

Safeguarding children and young people: Early Years Autumn 2020

100 practitioners at the Early Years DSL forum



It was fantastic to see so many of you at the safeguarding forum. There was only room for 100 so I am very sorry to those who couldn't join. We talked about the need for schools to create "reachable moments" and why children and young people might not disclose abuse immediately. The theme of returning from lockdown included a call to action on all Early Years to do some work to start to create an anti racist culture and recognise and respond to racism in all its forms. We heard from Surbiton Childrens Centre Nursery leader, Janaki Wood as well as the Chief Executive of Kingston Council, Ian Thomas, on how they, as leaders with BAME heritage, have experienced and tackled racism. Please share with me the actions you have taken/planned so I can share these with all Early Years to help each other. You can email me at Lucy.macarthur@kingrichlscb.org.uk

ITEM	Lead	Time
Safeguarding update	Lucy MacArthur KRSCP Schools Co-ordinator	7pm
Racism and the Black Lives Matter movement: How this affects Early Years and what you can do to create an actively anti racist culture	Ian Thomas Chief Executive of the Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames	7.20
	Janaki Wood EYFS Lead Surbiton Childrens Centre	7.30
Comfort break		7.50
Domestic Abuse The post lockdown implications for Early Years	Kavitha Ramakrishnan Domestic and Sexual Violence Reduction Policy Officer Kingston Council Emma Merrick Refuge Service Manager	8pm
Mental Health of young people and how Covid has impacted on this. How Early Years can be prepared	Lucy MacArthur	8.30

Our speakers Kavitha Ramakrishnan (Kingston council) and Emma Merrick (Refuge) shared information about the effect of Covid-19 on domestic abuse. I urge you to look at all the slides again and refresh your minds on these issues.

DSL Forum Spring

The Early Years DSL Forum next term will be online and the link to join will be sent out nearer the time. The theme for this forum is Parental Vulnerabilities.

Wednesday 10 March 7pm-9pm

JTAI Inspection Heads Up

This is an HMI Joint Targeted Area Inspection which is expected sometime this academic year. Inspectors look at all agencies involved in a small number of real cases of children referred into the SPA. The inspection involves every agency involved in that child, including the Early Years provider. This is just a heads up to make you aware that you might be contacted if one of the case study children is a child in your setting. There is a plan to do a practice/dry run before Christmas so please take part in this if you are contacted. Thank you.

Section 11 safeguarding survey

Thank you to the 420 Early years practitioners who have completed this. If you haven't completed it, please do so. [Here](#) is the link to the survey



Coping with grief



Children's grief awareness week starts tomorrow 19-26 Nov and the theme is #SayTheWords

Since March, physical distancing measures have affected all bereavements. Many children and young people have been unable to spend time with or say goodbye in person to a dying loved one. Each year around 40,000 children are bereaved. This year that number will be higher.

1. **Kingston bereavement service:** <https://sayinggoodbye.org.uk>
2. **Email Cruse bereavement services:** hopeagain@cruse.org.uk Cruse National Helpline: 0808 808 1677
3. **Winston's Wish Helpline on 08088 020 021 (Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm). You can also email:** ask@winstonswish.org
4. **Grief Encounter** 0808 802 0111 Weekdays 9am-9pm

INVITATION

Please come to our Half Day Conference for Multi-Agency Practitioners organised by Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Children Partnership on exclusion. We will be hearing the child's perspective, learning from findings of our deep dive review of local cases and hear from keynote speaker Charlie Spencer author of Croydon Thematic Review Vulnerable Adolescents about excluded children and their journey

The Journey to School Exclusion

When: 26 January 2021, 09:30-13:00

Where: Zoom Platform

Book your place [here](#).



