

## Safeguarding children and young people: February 2021

### Message from the KRSCP Chair, Owain Richards:

Welcome to our February newsletter. Please share this widely with colleagues and partners across Kingston and Richmond. On behalf of the Statutory Partners we want to encourage you in your hard work at this time of lockdown. We know you are looking out for children and being our eyes and ears, alert to identify need and risk.

We know one pressure from lockdown is on our mental health, whether parents, children, volunteers or professionals. This month we remind you of resources and learning around Mental Health and around Online Safety, as Safer Internet Day was 9th February.

Our Independent Scrutineer, Chris Robson has stepped down. He was previously our LSCB Chair and I wish to thank him for his local work with us since 2017. Our Last Strategic Leadership Group met in January: you can find the minutes [here](#)



Owain Richards

### Overheard - Urgent

When is urgent not urgent?

It is interesting to think about how we all interpret words and how we can all take a different meaning from the same word. For example, urgent to me might mean by the end of tomorrow but to someone else might mean right now. Words that are often used to describe family situations and risks can often be vague and interpreted differently. For example the phrase 'his attendance was poor' is open to interpretation while 'he attended 12 days out of a possible 25' is much clearer to everyone. So maybe take some time to have a think about how we use language and how it can be interpreted differently. A fun exercise is to list the following words

- Often
- Sometimes
- Regularly
- Hardly ever
- Commonly

And ask team members /colleagues to rate out of 10 (if 0 was never and 10 was always) where those words would sit.

### 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](#).

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

Thank you to everyone who attended our Journey to School Exclusion Conference on the 26<sup>th</sup> January. Please note that you can access the evaluation form [here](#).

## Emotional and Mental Wellbeing

Lockdown brings vulnerabilities to everyone's mental health, and our local learning emphasises the need to **Think Family** and remember the needs of children, who are caring for family members, as well as the needs of children and young people themselves. We know schools have a number of resources for their students. Kooth is a local online counselling service offering support for those aged 11-18. There is an online support community of counsellors and wellbeing practitioners, plus resources to help Schools with online sessions that promote emotional health and wellbeing during this difficult time. Find out more [here](#).

### Information:

#### Practitioners:

To view some further information regarding Self-Harm and Mental Health, as well see a list of organisations that help with these issues, please click [here](#).

Samaritans offer confidential support via a wellbeing telephone line to health and social care professionals at this time [here](#). **You can also reach them by phone at 0800 069 6222**

#### Parents & Carers:

We also have some information aimed at Parents and Carers which can be viewed [here](#).

#### Children & Young People:

For Children and Young People we have a range of information on Mental Health [here](#), as well as some more specific information on Mental Health and Technology [here](#).

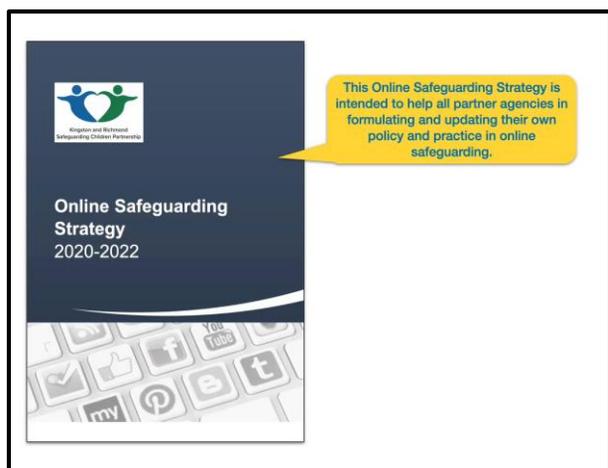
To view a list of Services that offer bereavement support, please click [here](#).

Please click [here](#) to see a list of our 7 Minute briefing with learning around mental wellbeing.

## Online Safety

To mark Safer Internet Day 2021, the Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Partnership launched an updated Safeguarding Children Online Strategy and Guidance. Take a look at this [three minute video](#) by Peter Cowley summarising the key points included in the updated KRSCP Online Strategy and Guidance.

You can read the documents here: [Online Safety Strategy](#) and [Online Safety Guidance](#).



## Survey for schools on allergy and asthma management

We have recently written to all Headteachers to request your participation in a survey on how children with allergy and/or asthma are supported in school. We are keen to understand more about how well monitored and supported pupils with these conditions are locally, and if there is anything we can do through partnership working, to help improve awareness and provisions. We'd be very grateful to receive responses by 19th March – Please click [here](#) to view the survey.