



Kingston and Richmond
Safeguarding Children Partnership

Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2023-24

Foreword from KRSCP's Chair

Welcome to the Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report for 2023-24.

This year has been another very busy year for the KRSCP team working with our partners on a wide range of safeguarding activities which are highlighted in this report. This has included establishing the Education Subgroup to underline our commitment to include education as a statutory partner. Ongoing scrutiny of KRSCP has come from the work of our Independent Scrutineer who has observed subgroups and has provided feedback on areas for development. We have also undertaken section 11 audits using the PHEW electronic tool to enable the partnership to scrutinise the safeguarding practice of our partner agencies. KRSCP led a very successful drugs education campaign for children's schools and parents/carers and have established regular meetings with Kingston, and Richmond and Wandsworth Safeguarding Adults Boards to develop relationships and consider how effectively we are working across children and adults' services. Throughout the year we have been supporting our partners with preparation for an expected Joint Area Targeted Inspection (JTAI). With the publication of [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#) (WT2023) in December we have been working on the required changes for our partnership and made the decision to use the grant funding to create a post for the team to lead on the implementation. After a consultation with partners, it was agreed that the KRSCP priorities for 2024-26 will be:

1. Child Sexual Abuse & Exploitation
2. Neglect
3. Adolescent/Transitional Safeguarding & Serious Youth Violence
4. Implementation of Working Together and associated guidance

We thank you all for your support and commitment to keeping children safe across Kingston and Richmond.



Ian Cameron
Kingston & Richmond Safeguarding Children
Partnership Chair
Detective Superintendent, South West Borough
Command Unit, Metropolitan Police Service

Message from KRSCP's Independent Scrutineer

The role of the independent scrutineer is to act as a critical friend to promote reflection and drive continuous improvement. The independent scrutineer considers how effective local safeguarding arrangements are and provides constructive feedback and recommendations on this to the strategic partners for their consideration. The independent scrutineer also scrutinises the partnership's annual report. As the Independent Scrutineer joining KRSCP in September 2022, this is the first complete year on which to focus of my observations.

This annual report acknowledges the progress made by the partnership throughout the year and the challenges that remain, which the partnership is committed to addressing in the coming year.

During the last year of undertaking the role I have regularly attended the meetings of the Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Children Partnership strategic leaders and have had the pleasure of meeting a range of partners, professionals and of hearing the voice of children.

I have used the 'Six Steps to Independent Scrutiny' (now called Checklist for Independent Scrutiny), published by Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme (VKPP) to develop a workplan to inform the scrutiny process.

As part of this workplan, I have undertaken a range of scrutiny activity to support my assessment of the strength of the partnership safeguarding arrangements.

Areas of scrutiny have included:

- ❖ Scrutiny of priorities by observing subgroups.

- ❖ Scrutiny of the partnership data and quality assurance processes.
- ❖ Observed a KRSCP learning event held on child exploitation as part of the focused work in the deep dive offering the opportunity to hear the voice of young people sharing their lived experience of being exploited.
- ❖ Independent scrutiny of a multi-agency deep dive around child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation agreed in response to local learning.
- ❖ Scrutiny of the section 11 submissions and the process undertaken to triangulate the data.
- ❖ Supporting the development of a strategic child and adult interface forum to support a joined-up approach across the priorities and work of the various strategic boards.
- ❖ Supporting the partners in further developing a process to learn from complaints.
- ❖ Attendance at the Education and Children's Services Committee.
- ❖ Participation in pan London and national events.
- ❖ Meeting with practitioners and managers to hear their voice.

Future opportunities to engage with children and families is planned.

In undertaking the role of scrutineer there is clear evidence of robust partnership arrangements to ensure that children in Kingston and Richmond are safeguarded and their welfare promoted.

The safeguarding arrangements are supported by strong and committed leadership, with all statutory partners fully committed to the safeguarding ambitions of the partnership. There is a culture of openness, respectful challenge, and a willingness to learn. There is developing positive collaboration and joint working with the Safeguarding Adults Boards.

The Local Safeguarding Arrangements for the partnership continue to comply with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and is well placed to take forward the changes and new arrangements in WT2023 with minimal disruption.

In the coming year the need to strengthen the partnership arrangements is recognised, and significant efforts are already underway. Strong change management, systems leadership, and systematic processes will be crucial for future developments.

As the Independent Scrutineer, I am committed to hearing directly from children, young people, families, and frontline practitioners to understand what is working well and how multi-agency working can be improved. While challenges lie ahead, I have confidence in the ability of Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Children Partnership to build upon its strengths and I will continue to scrutinise and support the partnership in navigating risks and challenges.



Amanda Boodhoo
Independent Scrutineer

Local Context

Demographics in Kingston:

- ❖ The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames has approximately 168,000 residents.
- ❖ In 2020 estimates from ONS, 0–17-year-olds accounted for 22% of the population.

Demographics in Richmond:

- ❖ The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames has approximately 195,000 residents.
- ❖ In 2020 estimates from ONS, 0–17-year-olds accounted for 23% of the population.

What is going well?

- ❖ Establishment of Section 11 online tool to support organisations to audit their safeguarding practice.
- ❖ Excellent response rate of 97% of all schools completing their safeguarding audit.
- ❖ Strategy meetings taking place in a timely manner and improved partner attendance.
- ❖ Increased number of children being identified and registered with organisations supporting children who are young carers in Kingston and Richmond.
- ❖ Substance Advice for Everyone (SAFE) project delivered by KRSCP raising awareness with children and their parents/carers about substance use.
- ❖ Success of 'The Maternal Early Childhood Sustained Home-visiting' (MECSH) service pilot has resulted in it becoming permanent in Kingston.