FGM – reminder of policy

There is a legal duty to report suspected FGM to the police on 101 and make a referral to the SPA. In our boroughs there is a risk professionals might think "It doesn't happen here", which could act as a barrier to spotting signs. Please read our FGM policy and refresh your knowledge about spotting the signs and taking action:

[https://kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/media/upload/fck/file/Kingston%20and%20Richmond%20LSCB%20FGM%20Policy%20Updated%202019%20F%20June%202019\(1\).pdf](https://kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/media/upload/fck/file/Kingston%20and%20Richmond%20LSCB%20FGM%20Policy%20Updated%202019%20F%20June%202019(1).pdf)

Reachable Moments

Creating reachable moments is about giving children and young people the time and space to feel comfortable to make that first approach to reach out for help. For some children, being in lockdown did not feel safe. Children process abuse differently to adults and there are many reasons why a child might delay making a disclosure. For example, they may be fearful because they have been threatened in some way or they may be ashamed. There is likely to be a rise in disclosures made over the coming months and we know that around 30% of disclosures are purposeful. This is when a child seeks out a trusted adult to talk to. That might be you in your setting. Listen to them talk at their own pace, don't interrupt and reflect back to them what they have said using their own words. This [NSPCC video](#) about responding to disclosures is really useful.

10 Reasons Children Don't Disclose Abuse

1. "Keep it a secret."
2. Threats
3. Fear
4. Love
5. "No one will believe you."
6. Blame Game: "It's all your fault."
7. Get in trouble
8. Grooming
9. Dissociation
10. Shame

It's good to talk

Creating time and space to talk and let young children ask questions is a good way to reassure them about things that are worrying them at this very difficult time. We need to regulate our own feelings so we can acknowledge their worries and say we are sad too. It is OK to feel like this but not to make them fearful. In a nursery setting you could have daily de briefs where staff can share the questions that have come up, but for childminders you just need to have some answers ready.

It isn't easy and there is no formula for the right approach...we are all learning together. As EY practitioners you need to be a reassuring, comforting and secure presence. Make your staff aware of the need to support the children as well as recognising the trauma they are experiencing. Try to establish what the specific worry is: like missing friends or grandparents, rather than the virus itself. Remember that children are hearing about death every day in the news and may have been bereaved themselves. This year saying goodbye to loved ones has been particularly challenging.

Resources: This [advice](#) for professionals is good. Achieving for Children [Emotional Health Service](#). This is a useful [guide](#) for preparing nursery children to be ready to start school.

The AfC Emotional Health Service guide for parents called Holding in Mind the Early Years is attached for you to share.



Have you noticed any young carers helping your families?

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

LADO Service

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 here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdYVca4qbvFJS71sD2PzYr8mhyot9GrOdzsHUUYOmJeM7uCKA/viewform>

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.

Have you got Whatever it Takes?

AfC has started a new pilot programme to support young people to make positive choices to steer them away from crime. The programme is called Whatever it Takes and they are seeking to recruit staff from an education/senco background with the skills to make a positive impact on the lives of young people. If you want to read more, and apply for the vacancies, follow this link:

https://www.whateverittakesuk.com/wit_team_roles

Your Education Reps need you



In the Spring Term Round Up I introduced you to your Education Reps Sophie Cavanagh (left of the picture) and Sophie McGeoch (right of picture). They sit on the Safeguarding Children Partnership's Strategic Leadership Group and would like to hear from you about the issues you face in your practice to help them set our strategic direction. Please get in touch with me (lucy.macarthur@kingrichlscb.org.uk) with your thoughts and I will pass them on to your education reps.



Kingston and Richmond
Safeguarding Children Partnership

News from the SPA manager



It has been a busy few months in the SPA since schools returned in September - but we have loved being back in contact with all of you again. It has been such a reminder of how crucial your input is given how long children are at school each and every day. In the SPA we are trying to be better with giving feedback to referrers on how their referrals could be even better. Due to the high volume of work - we ideally do not want to have to call a referrer to clarify information, so we have been contacting referrers with specific advice on what additional information could have been added - so do not be alarmed if you see an email from me in your inbox! One school has asked the SPA to arrange specific training for all of their staff specifically on filling out the online form - so if any schools want something similar, do get in touch.

When I attended the DSL webinar earlier this year, I told you all about our team's weekly **Signs of Safety Group Supervisions** and invited you to come. So many of you seemed keen - but I haven't had anyone from schools attend thus far, so do email me if you are still interested. It is every **Friday at 11am** for an hour. I'd also be more than happy to arrange a session specifically for your schools if any of you want to learn more about Signs of Safety.

