

## Safeguarding children and young people: January 2021

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

Welcome to our January 2021 Newsletter and Happy New Year. Please share this widely with your colleagues. As we continue through another lockdown please can I remind you to keep your eyes on local children, who mainly will not be at school. If you are working with children and young people please remember to create reachable moments, for them to be able to ask for help. I am excited to invite you to our virtual Conference on 26th January: Journey to Exclusion and we have some emerging learning in this newsletter. Safe Sleep is one of our most important and basic safeguarding messages and we want to emphasise **Safer sleep for every sleep**. Read on for more information.



Owain  
Richards

Owain Richards, Detective Superintendent KRSCP Chair

### Journey to Exclusion:

Our Learning Hub theme this autumn and winter is the Journey to School Exclusion culminating in a Conference and workshop on 26th January. As a result of our scrutiny of quality and local data, our Independent Scrutineer is considering our local landscape and how we can ensure education remains a safe place for as many young people as possible. Find his report [here](#). Focus groups have taken place. AfC is piloting some projects to support young people in their schools. School Governors have taken part in a Task and Finish Group to look at their role. The Quality and Innovation Subgroup has carried out a multi-agency audit with practitioners regarding local young people who are on the edge of school exclusion. Did you realise that whoever you are, you have a role to play to ensure young people can access education when they need to, whether voluntary sector lead, adults' worker, Housing staff, School Governor, teacher, police or social care worker.

Children are more at risk of being exploited if they have learning needs, a background of trauma, and no stable educational base. They are more at risk of going missing and as time goes on, these children are more at risk of falling out of education, training and employment in their young adult lives. Primary years are important to nurture and guide a child into their secondary school transition and beyond.

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

### Early Help

Our Early Help Strategy was refreshed and launched in November 2020 and the Resilience Networks are beginning this month- more [here](#).

## Safer sleep for every sleep:

Since child death review process began in 2008 there have sadly been several infant deaths in Kingston and Richmond which have highlighted the need for safer sleeping to help reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. Consistent & timely promotion of safer sleep advice which is responsive to families and their situation is vital. A key message is that safer sleep is needed for **each and every** sleep.

The Lullaby Trust has comprehensive advice for both parents and professionals across a wide range of topics including sleeping products [here](#) and [here](#) are some quick tips from them.

### Things you can do:

- ✓ Always place your baby on their back to sleep
- ✓ Keep you baby smoke free during pregnancy and after birth
- ✓ Place your baby to sleep in a separate cot or Moses basket in the same room as you for the first 6 months
- ✓ Breastfeed your baby
- ✓ Use a firm, flat, waterproof mattress in good condition

### Things to avoid:

- X Never sleep on a sofa or in an armchair with your baby
- X Don't sleep in the same bed as your baby if you smoke, drink or take drugs or are extremely tired, if your baby was born prematurely or was of a low birth-weight
- X Avoid letting your baby get too hot
- X Don't cover your baby's face or head while sleeping or use loose bedding

Unicef also provides helpful leaflets for parents and accompanying guide for professionals on caring for your baby at night. These can be downloaded [here](#).

In July 2020 the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel published a thematic report looking into safeguarding children at risk of sudden unexpected infant death. Please click [here](#) to view it.

In response the partnership are initiating a task and finish group to consider the recommendations and any improvements that may be made to local multi-agency practice to ensure families with pre-disposing risk factors for SIDS are effectively engaged with safer sleep advice.

During this challenging time, stress levels at home may be increased. ICON provides advice and guidance for parents and professionals on coping with babies [here](#).

Find our 7 minute briefing here about working pre-birth and with [infants](#). and our Pre-Birth Protocol [here](#).

## Information Sharing:

Please remember that you don't need consent to share significant safeguarding information about children. The GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) do not get in your way. Find out more [here](#).

## Covid 19 resources:

The What Works Centre for Children's Social Care has put together a hub of resources- webinars, podcasts, and articles about working during the pandemic with families (including working directly online) [here](#).