- ❖ High numbers of schools and early years attending the safeguarding forums.
- ❖ Education Subgroup brings education closer to the heart of the partnership.
- ❖ The partnership has received positive feedback as to the quality of several of its rapid reviews.
- ❖ The local area partnership's special educational needs and/or disability (SEND) arrangements typically lead to positive experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership is taking action where improvements are needed.

What are we worried about and areas for development?

- ❖ The partnership dataset has continued to not include Metropolitan Police Service data.
- ❖ There have been challenges in capturing West Middlesex hospital data.
- ❖ Timeliness of initial and annual health assessments for children looked after is a persistent area requiring improvement, continued challenges when children are placed outside of the local authorities. There is a business plan for this area, scrutinised by the respective Corporate Parenting Committees.
- ❖ Initial improvement in provision of GPs' reports to child protection conferences remains an area of focus.
- ❖ Neglect has featured both in local rapid reviews and child safeguarding practice reviews. A neglect task and finish group has been established which will review the KRSCP Neglect Strategy and Toolkit.

- ❖ Legacy of COVID-19 pandemic, seeing children in the home and the cost-of-living crisis.
- ❖ Transitional safeguarding and vulnerabilities of young people transitioning to adult services at 18 and gaps in services to meet their needs. An Interface Group has been established with Kingston SAB and Richmond & Wandsworth SAB to address these issues.
- ❖ Length of time young people are having to wait from referral to treatment in the Emotional Health Service and CAMHS tier 3.
- ❖ Mental health of young people and the impact this has on the support available to them.



Progress on Priorities

KRSCP priorities for 2022-24 were mental health, early help to support parental vulnerabilities, contextual safeguarding, and child sexual abuse. Throughout the partnership's work there is also an agreed focus on disproportionality, diversity, and anti-racism. Below are some key activities that have been undertaken for each of the priority areas:

Priority	Progress
Mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Wellbeing project for 4–18-year-olds who have been sexually harmed promoted to schools. ❖ SLG has received a presentation on MPS initiative re right care right person for local assurance. ❖ SAFE day education for young people highlights the potential risks to mental health from substance misuse. ❖ KRSCP newsletter and social media promotes awareness of resources re mental health, suicide prevention, and support for those bereaved by suicide.
Parental vulnerabilities and early help	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Establishment of the Stronger Families Strategic Board. ❖ Family hubs begin to develop. ❖ SAFE Day film watched by 18,000 parents/carers. ❖ Updated KRSCP protocol for bruising in non-mobile babies launched. ❖ Neglect task and finish group convened. ❖ KRSCP newsletter and social media raises promotes relevant safety messaging and sources of support. ❖ Partnership training on Young People and Solvent Abuse provided. ❖ Presentation to EY Designate Safeguarding Leads (DSL) forum Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
Contextual safeguarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Partnership event focussing on Exploitation March 2024. ❖ Update of Missing Protocol and Vulnerable Children & Adolescents Strategy. ❖ Deep dive on sexual abuse & exploitation. ❖ Impact of SAFE Day campaign on substance use in young people and awareness raising for young people, & parents/carers.
Child sexual abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Child Sexual Abuse Month November 2023 offered a range of learning opportunities and awareness raising about child sexual abuse. Multi-agency deep dive into child sexual abuse & exploitation. ❖ Harmful Sexual Behaviour Training delivered to multi-agency practitioners throughout the year. ❖ Presentation on child sexual abuse to EY and Education DSLs forum.
Disproportionality, diversity and anti-racism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Facilitated sessions undertaken with partners and senior managers on cultural competency and the establishment of a multi-agency task and finish group to develop an Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Statement for KRSCP. ❖ Kingston and Richmond Youth Council Racism Survey findings and recommendation shared with partners. ❖ DSL forum session on anti-racism and promotion of anti-racism pledge.

Voice of the Child

Young People from the Kingston and Richmond Youth Council, namely Tarun, Praneeth and Myra, who had worked on the Youth Council's racism survey, presented to SLG, Education subgroup, the new EDI forum and DSL forums. The survey, which had 1300 responses, revealed the breadth and depth of racism experienced by young people along with some recommendations for schools to tackle racism, which were followed up in the newly created Equality, Diversity & Inclusion forums that the partnership set up for school EDI leads in February and March 2024, to implement the recommendations of the Youth Council's racism survey. The Youth Council survey recommendations for schools were:

- ❖ Promote incident reporting systems so that students are aware and feel safe about completing it.
- ❖ Better communication with parents to ensure all pupils are supported, all involved know what is being done and why.
- ❖ Develop education about racism throughout the curriculum, not just in PSHE. Use assemblies for information about the reporting systems.
- ❖ Students might learn best in workshop style, discussion-led opportunities to explore these values, views and understanding. Particularly, learning with peers. Continuing the conversation by working with students would help encourage even more recommendations that create systems and support that works best - a student led system.

In March 24 at our partnership event on criminal exploitation, Miles, Ricky and Alan, three young men, spoke about their experiences – prison for one of them – and the role of youth services in supporting them, throughout their adolescence and even now in early adulthood.



[Substance Advice for Everyone](#) was a successful drug education campaign funded by Richmond Public Health and delivered by Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Children Partnership through all the secondary schools (including the independent schools).

The education for the young people was child led by three local young people, Dylan aged 15 and Sara aged 13 and Meg aged 28, who shared the impact of substance use on them personally. Their stories were filmed and embedded into lessons delivered in all secondary schools to all young people in Years 7-13 on March 4th, SAFE Day. Their stories were also included in a substance use awareness [film for parents](#) and carers in the two boroughs, which was viewed by 18,000 parents/carers locally, meaning the voice of the child impacted both other young people and parents/carers across the two boroughs.