Cassey Spratt, SPA Service Manager

Cassey.spratt@achievingforchildren.org.uk

Domestic abuse news

At the safeguarding forum I said I would let you know more about the [16 days of activism](#) to Eliminate Violence Against Women and girls (VAWG) that runs from November 25th - 10th December.

<p>16 Days of Activism Annual Conference: Spotlight on Young People Impacted by Domestic Abuse & VAWG.</p> <p>Tentative Agenda (</p> <p>Introduction & Opening Remarks - Michael O'Connor, Achieving for Children Dynamics and Prevalence of Domestic Abuse amongst Young People - Christine Barter, University of Lancashire Young People Risk Assessment - Identification and Safety Planning - Gordon, SaveLives Young Women, Harm & County Lines - Jocelyn Yeboah-Newton, Abianda Project X/Refuge Charity Collaboration</p> <p>Domestic Abuse and Impact on Children Training (KRSCP)</p>	<p>Thursday, 26th November 10am - 1pm To register, copy this link into your browser: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/kingstons-16-days-spotlight-young-people-impacted-by-da-vawg-tickets-124572486661</p> <p>26th November, 2020 (2 - 4pm) https://training.kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/Course/CourseDescriptive.aspx?id=285</p>
<p>DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking, 'Honour' Based Violence) Risk Assessment Training</p> <p>Domestic Abuse Awareness Training</p>	<p>17 November: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dash-risk-assessment-training-tickets-124585900783 24 November: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dash-risk-assessment-training-tickets-124598564661 1st December: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dash-risk-assessment-training-tickets-124598901669 8 December: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dash-risk-assessment-training-tickets-124599088227</p> <p>30 November: https://kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/training.php?login=tp 15 December: https://kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/training.php?login=tp</p>
<p>Community Awareness day led by the Metropolitan Police and in collaboration with Kingston, Richmond, Merton and Wandsworth. Presentations on Domestic Abuse, Harmful Practices and Sexual Violence - live-stream on YouTube.</p>	<p>Save the date 3 Dec 2020 @ 11:00 to 15:00 hours</p> <p>Details to Follow</p>

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)

Early Help Strategy Launched

On 10 November we had the launch to the [Early Help strategy](#); and as part of this strategy there will be something called the Early Help Resilience Network in both Kingston and Richmond Borough.

The resilience networks will be a multi agency group of Early Help providers and professionals from the local community who **will meet on a monthly basis**, you will be invited to attend in person or virtually.

The first meeting will be on **19 January 10am-12pm**. Due to the current climate the initial meeting will be online, but we hope that future meetings will be in person.

The purpose of the meeting is to encourage and empower professionals such as yourself- Early Years providers - to support families within the community.

Families can be supported and empowered to make positive changes at the earliest opportunity and develop better links with the local community services. This will also reduce the need for families to be referred to children services.

The meeting will welcome consultation and conversations in relation to children and young people at the earliest signs of a worry and we will consider how we can support them to meet their needs. Initially, the AfC Early Help team will be chairing these meetings and using the Early Help tool - signs of wellbeing models to formulate a SMART plan; that supports the family's needs - with clear actions and timescales. The plan will be inclusive and respectful to the child and family's needs and identity, taking into account things like religion, race, culture and vulnerabilities. The plan will include the contact details of other agencies who can also support.

Your key contacts around these meetings will be

Sharon Karikari, Senior Early Help Kingston Early Help Team 0-5 Resilience Network Meetings

Phone: 07824503363 Email: sharon.karikari@achievingforchildren.org.uk

Ashley Jones, Team Leader Richmond Early Help Team 0-5 Resilience Network Meetings

Mobile Number: 07864609557

Email: ashley.jones@achievingforchildren.org.uk

Sharon and Ashley encourage you to please be in contact with any further question, if you would like further information about the meetings and how it would work

The AfC Early Help team will update you with further information in the future and booking details for the meeting. Thank you!

