



Safeguarding children and young people: Faith Summer 2021

Following on from the Spring newsletter and the themes of Domestic Abuse, we now have a Domestic Abuse Act in place May (2021) with a significant change related to children. A child who sees or hears, or experiences the effects of, Domestic Abuse and is related to the person being abused or the perpetrator, is also to be regarded as a victim of Domestic Abuse in their own right. Faith communities are key to seeing families and are well placed to assist in the identification of children affected by Domestic Abuse and therefore to refer to partner agencies with provision of protection and can organise support for these children. More here: [Domestic violence and abuse - Kingston & Richmond LSCB \(kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk\)](https://www.kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk)

The KRSCP has just undertaken a deep dive regarding "The impact of parental Domestic Abuse on children"; Nicola Brownjohn, an independent scrutineer reported to the Strategic Leadership Group on the findings of the deep dive with themes and recommendations to be considered One particular theme that came out strongly is the trauma children experience when living with Domestic Abuse in their environments [NSPCC Childhood trauma](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/our-research-and-evidence/nsppcc-childhood-trauma)

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse is a National charity bringing communities together to end Domestic Abuse

Their aim is to support organisations to work in partnership to identify and respond effectively to Domestic Abuse to ensure survivors receive the best possible support to live free from abuse.

Further information [Standing Together](https://www.standingtogether.org)

**STANDING
TOGETHER**
against domestic abuse

What is the Faith and VAWG Coalition?

The Faith & VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) Coalition is a partnership of organisations led by the Faith and Communities Programme at Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse. It seeks to build bridges between members of faith Communities or faith-centric organisations and Domestic Abuse prevention specialists and organisations within the violence against women and girls' sector. [More information here](https://www.restored-uk.org/)

'Reported Domestic Abuse is alarmingly on the rise across the whole country, and is no respecter of social, racial or religious boundaries [Restored Impact-202021 Report Equipping the Church - Restored \(restored-uk.org\)](https://www.restored-uk.org/)

What is Think Family and Early Help? – supporting families earlier is now everyone's business

The Think Family approach is to co-ordinate the response to families in order to identify avenues to provide support at the earliest opportunity- for more information watch our [webinar](#)

Early intervention prevents problems becoming more complex; the practical help, advice and emotional support which many parents value can often be given without a referral to specialist services or an agency. Remember to think about the Early Help Resilience networks that take place across both Kingston & Richmond each month [Further Early Help and Resilience Network information here](#)

Successful safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Religious leaders to be added to 'Positions of trust'

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse's (IICSA) investigation into the Anglican Church has led to the Church committing to significant reform and a new law to add religious leaders to the definition of 'positions of trust'. [Read more here](#)

In response to the extended positions of trust, I recommend that faith organisations:

- Update their policies, procedures and training to recognise the change;
- Raise awareness of this important legal development and its implications to all those within the organisation including HR teams, legal teams, and their safeguarding teams.
- Communicate messages around the faith community (including to employees as well as those directly impacted by this), explaining that sexual activity is illegal between an adult in a position of trust and a 16 or 17-year-old, and how the [Sentencing Council](#) treats adults who abuse positions of trust, i.e. a maximum of 5 years in prison.

The heart of effective safeguarding is creating an environment where children and young adults feel they are respected and listened to, so that if anything goes wrong, they can report abuse and will be taken seriously. This is the bedrock of creating a “**culture of safeguarding.**”

A culture of safeguarding must be ever present – it isn't enough to have a identified safeguarding lead in your faith group and to develop policies, procedures and training programmes and then sit back and think that everything is okay, because an allegation has never been made. The culture must be constantly refreshed and nourished to ensure safeguarding remains of utmost importance on a continual basis.

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has published [its Annual Report for 2020](#). The independent expert panel reviews serious child safeguarding cases – when a child dies or suffers serious harm, and abuse or neglect is known or suspected. New figures show the panel received 482 serious incident notifications which occurred in 2020, with 206 of these incidents involving children who tragically died.

Poor Policies Lead to Poor Practice

Do you have up to date policies and procedures in place that will protect children and young people at risk from harm?

Have they been communicated to everyone?

Effective safeguarding rests on transparency. Where an allegation is made, the faith setting must take appropriate action. Concerns must be reported to the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) [KRSCP LADO and managing allegations information](#)

To have successful safeguarding involves working in partnership with the wider safeguarding partners. Are you signed up to the KRSCP monthly newsletters? [Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Children Partnership website](#)

Young Carers..... Who is a Young Carer?

Please help to support these children

A Young Carer is anyone aged between 5 – 18 years old whose life is impacted in some way because they help look after someone with, if they are caring for a parent or have a sibling with:

- A long-term illness/condition
- A physical or learning disability
- A drug or alcohol problem
- A mental health condition

Kingston- Young Carers' Project Team

Tel: 020 3031 2754

Email: youngcarers1@kingstoncarers.org.uk

Richmond Carers' Centre – Young Carers Service

Tel: 020 8867 2383

Email: youngcarers@richmondcarers.org

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](#).