Evaluation of the SAFE campaign

There has been some very positive feedback from children, schools and parents about this campaign:



"It was very useful and actually made people in my form think".

"It was incredibly moving and did result in me opening a dialogue with my son about drug abuse, which I might not otherwise have done."



"This was an excellent campaign strengthened by the fact that secondary schools were all aligned. The resources were clear and easy to navigate. Thank you."

In addition, we have been told that since SAFE Day initial police data has shown that there has been an over 50% reduction from the 3 months before to the 3 months after Safe Day of 11-17 year olds in possession of drugs in Richmond. This has given us some initial evidence of the success, effectiveness and impact of the SAFE campaign.

Child friendly version of annual report

The annual report for young people is produced in the Autumn after this report is published. It will be on our website [here](#). This is the [link to the 22-23 child friendly version](#) which was produced last Autumn, 2023.

Quality and Innovation

The Quality and Innovation Subgroup is responsible for a variety of tasks aimed at enhancing our grasp of local performance and identifying ways to improve our collaborative efforts across agencies to work better more effectively to support children.

The chairing of the subgroup was undertaken by Caroline Mark, Associate Director for Quality Assurance & Review, Achieving for Children with Michele Okuda, Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children - Richmond NHS South West London Integrated Care Board (SWLICB) as Co-Chair from February 2024. This group met four times during 2023/24.

Key activities undertaken were as follows:

- ❖ The subgroup members continued to track and scrutinise to ensure the dataset continues to be meaningful across the partnership.
- ❖ The development of [Think Space](#) multi-agency reflective sessions has been ongoing. Three sessions were conducted, addressing a total of five cases. These included referrals from a range of multi-agency partners. The sessions have been evaluated via feedback sessions and more Think Space facilitators have been trained.

"I found the panels reflections were very therapeutic and meaningful. The language and themes they used were very helpful in reflecting on my formulation of the case".



- ❖ Received presentation regarding the findings from AfC Misper Panel briefing.
- ❖ Dip sample audit report shared on child protection repeat plans for a second or subsequent time identified initially in Kingston by the Head of Conferencing and Review AfC. Themes included impact of COVID-19; children stepped down too early; issues of domestic abuse leading to interventions being incident-led; parental alcohol/substance misuse where there are patterns of engagement with interventions and then relapse and impact of poverty as a theme and repeat plans due to older siblings.
- ❖ Presentation received from Richmond Public Health regarding modified pathway for school health attendance at child protection conferences.
- ❖ Next multi-agency deep dive around child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation agreed in response to local learning.
- ❖ Presentation from police partners regarding the current Police Business Intelligence Tool which provides information on police contact around crime involving children.
- ❖ Revision of health key performance indicators discussed and accepted.
- ❖ Received 12-month update from Kingston Public Health regarding 'The Maternal Early Childhood Sustained Home-visiting' (MECSH). This service offers extra Health visitors contact for the first 2 years of a child's life for vulnerable families. A total of 37 families have used/are using the service, mainly recruited in the post-natal period.
- ❖ A dip sample audit of strategy meetings was presented showing meetings were timely, good application of threshold, improvement in partners attendance, child's voice evident and revision of minutes being produced within two days of

meetings and shared with partners stating invitees, and attendants. Managing the increasing number of strategy meetings was highlighted as a challenge and learning around safety planning for the child being more specific.

- ❖ Received presentation of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Report 2022-23. Increase in number of referrals and consultations has led to increased staffing for the service in responding to the increase in demand.
- ❖ KRSCP and LADO service provided four training sessions to the voluntary sector to help them understand the role of the LADO and how to respond when they have safeguarding concerns about adults working in positions of trust within their organisations.
- ❖ Update regarding Neglect Task & Finish Group initiated from two local rapid reviews which will further inform the next partnership deep dive into neglect.
- ❖ Received interim update deep dive into child sexual abuse audit of eight children. Initial key findings were good communications between agencies; the child's voice is heard; challenges identified included the complexities of family dynamics; cross-borough working; role and process of child sexual abuse medicals; adultification; young carers; gender bias.
- ❖ KRSCP learning event held on child exploitation as part of the focused work in the deep dive hearing from young people about their lived experience of being exploited.
- ❖ Participation in multi-agency audit and focus groups with SWLICB and corresponding local authority areas focusing on Children's Complex Case Review, four children identified for audit.

- ❖ New Section 11 self-assessment online audit tool developed to help organisations in Kingston and Richmond undertake their own quality assurance processes to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Eight organisations submitted an audit in phase one and four in phase 2.
- ❖ Received presentation from Richmond Public Health regarding Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs Assessment/strategic priorities 2025.



Case Review

The Case Review Subgroup (CRS, formerly Local Learning Review Subgroup) considers any serious child safeguarding case notifications for Kingston and Richmond and undertakes rapid reviews as required by the statutory guidance in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023. During 2023-24 chairing of the subgroup was undertaken by Louise Doherty, Designated Nurse for SWLICB and Bas Dickson-Leach, Detective Inspector MPS. The CRS met four times

during 2023-24, and additionally on an ad hoc basis for rapid reviews as required.

In this period, seven serious child safeguarding cases were notified, and a rapid review was undertaken for each of these. For one of these cases, a decision was made that a child safeguarding practice review should be commenced – this was ongoing at the year end. For a further one of these cases which was undertaken jointly with additional safeguarding children partnerships, a domestic homicide review is being undertaken by an external community safety partnership.

