglect Toolkit
Trauma Informed Practice - Introductory Session
KRSCP: Workshop to Raise Awareness of PREVENT (WRAP)

KRSCP eLearning

Courses	Number of completions
Child sexual exploitation - Level 2	6
Domestic abuse and intimate partner violence	270
Gangs and youth violence	2
Safeguarding Children - Level 1	2,229
Safeguarding children with disabilities	91
Self-Harm	207
Grand Total	2,805

Appendix 2 – Learning and Development



Attendance by agency	Attendees	Bookings not attended
Early Years – Childminder and Nanny	140	44
Early Years – Private, Voluntary and Independent	497	135
Further Education	8	4
Governing Body	4	1
Independent School	197	26
Schools – Academy	194	23
Schools – Free School	4	5
Schools – State Maintained Primary	331	48
Schools – State Maintained Secondary	31	6
Health – Doctors, Dentists and Pharmacists	21	2
Health – Hospitals, Trusts and Public Health	92	14
Health – Mental Health	13	2
Health – Primary and Community Health	9	0
Health – Secondary and Tertiary	1	1

Attendance by agency (continued)	Attendees (continued)	Bookings not attended (continued)
Police and Probation	27	4
AfC – Business Services	11	1
AfC – Business Support and Efficiency	7	0
AfC – Early Help	65	18
AfC – Education	107	8
AfC – Health	91	15
AfC – Social Care	219	62
Local Authority Services	13	3
Private, Voluntary and Community	147	15
Sports and Culture	28	1
TOTAL	2,257	438



This glossary explains the terms and short forms used in this report.

Term	What it means
Accessibility and child-friendly practice	Making sure information and services are easy to understand and welcoming for children and families. This includes using plain words and clear layouts.
Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS)	NHS services that support the mental health and emotional wellbeing of children and young people.
Child protection conference	A child protection conference is a formal meeting between family members and professionals to share information and decide how to keep a child safe. It brings together parents, social workers, teachers, health workers, and police to assess risks and create a safety plan.
Child protection plan	A written plan outlining how a child will be kept safe. It says who will do what, by when and how this will improve the life of the child.
Child safeguarding practice review (CSPR)	An in-depth review carried out after a child dies or is seriously harmed and abuse or neglect are a factor. These reviews look at how services worked together and whether there is any learning. Learning is shared with other local and national children's safeguarding organisations.
Children looked after	Children the local authority look after. They may live with foster carers, in a children's home, or sometimes with relatives.
Children in care council	A group of children and young people in care who meet to share their views and help improve the support that children in care receive from local services.
Children's social care (CSC)	The part of the local authority that supports and protects children and families. Social workers usually lead this work; the organisation is run by the Director of Children's Social Care.
Contextual safeguarding lead	Person who looks at risk to young people outside their home, including within their neighbourhood, at school or online.
CPOMS/MyConcern	Shared computer systems that schools use to record and keep track of worries about a child's safety.



Term	What it means
Deep dive	A partnership approach to thematic enquiry, including multi-agency audits, and discussions with practitioners, children and their families/carers.
Designated safeguarding lead (DSL)	A trained senior staff member in early years/education settings, responsible for managing child protection, acting as the main point of contact for safety concerns, and ensuring policies are followed.
Designated safeguarding lead forums	Regular meetings offered by the partnership to share the latest safeguarding information, trends and learning.
Delegated safeguarding partner (DSP)	A senior person who helps lead the work to keep children safe in the local area. There are three DSPs, one each from the local authority, the integrated care board, and the police; they are responsible for the day-to-day work of the partnership.
Early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework	The early years foundation stage (EYFS) sets standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years old. Section 3 of the framework covers how to keep young children safe and well.
Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI)	Making sure everyone is treated fairly, that differences are respected, and that everyone feels included.
Harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) and the Hackett Continuum	Sexual behaviour by a child that may harm themselves or others. The Hackett continuum is a guide that helps workers judge behaviour on a scale, from normal through to seriously harmful behaviour.
Independent scrutineer	A partnership appoints an independent scrutineer to give an unbiased view of how well agencies are working together to keep children safe. They review performance, question areas that need improvement, and help make sure safeguarding arrangements are effective across all organisations involved.
Inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS)	The way Ofsted inspects how well a local authority protects and supports children. They may make recommendations for how services could be improved.
Integrated care board (ICB)	An integrated care board (ICB) is the NHS body that plans health services for an area. The ICB is one of three organisations legally responsible for safeguarding children, the others being the Local Authority and the Police.
Joint South West London Child Neglect Strategy	A shared plan across the South West London boroughs for tackling child neglect.



