



Safeguarding children and young people: Faith Spring 2021

Early Help is everybody's business

Resilience networks are now taking place each month for any organisation, agency or partner to attend with any low level concern regarding a child or young person they are working with or aware of. Meeting offer support and guidance in a holistic way. Please do watch and share the film with your organisation.

[Film about what Resilience Networks are in Kingston & Richmond](#)

St John Ambulance Safeguarding Briefings

The National Child and Vulnerable adult officer, Linda Dominguez MBE, from St John Ambulance got in touch this week to tell me about the safeguarding briefings they produced to support their volunteers, especially during the COVID pandemic.

An enormous amount of work has gone into them. [St Johns Ambulance Safeguarding and COVID-19 briefings](#)

What is Private Fostering?

Private fostering is when a child or young person under the age of 16 (or 18 if they have a disability) is being cared for by someone who is not their parent or close relative for 28 days or more. Close relatives include parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and step-parents.

HELP needed to identify please - KRSCP Private Fostering PowToon - please can you share with partners, teams to raise awareness.

[KRSCP Private Fostering film](#)

NSPCC - updates

Following recent updates to government guidance, NSPCC Learning has updated the following safeguarding content on its website.

[Safeguarding during coronavirus: voluntary and community groups | NSPCC Learning](#)

[Coronavirus: 5 steps to update your safeguarding policies and procedures](#)

[Supporting children and young people's mental health](#)

[Recruiting safely during coronavirus | NSPCC Learning](#)

[Reporting serious incidents to the Charity Commission during the coronavirus pandemic - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

NSPCC Learning

Does your charity have an effective safeguarding culture?

The recent [inquiry report](#) into the Birmingham Diocesan Trust (“BDT”) has once again highlighted issues relating to safeguarding and good governance.

As always with these reports, the themes that are revealed are consistent with past inquiry reports into safeguarding. The key learning points for other religious organisation (and more widely) are:

- The Commission’s regulatory role focusses on the conduct of trustees and the steps that they take to protect beneficiaries and others who come into contact with their charity. **Trustees’ duties** include taking reasonable steps to protect those people from harm, including those for whom a charity may have a specific duty of care. The Commission’s role is to hold charities to account for the steps that they take.
- One of the key priorities, aside from putting in place the required policies and procedures is to promote an **effective and open culture of safeguarding** within your charity. Effective trustee boards lead by example, setting and owning the charity’s values. Trustees should set the standard and model the behaviours that reflect those values. These values should filter down to every level and every role within the charity and it should be clear that if someone does not live up to those standards they will be dealt with formally and quickly.
- Everyone should have the **confidence to prioritise safeguarding** at all levels, to feel that they are able to step forward to report incidents and concerns, and that they will be listened to and supported, with concerns raised being dealt with sensitively.
- Failure to protect people from harm should be identified and lessons learned and there should be full and frank disclosure to the Commission and any other regulators. Too often, the reputation of a charity seems to have been put before dealing sensitively and decisively with allegations of abuse and effectively supporting victims.
- The inquiry found the lack of safeguarding skills and experience on the trustee board meant that the **governance oversight** had not been sufficiently **robust**. Charities working closely with vulnerable groups should consider the make-up of their board and the expertise in relation to safeguarding, to ensure that senior managers and employees can be effectively held to account.
- Trustees must be familiar with the serious incident reporting regime and should make a report if a serious safeguarding risk materialises. Trustees must also report to the police and local authority.
- Charities should put in place **complaints and whistleblowing policies** to encourage issues to be raised in a timely manner.
- Dealing with these types of incidents will actually protect the longer term reputation of the charity. Reporting incidents and ensuring that lessons are learned and acted upon can give confidence to beneficiaries, donors, stakeholders and the wider public. The Commission certainly sees charities that have made serious incident reports - which can show how they are dealing with an incident and how they will learn from that incident - as lower risk than those charities who work closely with vulnerable groups but have never made a report.