For each of the rapid reviews undertaken feedback has been received from the national child safeguarding practice review panel (CSPRP). This has been encouraging as they have agreed with the recommended outcomes in terms of whether or not a local CSPR should be commenced, and also specifically praised the quality of three of the rapid reviews. The feedback and our work throughout the year has highlighted a need to ensure a consistent and robust approach to establishing meaningful and measurable action plans, with effective allocation and monitoring. We have begun a process of tabling the rapid reviews to a meeting of the subgroup chairs to assist coordination of relevant activities and outcomes.

Key activities undertaken were as follows:

- ❖ Monitoring of action plans from rapid reviews and child safeguarding practice reviews, including updates from relevant task and finish groups.
- ❖ Agreed [updated terms of reference](#) including membership, and local [guidance for the review of serious child safeguarding cases and the case review subgroup](#).
- ❖ Considered emerging learning from a complex abuse investigation, and the related partnership response to a single

agency review concerning vulnerable adolescents including enactment of an action plan. Publication of a related Safeguarding Adults Review is awaited. The learning has influenced the [partnership priorities that have been agreed for 2024-2026](#) and has been reflected in partnership training including on harmful sexual behaviour and at our learning event in March 2024.

- ❖ Considered the national child safeguarding practice review panel report '[The Myth of Invisible Men; Safeguarding children under 1 from non-accidental injury caused by male carers](#)' and promoted this report and learning for local practice via our [partnership newsletter](#).
- ❖ Received updates from AfC and ICB on the arising action plans from local assurance activity required of local authorities arising from the national panel review of safeguarding children with disabilities in residential settings.
- ❖ Convened a task and finish group concerning neglect to address emerging local learning.
- ❖ Developed a [local companion pathway](#) for the London Safeguarding Children Procedure on resolving professional differences to support escalations, as local learning highlighted this as an area where practitioners may benefit from further direction.
- ❖ Drafted a resource that may be adapted to induct multi-agency professionals into their responsibilities as panel members for CSPRs.
- ❖ Considered how improvements could be made to the timely dissemination of learning via a range of means including, written content, briefing sessions and/or sharing at existing forums, webinars etc.
- ❖ Considered the updated [KRSCP protocol for bruising in non-mobile babies](#).
- ❖ A local learning review concerning neglect was concluded and an action plan agreed.

- ❖ Subgroup members participated in sessions with the national child safeguarding practice review panel, and London Councils to share themes and best practice for local reviews. Learning from the national panel around how to ensure proportionate and good quality local reviews was presented at a subgroup meeting.
- ❖ Considered emerging learning from the conviction of Lucy Letby as regards multi-agency awareness and referrals to the LADO, and how this can be promoted locally.
- ❖ Considered the [national child safeguarding practice review panel's annual report for 2022-23](#) and implications for local safeguarding practice; the learning will be included in our implementation plan regarding updated statutory guidance.
- ❖ Initiated extraordinary meetings dedicated to reviewing and updating the case review tracker to ensure effective monitoring.
- ❖ The partnership newsletter has also included items on the following to promote awareness in connection with local learning reviews: children at risk from exploitation; resolving professional differences; updated guidance for achieving best evidence; resources from the centre for expertise on child sexual abuse; KRSCP's child sexual abuse awareness month; support for those bereaved by suicide; and, post adoption support.



Vulnerable Children and Adolescents

The Vulnerable Children and Adolescent (VCA) Subgroup aims to ensure an effective and timely response from all agencies involved in managing children and young people missing from home, care, or education and those at risk of criminal and/or sexual exploitation, radicalisation, and extremism, Harmful Sexual Behaviour, trafficking, serious youth violence, gangs and groups, and substance misuse. The group also ensures that criminal exploitation issues and children missing from home, care and education are interlinked at a strategic level to ensure they are addressed independently but with reference to one another. The subgroup is co-chaired by Alison Twynam, Director of Children's Social Care, AfC, and Clive Vale, Detective Chief Inspector, Southwest Borough Command Unit, MPS. The subgroup met four times during 2023/24.

Key activities undertaken were as follows:

- ❖ Each subgroup meeting has been provided with an overview of the Kingston and Richmond Pre Multi-agency Child Exploitation (Pre MACE) and missing children dashboards. Local themes and trends from Pre-MACE and Missing Children Panel have been highlighted and have included girl on girl violence, solvent misuse and children, and patterns regarding more Kingston children discussed at Pre-MACE but more Richmond children being recorded missing.
- ❖ The VCA Action Plan has been monitored at the subgroup meetings.
- ❖ Crying Sons and have attended the subgroup to update on their work with vulnerable children and the development of the Engage X youth worker role has been shared.

- ❖ There has been a presentation on Primary School Exclusions and Alternative Provision.
- ❖ Since July an update on Prevent has become a standing item on the subgroup agenda and local and national updates regarding radicalisation have been provided by the Prevent leads from Kingston Council and Richmond Council.
- ❖ The subgroup has highlighted the issue of transitional safeguarding for 18+ vulnerable adults with a focus on the links to exploitation and how to take this forward.
- ❖ [The KRSCP Missing Protocol and the Vulnerable Children and Adolescents Strategy](#) have been reviewed and updated.
- ❖ Updated guidance for contextual safeguarding: Locations, responding to peer groups on contextual safeguarding around locations, peer group mapping and risks outside the home have been presented.
- ❖ The JTAI theme on serious youth violence has been explored, the expectations from partners have been clarified and learning from neighbouring boroughs who recently experienced a JTAI on this theme discussed.

