



Safeguarding children and young people: April 2020

Message from the KRSCP Chair, Ian Thomas

The Strategic Leadership Group (SLG) joins with me to thank you all so much for your sustained, child focussed work over the past weeks in such a difficult time. People have gone beyond their duties and done everything they can to support vulnerable people, often at great cost. **We have truly been working together to keep children's safety and wellbeing at the heart of everything we do!**



Language Guidance

Sara Doyle, AD Identification & Assessment, AfC, has prepared some guidance as to the language when we speak about exploitation and young people here:

<https://kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/media/upload/fck/file/Language%20guidance.pdf>

SPA (Single Point of Access)

The SPA or Frontdoor for children is still open for business in Kingston & Richmond - Kingston & Richmond SPA Office Hours: 0208 547 5008. Out of Hours: 0208 770 5000. Emergency 999 - and the London Child Protection Procedures still apply -don't forget our local learning!

Local learning

Find our new, topical 7 minute briefings here:

<https://kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/about-richmond-lscb/7-minute-learning-267.php>

- **Section 47 Enquiries -strategy meetings or discussions**
- **Pre-birth planning & working with infants**

Overheard ... Normal

We all know that children vary enormously and there is therefore, no single norm. Normal development refers to the wide parameters within which the majority of children typically develop and allows for big variations. Diversity is a strength, right?

We all know someone who is great at languages but maths doesn't make sense to them, or the academic who cannot play sport. We are not all the same and this is celebrated. The language we use when talking about disability is so important because disrespectful language can exclude people and de-value them.

The word "normal" could be offensive to those that have a disability because it wrongly implies there is a single fit and they are "abnormal". The fact is we are all different and we all "fit" in these inclusive and enlightened times. There is no such thing as "normal". Instead of saying "normal children", instead say "typically developing children".

Other Newsletters

Please find our other newsletters here:

- [Faith](#)
- [Voluntary Sector](#)
- [Neglect](#)
- [CDOP](#)

Signs of Safety

Linking in with work around mental health and exploring family networks of support, leads us to introduce Harpreet.

" My name is Harpreet Dhanjal and I have recently been appointed Principal Social Worker (PSW) for Achieving for Children in Richmond and Kingston. One of the key elements of my role is to lead on Signs of Safety, continuing to embed its use across AfC and our Partners.

I wanted to update you on a recent development in terms of training for our Partners. There is now a free Signs of Safety eLearning module available on CPD online here:

<https://www.afccpdonline.co.uk/cpd/portal.asp> and this is an introduction to Signs of Safety and will give staff and partners an opportunity to learn the basics of the framework, identify key tools and explore how to apply the model within all job roles.

A key element within supporting the children and families that we work with is to explore family networks that are able to willing to help with child protection concerns. Often practitioners may experience resistance to exploring the family and friends networks and the example has been produced for the scenario when a family says 'I don't have anyone' [here](#). It is designed to prepare any practitioner for those discussions and help in sharing information in Strategy discussions, assessing families' care of young babies and planning for pre-birth conferences, for example".

Emotional Wellbeing

Sustaining healthy emotional wellbeing and mental health are key at this time of change and lockdown. Local services are running as usual, with additional support, as our national services, such as Childline: Kooth is our local online counselling support for children and young people: <https://www.kooth.com/>. Find out more [here](#) in this 7 minute briefing for professionals and volunteers.

Life can also be stressful for staff and volunteers: Find more information about support here: <https://www.mentalhealthatwork.org.uk/ourfrontline/> and here: <https://www.mind.org.uk/> as well as within your organisation's Occupational Health team

Online Safety

Life in lockdown also has the potential to lead to more esafety concerns.

The Government has provided advice to parents here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online> Peter Cowley, our Lead Adviser for Online Services and Safety in AfC has put together two incredibly useful short videos for parents on keeping their children safe online. Please make sure that these are shared with parents, either through your website or other communication routes. bit.ly/afcsaferathome

Supplementary safeguarding advice for schools considering web conferencing or live streaming to maintain continuity with students can be found [here](#).

Learning and Development

The KRSCP only offers online safeguarding training at this time, please use this link to create an account: https://richmondscb.melearning.university/user/self_register.

For future courses please do look at our calendar, however it is hard to predict when they will be face to face again.

If you work within education and are interested in going on any of these courses and you can apply here: <https://www.afccpdonline.co.uk/earlyyears/courses/bookings/default.asp?curpage=2>, Otherwise you can apply for any here: <http://kingstonandrichmondscb.org.uk/training.php>