Finally, here is a quote from the report which reiterates the focus of the Commission’s strategy for the coming years: *“Charities must never lose sight of why they exist and must demonstrate how their charitable purpose drives everything they do, and most especially how they respond when things go wrong”*.

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA)

IICSA published its reports into the [Anglican Church](#) and the [Roman Catholic Church](#) late last year. Both reports explore the issue of mandatory reporting and we might expect some recommendations from IICSA. In relation to the Anglican Church there is a recommendation that information sharing agreements with local statutory agencies are put formally in place.

Rise in number of Domestic Abuse cases locally and Nationally

Many are calling it the silent pandemic – the steep rise in safeguarding cases now emerging as a result of the long months of Covid-19. Whether it is the number of missing vulnerable children, a rise in reports of abuse, neglect and harm, or staggering statistics relating to vulnerable adults we see significant concerns.



Which is why, despite the growing pressures, it is more important than ever to prioritise how we equip our workforce with the skills and the knowledge they will need for the challenges of the year ahead. **National Domestic Abuse Helpline (England) 0808 2000 247.**

The NSPCC said it was now receiving more than 30 calls a day from grown-ups worried that a child is living with Domestic Abuse, up 53% from pre-pandemic levels. [Reports of fears for children living with domestic abuse rise](#)

[National DA helpline.org.uk](http://National.DA.helpline.org.uk)

Refuge Freephone 24-Hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline: **0808 2000 247**

Kingston Domestic Violence Hub: 0208 547 6046

Richmond Outreach and IDVA Service: 020 8943 8188

The Domestic Abuse Bill is in its final stages in the House of Lords.

This will offer many new protections for domestic abuse victims and their families. It will also create new obligations for Local Authorities. Interestingly, at the moment, most of those responsibilities fall on upper tier authorities, so in London, the Greater London Authority rather than the 32 boroughs will have much of the new responsibility arising from the Bill.

Think child, think parent, think family:

Think Family means securing better outcomes for adults, children and **families** by coordinating the support and delivery of services from all organisations. Neither adults nor children exist in isolation and **Think Family** aims to promote the importance of a whole-family approach.

The Think Family initiative was first introduced by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) in 2008 following the Cabinet Office's 'Families at Risk' Review. 'At risk' is a term used to describe families who are experiencing multiple and complex problems, which frequently lead to poor outcomes for children within those families.

The basis of a Think Family approach is to co-ordinate the response to families in order to:

- Identify families at risk of poor outcomes to provide support at the earliest opportunity
- Meet the full range of needs within each family they are supporting or working with
- Develop services which can respond effectively to the most challenging families
- Strengthen the ability of family members to provide care and support to each other
- Develop a corporate responsibility for families incorporating a culture shift at all levels.

In order to help families, we want to **Think Family**. Our superb new Think Family webcast is [here](#), produced by local practitioners: we are encouraging everyone to watch this together as part of putting Safeguarding on the Agenda. Find out more with our 7 minute briefing [here](#). We want to encourage everyone to see the adult and the child [here](#).

Support for people who experience Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse: code word scheme and other help during COVID-19.

The new Ask for **ANI** (Action Needed Immediately) codeword scheme has been developed to [allow victims of domestic abuse to access support from the safety of their local pharmacy.](#)

Anyone experiencing Domestic Abuse and in need of help can ask for 'ANI' (pronounced like the name Annie) in participating pharmacies. The pharmacy will offer a private space, provide a phone and ask if the person requires support from the police or other Domestic Abuse services.

#YouAreNotAlone

Further help & support from voluntary organisations
Kingston - Karen Penny,
cyp@kva.org.uk
Children & Young People Project
Officer, Kingston Voluntary
Action

Richmond - Heather Mathew,
heatherm@richmondcvcs.org.uk,
07557 915709
Children and Young Peoples
Strategic Lead Manager
Richmond CVS

For any of the above please contact Tracey Welding on
Mobile: 07957 206 874

Email: tracey.welding@kingrichlscb.org.uk

How can I access KRSCP Training? Please click [here](#).