Learning and Development

The multi-agency training offer from KRSCP is overseen by the Learning and Development Subgroup. This subgroup was chaired by Suzanne Parrot until June 2023 and has since been chaired by Clare Meadows, Head of Learning & Development AfC and supported by Daksha Mistry who leads on learning and development in the partnership team. The group met 3 times during 2023/24.

Key activities undertaken by the subgroup were as follows:

- ❖ Planning & delivering Child Sexual Abuse Awareness Month for the partnership.
- ❖ Single agency safeguarding training assurance.
- ❖ Taking forward actions allocated to the Learning & Development Subgroup from local reviews.
- ❖ Re-establishing some face-to-face training for Level 2, Level 3 & Level 3 refresher sessions.
- ❖ Establishing a quality assurance process for case studies to be used in training for dissemination of local learning.
- ❖ Planning for a Learning Needs Analysis to be undertaken in summer 2024.
- ❖ Monitoring & reviewing the Learning & Development Action Plan.



During 2023-24 due to continued budget constraints, the KRSCP multi-agency training offer continued to be limited to the core offer; however, the partnership has worked flexibly and innovatively to ensure this was supplemented by additional training where local needs were identified, and the core training materials are kept regularly updated with issues emerging locally.

Key activities undertaken regarding local workforce development were as follows:

- ❖ 75 core safeguarding training sessions were delivered (Level 2, Level 3 & Level 3R), which were attended by a total of 1,705 multi-agency delegates. KRSCP also continued to offer the e-learning safeguarding modules which were completed by a total of 1,752 multi-agency learners.
- ❖ The majority of multi-agency training places are taken by education & early years staff, followed by AfC social care and then health, and then voluntary, community & sport sectors. Police attendance at multi-agency safeguarding training has slightly increased but continues to be a concern and has been addressed at both subgroup and SLG level.
- ❖ A small number of additional courses were offered including Intrafamilial Child Sexual Abuse, Harmful Sexual Behaviour, Child Sexual Abuse and the Internet, What to do if you have a concern around an adult who works with children in your organisation, and Young People and Solvent Abuse. These courses were commissioned as a result of multi-agency training needs identified from local learning.
- ❖ There was a focussed month of learning activity on child sexual abuse during November 2023 which included a variety of training courses, a conference on Intrafamilial Child Sexual Abuse

and training and promotion on the Signs & Indicators resources developed by the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse for the partnership. All these activities were well received and well attended, and the subgroup made the decision to repeat focussed activity on a specific safeguarding topic annually.

- ❖ Learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs) lunch time briefing sessions were offered by Daksha Mistry and Louise Doherty were offered during 2023-24 to disseminate learning from both local and national CSPRs and rapid reviews to multi-agency practitioners. However, these sessions had to be cancelled due to low numbers. This will be discussed at the Learning & Development Subgroup and subgroup members will be tasked with promoting this training and encouraging attendance for the 2024-25 sessions.
- ❖ Subgroup lay member Debbie Ramsay has led on the development of a Learning Needs Analysis for the partnership and this will be undertaken in summer 2024.
- ❖ The partnership has established a close working relationship with AfC Workforce Development. This has included the continued administration of the partnership safeguarding training programme by AfC's Workforce and Development Team. Since November 2023 the KRSCP MeLearning Level 1 safeguarding eLearning modules have also been integrated into the AfC eLearning offer. The integration of the partnership training offer with AfC has resulted in better collaboration, a more effective use of resources and less duplication of the two training offers. This positive relationship has also been supported by Clare Meadows taking on the role of chair of the Learning & Development Subgroup since October 2023.
- ❖ The Service Level Agreement (SLA) model for schools wishing to buy in to the partnership training offer is working well and has

resulted in a consistent financial contribution to the KRSCP budget. In addition to the service level agreement with the Schools Forum, service level agreements have also been established with some maintained, free and independent schools for access to multi- agency safeguarding training.

Feedback

"This course has helped to clarify some points that I was unsure of re Safeguarding. It has given me valuable information with regards as to what to look out for when working with the students."

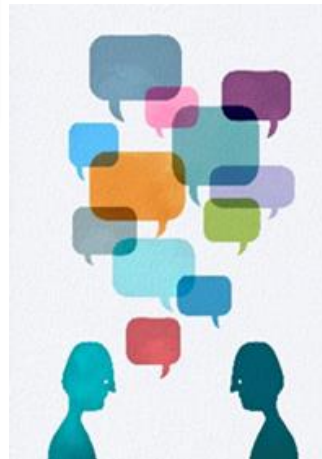
"It has informed me about how to work with local agencies, raised my awareness of the issues that can impact our young people, and understand serious safeguarding issues and my responsibility as a pastoral lead. It has made me consider certain topics that we may want to revisit with students and staff, for example online safety."

A Shared Responsibility Level 2 Delegate

"This is, without doubt, the best level 3 safeguarding training that I have been on - and so excellently developed and delivered for the online environment. It has upskilled my knowledge of the legislation and my responsibilities and also the actions that are needed in upholding these. It was both theoretical and practical. It has also enabled me to identify further learning needs and motivated me to schedule to do further CPD to meet these. This trainer was utterly excellent, please, please keep using him to deliver this work."

"Every bit, it was informative, gave great reading material which I went out and got that same day. I have used it to push my team forward"

Child Protection Process Level 3 Delegate



"This training will have a massive impact within my area of work, There was plenty of room for discussion and practical examples have been shared which are fantastic tools to equip the workforce with. The training was child focused throughout."

One-day Multi-Agency Training Delegate

"I regularly deal with Young people to access sexual health and contraception. Using the assessment framework would be a helpful tool for young people safeguarding assessment."

