

Safeguarding children and young people: November 2020

Message from the KRSCP Chair, Owain Richards

Welcome to our November Newsletter.

Our Priorities as a Partnership are Contextual Safeguarding; Mental Health; and Early Help working with Parental Vulnerabilities. Read on for more information below around Early Help following our successful launch of our new strategy earlier this month.

During this new lockdown please remember the limitation of online communication and think how you can create reachable moments for children and young people to disclose concerns. One major issue during lockdown has been online safety for children and young people. There has been a rise in online grooming: below you will find our new Online Safety Strategy and some other helpful resources. Please find the minutes from our November 2020 Strategic Leadership Group meeting [here](#).



Owain Richards

Owain Richards
Detective Superintendent KRSCP Chair

Spotlight on the Kingston & Richmond Harmful Practices Sub-group

In October 2020, guest speakers spoke about Child Abuse Linked to Faith and Belief (CALFB). Detective Inspector Allen Davis and Detective Sergeant Kate Bridger from the Metropolitan Police and Professor Lisa Oakley from the University of Chester (Chair of the CALFB Working Group) provided a detailed presentation around what CALFB is and how to spot signs.

CALFB is a belief in the concept of witchcraft or spirit possession, often linked to family misfortune or a child they identify as being different. The beliefs are not confined to one faith, nationality or ethnic community. As professionals, there are a few signs to look out for:

- Child saying 'pray for me' or being helped to 'heal'
- Forms of abuse can be physical, emotional, neglect and sexual
- Child is no longer seen as a child but a vessel for evil and the abuser will think they are doing the right thing by the child

The presentation provided further details on factors that can make someone vulnerable to CALFB including physical abnormalities, epilepsy and mental health. It can also include character signs such as rebelliousness, disobedience, intelligence, violence and jealousy.

Children who are privately fostered, with medical conditions or are twins can be more vulnerable to CALFB.

It is important as professionals to notice if the child is being treated differently i.e. Where does the child sleep? Does the child eat with the rest of the family? Are there signs of restrained or use of weapons? If there are any concerns in relation to CALFB, please contact the Achieving for Children SPA team to raise any safeguarding concerns.

Early Help Strategy

As a Strategic Partnership we are delighted by your involvement in our consultation for our new Early Help Strategy, which was launched on 10th November. Please find our Strategy [here](#), and our multi-agency Strategic Board, chaired by Director of Children's Services, Ian Dodds, will be overseeing the embedding of our new Partnership approach for the next year. Our multi-agency threshold document has been updated [here](#). Find out more about the Resilience Network meetings [here](#).

Online Safeguarding Strategy

Keeping children safe online is a priority for KRSCP. We are pleased to launch our Online Safeguarding Strategy and Guidance [here](#), which includes information about the impact on social media on the mental health and emotional wellbeing of children, risks online and how to identify and respond to abuse online.

The current pandemic has brought additional complexities for teaching children online. To support providers with this we have developed the Safeguarding Children and Remote Working Guidance [here](#). This document aims to provide education providers in Kingston and Richmond with standards which they should follow should they need to provide remote learning or support to students. The standards and guidance as a whole is based on government legislation and best practice guidance.

In Oct 2020 the DfE has released Keeping Children Safe for non-statutory guidance for providers running out-of-school settings which aims to:

- Help providers of out-of-school settings (OOSS) understand best practice for creating a safe environment for children in their care
- Give parents and carers confidence that their child is in a safe activity or learning environment.

And covers 4 key areas for providers who provide services for children outside of school:

- Health and Safety
- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Suitability of Staff and Volunteers
- Governance

KRSCP have developed a self-assessment tool to help providers meet the checklist. Please see it [here](#).

Find our Parental Control cards [here](#), and a 7 minute briefing about good practice from a local police and LADO investigation about online grooming [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](#).