Term	What it means
Joint targeted area inspection (JTAI)	An inspection where the inspectors for each of the safeguarding partners look together at how well local services safeguard children around a theme. You can read more about these inspections here .
Kingston and Richmond Youth Council	A group of young people who speak up for other young people in Kingston and Richmond. You can contact them at info@kingstonrichmondycouncil.org.uk
Lead safeguarding partner (LSP)	An LSP is a senior leader responsible for keeping children safe in their area. There is one each from the local authority, the integrated care board, and the police. They share equal responsibility for this work.
Local authority designated officer (LADO)	The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) oversees allegations against people in positions of trust with children, including both professionals and volunteers
Love & Care, Child Neglect Toolkit	A set of practical tools that helps workers spot and respond to child neglect early.
Missing children	Children who go missing are vulnerable to harm. You can read more about the partnership support to these children here .
Multi-agency audits	Checks where workers from different organisations look at children's records together, to see what went well and what could be done better.
Multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC)	A meeting where information is shared on the highest risk domestic abuse cases.
Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements (MASA)	The way the local authority, the integrated care board, and the police plan and work together to keep children safe across an area.
Ofsted	The government body that inspects schools, nurseries, and local authority children's services in England.
Operation Encompass	Operation Encompass is a countrywide police scheme that ensures they inform a child's school when there has been a domestic abuse incident at home, so staff can support the child.
Pre-multi-agency child exploitation meeting (Pre-MACE)	The Pre-MACE is a meeting with an operational focus on children for whom there are concerns about exploitation. You can read more about the partnership's work to respond to child exploitation here .



Term	What it means
Prevent	The Prevent duty is a UK law that requires public organisations, such as schools, hospitals, and local councils, to help stop people from being drawn into terrorism or supporting extremist ideas.
Rapid review	A quick review that the partnership carries out soon after a child dies or is seriously harmed and there are concerns that abuse or neglect may be a factor. It looks at what happened and what can be learned straight away.
Risk outside the home (ROTH)	This relates to how the partnership supports children where they are at risk outside of their home environment.
Risk of missing education (ROME)	A multi-agency panel which aims to identify and plan the support for children and young people whose education placement is at risk
Safeguarding children partnership (SCP)	The group of organisations that work together to keep children safe in a local area.
Section 11 Audit	This is a self-assessment for organisations that provide services to children and/or young people, or come into contact with them, to ensure they have effective arrangements in place to safeguard and promote their welfare as per Section 11 of the Children Act 2004
Section 47 Investigation	A Section 47 investigation is a formal child protection inquiry by local authority children's services and /or the police to check if a child is at risk of significant harm. It involves gathering information from professionals, speaking with the family, and deciding if action is needed to keep the child safe.
Serious youth violence incidents	Violent crimes that involve young people, such as knife crime or gang-related attacks.
Single Point of Access (SPA)	The Single Point of Access is the integrated multi-agency point of contact for Achieving for Children (AfC – local authority children's service provider for Kingston and Richmond). We receive referrals about children and families from our partner agencies, such as health, schools and the police, and decide the right outcomes and level of support for them.
Special educational needs (SEN) and SEND	When a child needs extra help to learn. SEND adds disability to this. The extra help may be needed because of a disability, or a difficulty with learning, speaking, behaviour or health.
Strategic risk outside the home (STROTH)	A multi-agency strategic forum that oversees and coordinates responses to extra-familial harm, using shared intelligence to identify trends, tackle harmful contexts, and improve safeguarding for children and young people at a community level



Term	What it means
Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)	A way to measure a child's development. It's a short questionnaire used to help understand how a child is doing emotionally, socially, and behaviourally. Parents, teachers and sometimes children themselves (usually older children) fill it in.
Violence against women and girls (VAWG)	VAWG stands for Violence Against Women and Girls. It is a general term used by governments, police, and charities to describe many types of abuse, physical harm, and crimes that target females much more often than males.
Voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE)	Charities, faith groups, community groups and not-for-profit organisations.
Vulnerable adolescents supported into adulthood (VASA)	A partnership protocol to support vulnerable adolescents as they transition to adulthood.
Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023	This refers to government guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' published in 2023 that explains how organisations must work together to protect children. It has been updated (see below).
Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026	The updated version of the guidance, published in 2026. It strengthens what is expected of the partners who keep children safe.
Young scrutineer	A young person who helps check the partnership's work and shares the views of children and young people.
Youth Out Loud (Kingston/Richmond)	A group of young people who speak up about the issues that matter to them and help shape local health and social care services.