"Really good examples given especially in relation to information sharing and the flow chart for chronology"

Child Protection Process Level 3 - Refresher

"I learned so much that I did not know so it will definitely help me to educate parents about online safety."

Child Sexual Abuse & the Internet Delegate

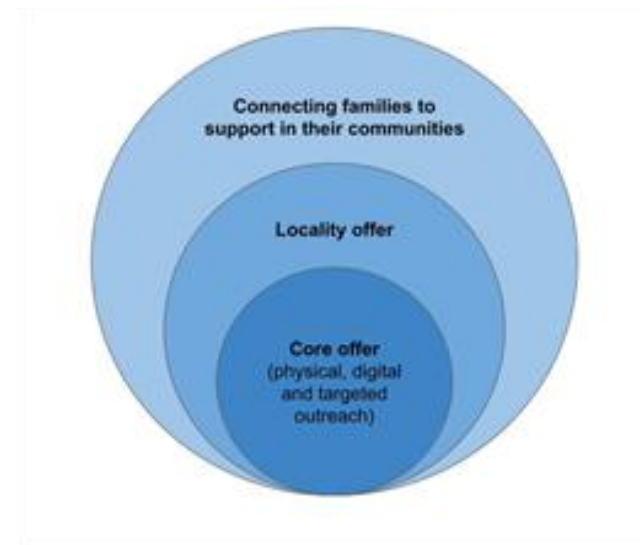
Early Help

The Early Help Strategic Board (EHSB) is chaired by Ian Dodds, Director of Children's Services for Kingston & Richmond, and consists of senior representatives from all local partners from both the statutory, voluntary, faith and community sectors. It has met once during the year before being dissolved in May 2023 and replaced by the Stronger Families Strategic Board. The new board oversees the development of Family Hubs alongside early help programmes, predominantly the government's Strengthening Families Programme and the associated Early Help Systems Guide.

Key activities undertaken regarding the Stronger Families Strategic Board were as follows:

- ❖ Four Working Groups have been set up focused on: workforce development; space utilisation; service and support pathways; and data and digital strategies (including the Early Help Systems Guide). Local advisory boards will be established in four areas across the borough.
- ❖ Two hub sites have been identified, The White House in Richmond and Old Malden in Kingston.
- ❖ The Family Hub model will be bespoke to each locality to enable them to meet the needs of local families with children aged 0 to 19 years, or up to 25 years if the young person has special educational needs and disabilities, all family hubs will deliver a common core offer of centre-based services. The common offer will start with the multi-agency services already offered at the children's centres and youth centres.
- ❖ Core and locality offer links to a broader range of support available to families in their local communities, particularly from

voluntary, community, neighbourhood, and faith sector organisations.



Engagement with Early Years and Education settings

KRSCP's Education Coordinator organises termly forums for the DSLs in the maintained schools, the independent schools and early years settings (open to private nurseries and childminders). There are forums each term for each sector and attendance has been very strong. Each forum includes learning inspired from findings of the audit or from national or local emerging issues. These are also covered in termly newsletters to each sector, circulated via relevant network communications and available on [KRSCP's website](#).

Key activities undertaken regarding the DSL forums were as follows:

- ❖ The summer 2023 DSL forum for schools included an explanation to schools about the new extended duty of the Virtual school to support all children with a social worker (not just children looked after or previously looked after). AfC's Single Point of Access gave an update, and a DSL from Dysart School (a special educational school) gave an interesting insight into his Masters research on human factors and how they can impact on safeguarding.
- ❖ The Early Years forum on the evening of 28 June included an excellent presentation on gender equality and the links between these issues and child on child sexual abuse that typically emerges later. The learning from a local CSPR which focussed on medical neglect was shared by the KRSCP Manager and Louise Doherty the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children SWLICB. There was an overview of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and its focus on recognising children as victims of domestic abuse when they witness it by Sam Stephenson, Richmond Council's Violence Against Women and Girls officer.
- ❖ The Autumn term DSL forum was a face-to-face event in Clarendon Hall. Over 150 DSLs attended for an overview of the learning from a local CSPR, Child V, which highlighted medical neglect. Also, Dr Sophie Khadr, a Consultant Paediatrician, presented on SW London Wellbeing services to support children and young people who are sexually abused.
- ❖ There was a spotlight on racism, with Adam Gladstone, the DSL from Orleans Park school sharing their school's experience and the AfC lead, Dr Kathryn Kashyap, AfC Racial Justice Lead presented the Anti Racism pledge for

schools which was considered in the light of learning from Child Q, and the KRSCP Education Co-ordinator gave an overview on safeguarding first and supporting refugee pupils.



- ❖ In January and February 2024, the DSL forums for both independent and maintained schools featured a summary of the schools safeguarding audit findings, what to expect in a child protection conference, delivered by the AfC Head of Conferencing, Sara Gardner. Child sexual abuse was given a spotlight in a presentation by Lorraine Myles from the Centre of Expertise on child sexual abuse and Rebcca Varley from the MET Police explained the Cyber Choices programme for supporting young people who might be getting involved in cybercrime.
- ❖ The Spring Early Years forum was attended by 100 Early Years practitioners and featured a presentation from Lorraine Myles from the Child Sexual Abuse Centre, with a

focus on The Early Years practitioners and their role in identifying and referring.

Feedback received from the DSLs:



"I would just like to thank you for being there for us all, sending us material and keeping us informed. It is greatly appreciated."

"I used the information for our staff meeting yesterday as part of our ongoing Safeguarding awareness. Always very thought provoking and keeps things fresh in our minds."

"Thanks for all your work – it makes our lives as DSLs much easier."

