

Safeguarding children and young people: December 2020

Message from the KRSCP Chair, Owain Richards

Welcome to our December Newsletter.

I am sending you all seasonal greetings and I want to thank you all for your consistent hard work to keep children and young people safe in Kingston and Richmond during a challenging 2020. I hope that you will have some rest during the holiday period and wish all practitioners and volunteers a Happy, Hope-filled New Year on behalf of the Strategic Partners.

Our KRSCP Annual Report 2019-20 as well as the Young Person's Version, the Learning and Development Annual Report and our Business Plan 2020-22 can be found [here](#) on our website.

Owain Richards
Detective Superintendent KRSCP Chair



Hidden Harm

When an adult has a drug or alcohol dependency, is experiencing Domestic Abuse, or where there is a diagnosable mental health problem, the children and young people in that household can be at risk of harm. These adult, parental vulnerabilities are what we call "hidden harms", because they can impact on the adult's ability to keep the children in their care safe. The Children's Commissioner estimates there are 14,120 children under 18 years old living in Kingston and Richmond, where an adult in their household has one of these serious vulnerabilities, putting the child at greater risk of harm.

As part of the "Think Family" approach we encourage all adult services' professionals to consider the impact of these vulnerabilities on the children in the household and engage with children's services to get appropriate support for the children. Part 1 of the Domestic Abuse Bill provides that a child who sees, 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. The same principles need to apply to all adult vulnerabilities and where children are involved, these should trigger a safeguarding response. Likewise, anyone working with children should be curious about adult vulnerabilities in the household and the hidden harms these pose to children.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published a report using data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) to estimate the numbers of children living in households where adult domestic abuse, mental ill-health or substance misuse may be present. Analysis using the CSEW indicators for year ending March 2017 to year ending March 2019 to estimate the prevalence of these factors in households with a 10 to 15-year-old in them estimates that: 751,000 (19.3%) children aged 10 to 15 years were living with an adult who reported going through one or more of the aspects associated with mental ill-health, Domestic Abuse or substance misuse in the previous 12 months. We know these concerns will have intensified during lockdown.

Private Fostering- looking after someone else's child

Private Fostering is when:

- A child under the age of 16 years (under 18 if they are disabled) is cared for by someone who is not their parent or a close relative, for 28 days or more;
- Children under 16 who spend more than 2 weeks in residence during holiday time in a school.

What is defined as a close relative?

Close relatives are defined as step-parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, uncles or aunts. To be private fostering, the arrangement has not been made by the local authority, and the child or young person is not being looked after by an approved foster carer. Private Fostering is not illegal.

What if you are a private fosterer?

By law, the local authority has the duty to safeguard and protect children from harm, therefore by law the private fosterer should:

- Inform the local council as soon as possible that you are intending to, or are currently privately fostering a child;
- Notify your local council within 48 hours of the child leaving your care, with the contact details of the person into whose care the child has moved.

How to notify the local council:

- In Kingston and Richmond please contact the Single Point of Access (SPA) on 020 8547 5008.
- Take our new quick quiz to test your knowledge [here](#).

Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Children Partnership

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Domestic violence support

Private Fostering - looking after somebody else's child

Child Death Overview Panel

Radicalisation and Extremism

Parents & Carers

Home Parents & Carers

Private fostering - looking after somebody else's child

PRIVATE FOSTERING - LOOKING AFTER SOMEBODY ELSE'S CHILD

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- Children under 16 who spend more than 2 weeks in residence during holiday time in a school.

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Concerned about a child or an adult? [READ MORE...](#)

Safeguarding for Volunteers [READ MORE...](#)

Early Years Funding

Early Years Funding offers opportunities to the most vulnerable young children, including those with SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities) aged two onwards to access free Early Years settings. Please can we remind you of this offer: find out more [here](#).

Learning and Development

Due to the current pandemic, KRSCP are delivering all safeguarding training remotely as webinars. To see the range of courses available and to book a place click [here](#).

We also have eLearning modules on a range of safeguarding subjects. To find out more click [here](#).

If you work within education and are interested in going on any of these courses and you can apply [here](#), Otherwise you can apply for any [here](#).

KRSCP Conference Journey to Exclusion 26th January 2021, please book [here](#).