

## Safeguarding children and young people: March 2021

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

Welcome to our March Partnership news as lockdown lifts and the days grow lighter. Let me remind you about reachable moments for children and young people as we see our schools fully opening.

Together with the SABs (Safeguarding Adults' Boards) in Kingston and Richmond, we want to encourage every team and meeting in every organisation to have **Safeguarding on the Agenda**.

This has several benefits;

- It shows a commitment to safeguarding adults and children;
- It is an opportunity for the chair/team leader to raise safeguarding messages, training, or present a safeguarding seven minute briefing;
- Even if nothing specific is discussed, it will embed safeguarding into the team;
- It may trigger a different response when practitioners are performing their daily work;

We will be in touch to ask how this makes an impact in your organisation as time goes on. Good Luck!

We'd also love you to see these super safeguarding newspapers put together by our local schools: Primary Version [here](#), Secondary Version [here](#).



Owain Richards

### London Multi-Agency Safeguarding Data Sharing Agreement

For the first time, a multi-agency working group has developed one Multi-Agency Safeguarding Data Sharing Agreement which partners across London are encouraged to sign. This has reduced the pressure on national or London wide groups to agree multiple different data sharing agreements for the same purposes.

The working group had representation from local authorities, health and police, who have engaged with front line practitioners and other local agencies, like the voluntary sector.

The agreement has been endorsed by the Information Governance for London group (IGfL), and the London Child Safeguarding Partnership.

KRSCP has contacted a number of local organisations to confirm their sign up, but if you have not been contacted and would be interested in finding out more and expressing a wish to sign up, please visit our dedicated [webpage](#) for more information including the agreement in full, FAQs and other related documents.

The MAS DSA is the first of series of London-wide DSAs the working group will be issuing – future agreements will include the following areas: Gangs & Serious Youth Violence; Integrated Offender Management; Domestic Abuse; MACE (Child Exploitation); Youth Offending; Troubled Families; MAPPA; Prevent/Channel; Anti-Social Behaviour; Residual Crime; and, Licensing.

## Think Family Information & Webcast

During COVID-19 local lockdowns, we can see that there are risks to children's wellbeing arising from their parents' vulnerabilities, including concerns of mental ill-health, substance misuse or Domestic Abuse.

The Children's Commissioner estimates there are 18,220 children under 18 years old living in Kingston and Richmond where an adult in their household has one of the three serious vulnerabilities in the chart below, putting the child at greater risk of harm. Of course there are plenty of other hidden harms that affect children and young people, many of which have been exacerbated by the pandemic, such as Poverty, Clinical vulnerability to COVID-19, Separation/relationship breakdown, Stress, Job loss/threat of job loss, Bereavement, Illness/worry.. All these factors put children at greater risk of harm – we call them hidden harms, because there are no obvious physical signs.

Parental Vulnerability	Kingston Children aged 0-17	Richmond Children aged 0-17
Alcohol / drug dependency	1,370	1,420
Domestic Abuse	2,390	2,620
Symptoms of mental ill-health	4,890	10,420
All 3	390	790

So in order to help these families, we want to **Think Family**. Our superb new Think Family webcast is [here](#), produced by local practitioners: we are encouraging every team and service to watch this together as part of putting Safeguarding on the Agenda.

Find out more with our 7 minute briefing [here](#). We want to encourage practitioners **to see the adult and the child** [here](#), and to remember the needs of Young Carers:

- Kingston contact 020 3031 2754, Kingston Young Carers Project
- Richmond contact 020 8867 2383, Richmond Young Carers Project

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

The KRSCP are hosting a free **Conference on the impact of Parental Domestic Abuse on Children**. The Conference will be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2021, from 09:00-13:00. Please click [here](#) to book on.