Education Subgroup

A new subgroup of KRSCP was set up in September 2023 to bring education as the fourth safeguarding partner. Reporting directly to the KRSCP Strategic Leadership Group (SLG) it is a collaborative, multi-agency approach to championing the education of all our children, in response to the increased awareness of the need to include education as the fourth statutory partner for Safeguarding Children Partnerships.

Key activities undertaken by the subgroup were as follows:

- ❖ The subgroup met in September 2023 to confirm its membership and terms of reference and it also learnt from the Virtual School's Ruth Gusterson about attendance of children with a social worker

and looked at communications best practice between schools and social care.

- ❖ The group met again in January 2024 to brainstorm on what's working well and what needs to improve as well as having presentations from the Youth Council on its racism survey and a discussion about elective home education and the challenges for nursery settings where children are under statutory school age but don't attend the nursery because safeguarding issues have been raised.
- ❖ Information was shared with the group about the drugs education project SAFE. There is more information about this project in the Voice of The Child section of this Annual Report.

Round Ups

Each term the schools and early years practitioners have been kept up to date with a sector specific safeguarding Round Up newsletter.

Auditing

During this year, a collaboration between AfC and KRSCP, updated the online audit tool to improve it and keep it up to date with statutory guidance. During this year 97% of all schools, 66% of private nursery schools, 48% of childminders and 33% of Out of School providers (school-based clubs delivered by external organisations) submitted an audit. The full report is seen by the Q&I and Education subgroups and the Q&I subgroup had a presentation by the author, the Education Coordinator for Kingston & Richmond Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Overall, the auditing was positive, and it was particularly pleasing to get such a high return rate from schools. The early years sector, which has only been fully audited for two years, needs to improve participation with the audit process and this will be a focus for the partnership. Where areas for development have been identified

the settings will be supported by the Education Coordinator to address the issues.

Schools Audit

The 2022-2023 school safeguarding audit highlighted several strengths within our schools. Participation was high, with 97% (139 out of 144) of schools submitting an audit in this round.



Key strengths identified included:

- ❖ 74 schools have appointed Lead Teacher for Young Carers evidence of impact of awareness raising work with Sir Ed Davey, MP, young person R and the local carers organisations.
- ❖ The audit identified that all schools, either fully or partially, can quickly identify children who may benefit from early help and know how to refer and record these cases appropriately.
- ❖ 94% of Designated Safeguarding Leads reported having sufficient time and support to carry out their roles effectively.
- ❖ All staff are aware of the procedures for dealing with allegations against staff, although four schools indicated partial compliance.

- ❖ Additionally, 94% of maintained schools are members of Operation Encompass.

Areas for development identified included:

- ❖ Not all schools are renewing Disclosure and Barring Service checks every three years, as recommended by local guidance.
- ❖ Four schools (three of which are independent) have not appointed a Designated Teacher for Children who are Looked After, a statutory requirement for maintained schools.
- ❖ Seven schools do not have an Equality Duty statement or policy, and another seven lack a policy for supporting children with medical needs.
- ❖ Seven schools do not have a qualified Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCo).
- ❖ Thirty-seven schools are unsure if their internet filtering and monitoring are appropriate.

Early Years Audit

Participation was high across sectors, with 254 Early Years practitioners completing the audit, including 103 nurseries (66% of total), 28 Out of School Providers (33% of total), and 123 childminders (48% of total).

Strengths identified included:

- ❖ All practitioners across all sectors are alert to any issues of concern in a child's life. All nurseries reported they have staffing arrangements that meet the needs of children, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- ❖ All practitioners across all sectors have a safeguarding policy.

Areas for development included:

- ❖ Three nurseries, five childminders, and one Out of School Provider do not have procedures for checking visitors' identities.
- ❖ One childminder does not adequately supervise children while eating, an issue that has been referred to the AfC Early Years team for urgent follow-up.

Child Death Reviews

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 ICB 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 CDOP has an independent chair, Kelly Williams, appointed in October 2021.

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.

In 2023-24, 12 child deaths were notified in Kingston, and 5 child deaths were notified in Richmond. Across South West London CDOP a total of 17 deaths were notified. Of the 17 deaths across Kingston and Richmond, 11 required a joint agency response.

Child death review meetings were convened by the partnership coordinator for 8 deaths of Kingston resident children, 5 deaths of Richmond resident children, and 3 out of borough residents where their deaths occurred locally. Concern was raised in September 2023 as to timeliness of CDRMs at Kingston Hospital which are supported by the partnership coordinator, and extra administrative support was established to extend capacity for the child death review function which it was not possible to meet at that time based on demand and funded hours. This has helped improve timeliness of CDRM scheduling where the delays are contributed to by individual workload; however, it is important to recognise that delays are multifactorial and can also be caused by delay in receipt of information to support the process and/or conclusion of parallel processes, which are in turn impacted by multi-agency system pressures.

During 2023-24, 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 South West London CDOP a total of 70 child death reviews were completed. Of all the deaths reviewed, 40% were identified as having modifiable factors, those through which by means of local or national intervention, the risk of future deaths might be reduced.

The SWL CDOP Annual Report for 2023/24 will be finalised in summer 2024 and presented to the SLG and each local authorities health and wellbeing board for their information and action as applicable.

The partnership coordinator and other Child Death Review colleagues undertook a range of training offered by the National Child Mortality Database to support local best practice.

