

Children at risk of abuse as cost of living escalates



Child abuse figures rise as poverty increases, says research by [the Nuffield Foundation](#). This [video recording](#) explains the research. With this in mind, we must

appreciate how deeply the cost of living crisis could affect our families in Kingston and Richmond.

The charity, [Barnardo's](#), warns that families will struggle to afford child care over the summer break, as they struggle to meet the rising costs of essentials.

Polling of 1,191 parents and carers shows this summer will be particularly difficult for families because of the ongoing impact of the cost-of-living-crisis. Almost half of parents and carers (46%) surveyed said they will struggle to afford family holidays and days out. One in four (26%) can't fund activities like childcare and holiday clubs, and one in five (21%) won't be able to afford to time off work to spend with their children. Growing up in poverty means children miss out on opportunities and their physical and mental health suffers, all of which can affect them long into adulthood.

You can read Barnardo's report A Crisis on Our Doorstep [here](#)

Local Poverty Support

[Citizens Advice Richmond](#)

[Citizens Advice Kingston:](#)

[BBC Children In Need Emergency Essentials Programme](#)

[Connected Kingston](#)

Richmond council Cost of Living [Support Hub](#)

Kingston Council Cost of Living [Support Hub](#)

Low cost/ Free activities for families

[Kew Gardens](#) is offering entry for £1 to anyone on universal credit

Met Police free family fun day on Mon 21 August in the Old Deer Park

Richmond 12pm-6pm



Don't forget... to complete the safeguarding audit before the end of July please. Click on the relevant link below to go straight to right online audit form:
[Childminders audit](#) [PVI Settings audit](#) [Out of School providers audit](#)

Useful resources for EY practitioners

The DfE has lots of free resources for Early Years practitioners [here](#), including free training and materials to improve your practice across a range of areas including safeguarding and welfare.

USEFUL STUFF →

How the changes to the adult to child ratios for two year olds from September will work is explained [here](#) by Ofsted.

Working with families facing challenges information and guidance from Early Years in Mind is [here](#)

Safeguarding forum on 28 June

Seventy five Early Years practitioners heard about the learning from a local child who sadly died aged 4. The learning from the case, called Child V, was wide spread and across all agencies.

Early Years are encouraged to understand the medical conditions of children in their settings, particularly what might happen if the correct medical care is not received. In the case of Child V too much emphasis was placed on the domestic abuse occurring in the household and not enough focus was given to the health needs of the child, who was being medically neglected by the parents who were not taking the child to his medical appointments.

Failure to attend nursery was put down to the child not being well – and fearful of returning after the pandemic. This learning has led to some settings establishing an attendance policy and process when children don't attend. One setting described a simple video call home to see the child. Having eyes on the child is so important in child protection.

Other learning at the event included training around the Domestic Abuse Act, which you can see [here](#). The forum was also lucky to hear from a training organisation called [lifting limits](#), which offers gender equality training for early years.

If you are interested in learning from real safeguarding practice reviews, [this from the NSPCC](#) focuses on themes from the Early Years sector.

New resource for children age 3 and up

[This free new resource](#) from Childnet, called Hanni and The Magic Window, is an e-book with a safety message and some conversation ideas to talk about with young children after reading the story.



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Domestic Abuse News



Physical violence is just one type of abuse – domestic abuse can be any behaviour which is used to harm, punish or frighten someone, or make them feel bullied, controlled or intimidated. This includes mental, sexual, financial and emotional abuse and other harmful practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM), so called “honour” based violence and forced marriage.

[Child to parent abuse](#) is a relatively new area of domestic abuse that is being increasingly recognised. Despite a commonly-held misconception that teenagers are responsible for the majority of Child to Parent Abuse cases, this is the second year in a row that a survey undertaken by Shrewsbury-based social enterprise PEGS revealed many parents experienced physical, verbal or other forms of abuse when their child was five or younger. Click the link to read more.

