

Safeguarding children and young people: October 2020

Message from the KRSCP Chair, Ian Thomas

Dear colleagues across Kingston and Richmond,

Our new Partnership has now been established for a year and I am heartened as the way our safeguarding community has responded to our significant COVID-19 challenges, and that we are persevering despite our constraints, and putting children's wellbeing first in all we do.

After my year's tenure as Chair, I am delighted to hand over to our new Partnership Chair Detective Superintendent Owain Richards.



Owain Richards

October is Black History Month. Please see a short film Ian Thomas, CBE made about racism for the DSL Forums [here](#).

Modern Slavery

Modern Slavery remains a contemporary issue in Kingston and Richmond and part of our Contextual Safeguarding agenda today. Modern slavery is the severe exploitation of other people for personal or commercial gain. Modern slavery is all around us, but often just out of sight. Children and adults can become entrapped making our clothes, serving our food, picking our crops, working in factories, or working in houses as cooks, cleaners or nannies.

The Mayor of London has published a review of the second year of the Rescue and Response County Lines Project. Figures show that 553 young people were referred to the project for support. Findings include: young people are being exploited not just by gangs but also by independent groups and dealers, with anecdotal information indicating that more independent lines are being set up; social media continues to be used by exploiters to groom young people onto county lines; and the lack of identification of young women as victims of county lines exploitation means that many young women go unsupported. Read the report [here](#).

Find out more [here](#)

Please remember our MARVE Panel (Multi-Agency Risk Vulnerability to Exploitation) Protocol is [here](#) with details of how to refer to the SPA Single Point of Access) in Achieving for Children with concerns of Child Exploitation, Modern Slavery, Trafficking, Contextual Safeguarding, knife crime, and Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB).

Learning and Development

The KRSCP only offers online safeguarding training at this time, please click [here](#) to create an Account for our free eLearning courses.

Please note that at this time we also provide interactive webinars for people to book onto please look at our training calendar [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](#).

Overheard Toxic Trio

Evidence from research and child safeguarding practice case reviews is that children living in families affected by a combination of domestic abuse, parental mental ill health and parental substance misuse are at significantly greater risk of harm. These factors often referred to as 'the Toxic Trio', interact in a way that multiplies the difficulties children face. Locally, we want to create a culture of support not using blaming words like "Toxic Trio" but instead a Signs of Safety strengths' based approach looking at "Adverse Childhood Experiences and Parental Vulnerabilities". Where two or more parental vulnerabilities are present in a child's life there is an increased risk of harm, where there are three factors the risk significantly increases.



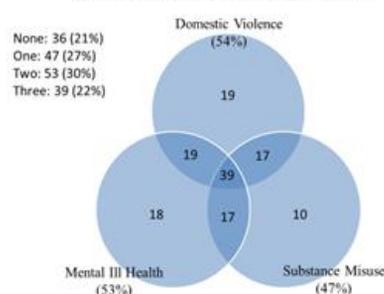
The experience of domestic abuse can lead to mental health problems and substance misuse. Adults with mental health problems may use substances as a way of handling their difficulties. Substance misusers may develop mental health problems. Adults with mental health problems and substance misuse difficulties are more vulnerable to abuse and violence. It is important that practitioners working with adults or children address all of these factors, and bring their knowledge base and expertise together.

This means that an Early Help approach is most likely to achieve a sustainable change for children. We want to invite you to our KRSCP Early Help Strategy virtual launch on 10th November to find out more and to book a place, please click [here](#).

Parental Vulnerabilities were identified in research, as a particular factor in serious and fatal cases of maltreatment in the 2003-5 Biennial Review of Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) (Brandon, Belderson et al. 2008). The subsequent 2005-7 Biennial Review pointed out that 'nearly three quarters of the children had lived with current or past domestic abuse and/or parental mental ill-health and/or substance misuse' and went on to comment that the 'combination of these three problems can produce a "toxic" care giving environment for the child' (Brandon, Bailey et al. 2009, p43).

In the 2011-14 Triennial Review, one factor was found in around 50% of SCRs, 52% of SCRs featured at least two of factors in combination, and 22% all three. Ongoing work has shown that there is large overlap between these parental risk factors and impact on outcomes for children into adulthood through the research into Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) The challenge for practitioners is to recognise and act early in a child's life.

Cumulative risk of harm



Elective Home Education

We know that locally and nationally, parents and carers are currently choosing to educate their children at home themselves, despite them being able to return to school. All children taken off school roll should be notified to the SPA.

The local authority has a duty to intervene if it appears that a home educated child is not receiving suitable education, and this could result in a School Attendance Order. Please find out more [here](#).