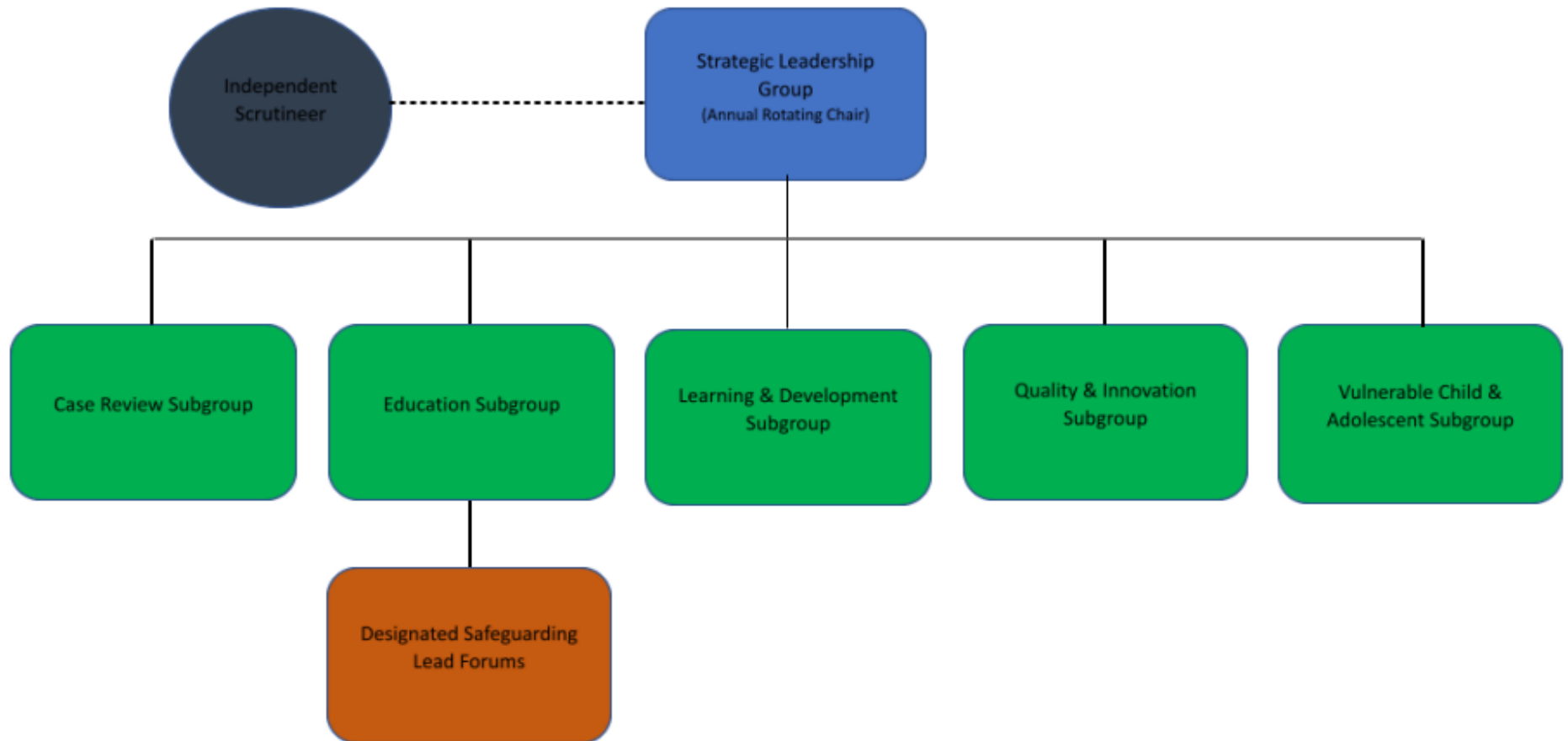
KRSCP has been involved in a range of activities to share the learning from child deaths locally and nationally, including:

- ❖ KRSCP newsletter items on use of solvents and nitrous oxide, dog safety, water safety, child death helpline, support for those bereaved by suicide, promotion of childhood vaccinations etc.
- ❖ Promotion via our social media of safe sleeping, water safety & drowning prevention, child safety week, summer safety including reducing risks of falls and burns, safe use of baby-carriers and slings, dog safety, blind cord safety, ICON, child mental health, suicide prevention, child bereavement resources, and KRSCP SAFE day.
- ❖ Contributed to development of a [factsheet](#) on child death review process for local education and early years settings in the SWL CDOP area, which features on our dedicated [webpage for CDR](#).
- ❖ Awareness-raising session at Early Years DSL forum on Child Death Review process.

Appendix 1: KRSCP Structure

Official

Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Children Partnership Structure



Appendix 2: KRSCP Finance

The expenditure for KRSCP during 2023-24 including salaries (including partnership coordinator hours allocated to child death review), the training offer, and costs of case reviews totalled £321,606.70.

The KRSCP financial year 2023-24 started with a carry forward of £35,000 from the previous financial year. This was a direct result of stringent budget management, vacant posts and establishing SLA's with maintained schools.

As has previously been identified the KRSCP budget is not sufficient to sustain the current full structure of the team. It has also been identified that income generation projections were higher than are achievable. The budget spends and projections for 2024/2025 have been reviewed to ensure the team remain within budget.

The service enters the financial year 2024-25 with reduced income generation levels and the DFE grant of £47,300 which will be used to fund a 12-month post to support the implementation of Working Together 2023.

The following table outlines KRSCP income based on partner contributions for 2023-24:

Kingston Council	£140,000
Richmond Council	£140,000
SWL ICB contribution for Kingston	£52,808
SWL ICB contribution for Richmond	£24,192+

	£12,500 child uplift
Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) for Kingston and Richmond	£10,000
DFE grant for Implementation of Working Together 2023(carry forward to financial year 2024-25)	(£47,300)