Support for victims of domestic abuse

Richmond borough – Refuge (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor(IDVA) and Outreach Service) **020 8943 8188** Monday – Friday 9am-5pm

Kingston Borough - Domestic Abuse Hub, support and advocacy for survivors of DA: **0208 5476046** (Mon – Fri 9.30 – 5pm)

Concerned about a child, call the SPA: **0208 547 5008** (Mon – Fri 8am-5pm)

Free Domestic Abuse and Honour Based Abuse training for [Kingston Practitioners](#) on Mon 6 July, book [here](#)

Bath seats and drowning advice

With summer here we're asking all partners to promote water safety messages to the children and families they work with to help reduce the risk of drowning. Here are some helpful resources to consider sharing with families who have young children and babies.

[General water safety advice](#)

[Baby bath seat warning](#)

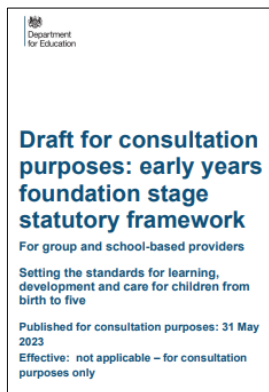


Dog safety

Here is a range of [resources](#) with practical #DogSafety tips that families can use in their everyday lives. The advice includes factsheets about preparing your dog for the arrival of a new baby as well as other safety tips for dog owners with young children.

EYFS Consultation

The consultation is open until 26 July. There are two statutory frameworks this year: one for childminders which you can see [here](#) and one for settings which you can see [here](#).



Before you take part in the consultation, it would be useful to read [this document](#), which outlines the proposed changes. Do please take part in the consultation as this legislation is highly relevant to you.

New to DSL training coming soon

The Early Years team in AfC is developing some new training which will be available next term for people who are new to being a DSL in Early years. This training does not replace the Level 3 Child Protection training that DSL need to have. Instead it is an additional training specifically to develop:

- an understanding of the role in taking the lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection.
- The course will provide delegates with clear information regarding the safeguarding systems in the borough of Kingston and Richmond
- The course is for staff who are recently appointed or will soon be appointed to the role of Early Years Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) in early years settings.

Working Together to Safeguard Children

This statutory guidance sets out what is expected of agencies, organisations and individuals to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area. This new consultation is open until 6 September. The draft new guidance is [here](#) and the consultation document is [here](#). Once you have read these, you can feedback your responses to the consultation [here](#).

Do you have Young Carers in your setting?

If you know a child is in a caring role, refer them to the local Young Carers groups for Kingston and Richmond. Caring responsibilities have a huge impact on young people and these groups can offer valuable support.

020 3031 2754 Kingston Young Carers Project

020 8867 2383 Richmond Young Carers Project



Cruse Richmond Bereavement Support Service



Cruse has a strong, experienced group of volunteers, all having moved across to providing telephone and Zoom support, to new and existing clients. They can offer regular support to people within weeks of having registered with Cruse Richmond and are able to support families and children through bereavement. All volunteers undergo an extensive training programme and are experienced in providing emotional support to the bereaved - whenever and however that bereavement occurred. Leave a voicemail on **07495 777401** or email referrals@cruserichmonduponthames.org.uk. They will respond within 24 hours (not including weekends) to offer initial support and explain how to get regular telephone or Zoom support sessions with one of their volunteers.

Kingston Bereavement Service

Please contact us on 020 8547 1552 or email

info@kingstonbereavementservice.org.uk

For immediate help, you can call the CRUSE National Helpline on 0808 808 1677

Mental Health support

Charlie Waller organisation has lots of free guides and resources for professionals working with young people. Have a look [here](#)

Child Death Helpline

Sadly colleagues across all partner agencies may at some time be affected by the death of a child known to their service or involved in responding to their death. Besides internal employee support mechanisms which all are encouraged to explore, professionals may also find it helpful to be aware that the child death helpline is available to speak to if you are affected by the death of a child on 0800 282 986. For more information you can visit <https://www.childdeathhelpline.org.uk>

Concerns about adults working with children

If you have any concerns about an adult working with children you can contact the LADO service on 020 8891 7370 or 07774 332 675 or email:

LADO@achievingforchildren.org.uk

The LADO referral form is now online and can be accessed via our website [here](#).

When making a LADO referral remember that if there is a safeguarding concern for a child you will also need to make a SPA referral for the child. This [LADO training](#) event on 12 July is from 6.30-8.30pm. Click the link to book your place.