



Safeguarding children and young people: Voluntary Sector Spring 2022

Help us to keep all our children safe – please do share this information widely.

Welcome to the Spring newsletter, I would like to thank you all for the hard work you have all been doing with your organisations. Safeguarding continues to be high on all our agendas.

Refreshed KRSCP Priorities 2022-2024:

Following a wide consultation with you and other partners, the SLG (Strategic Leadership Group) have set our priorities going forward 2022-2024. We have more work to do in all the priorities

- **Contextual Safeguarding**
- **Mental Health**
- **Parental Vulnerabilities-Early Help**
- **Child Sexual Abuse**

Underlying them all, is the **Golden Thread of anti-racism and diversity.**

Thank you for helping us work together to children's wellbeing and safety in Kingston and Richmond.

Making a good referral count

What does a good referral to the SPA (Single Point of Access) look like?

You can call the SPA in advance to consult if you wish.

Referrals need to be in writing, and you will have a response within 24 hours of future action, which meets standards set out in Working Together 2018.

Your referral needs:

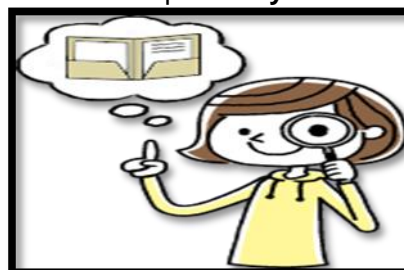
All the child's /family details that you have, these may be the age of child, address

- ✚ The **reason for the referral** and the nature of the concern
- ✚ What the **child's needs** appear to be
- ✚ Whether the concern involves **abuse or neglect**
- ✚ **What you want** to happen next
- ✚ Whether there is a need for **urgent action**

If you have any safeguarding concerns please make a referral to our Single Point of Access through using the following link [SPA referral form](#)

Eyes on the Child

Whilst regulations are lifting, children are still facing abuse and neglect and we want to urge all practitioners in every agency and community sector to keep their **Eyes on the Child!**



Please remember vulnerable pregnant women, infants and babies, children with disabilities and those 500 or so children in our boroughs who are not educated in school provision. Think who is missing?

When children are not being seen face to face, we don't know how they are, we don't know who they are. And we don't hear their voice.

"We are encouraging people to be vigilant and if you have concerns for a child; tell us. If you feel something is wrong; ring it in.

Please refer to the SPA (Single Point of Access 0208 547 5008 / out of hours 0208 770 5000) as usual and escalate any situations where you are concerned about delay.

In an emergency, you should always call **999**

Book now "Safe in Faith"

FREE Learning Together Event

When : April 27 2022

Time: 9.30-12.30pm

[Training - Kingston & Richmond LSCB
\(kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk\)](https://www.kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk)

Hear from the NSPCC on our theme of online safety
Our LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) who supports organisations when an allegation is made against a staff member or volunteer.

The front door SPA service and adult services along with our Metropolitan Police liaison faith officers

Calling for a Kingston Lay Member

Lay Members are a critical part of the Partnership. They act as ambassadors for the community and for the KRSCP by building stronger ties between the two, making the work of the KRSCP more transparent. As well as acting as a critical friend at Partnership meetings, providing additional challenge and scrutiny. If this sounds like you, then please do email tracey.welding@kingrichlscb.org.uk

Private Fostering

is when a

- Child under the age of 16 years (under 18 if they are disabled) is cared for by someone who is not their parent or a close relative, for 28 days or more.
- Children under 16 who spend more than 2 weeks in residence during holiday time in a school.

What is defined as a close relative?

Close relatives are defined as step-parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, uncles or aunts. To be private fostering, the arrangement has not been made by the local authority, and the child or young person is not being looked after by an approved foster carer.

What if you are a Private Fosterer?

By law, the local authority has the duty to safeguard and protect children from harm, therefore by law the private fosterer should:

Inform the local authority as soon as possible that you are intending to or are currently privately fostering a child

Notify your local council within 48 hours of the child leaving your care, with the contact details of the person into whose care the child has moved.

How to notify the local council

In **Kingston** please contact the Kingston Single Point of Access (SPA) on 020 8547 5008. For more information on Private Fostering in Kingston please visit the [Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames website](https://www.royalboroughofkingston.gov.uk)

In **Richmond** please contact the Richmond Single Point of Access (SPA) on 020 8547 5008. For more information on Private Fostering in Richmond visit the [London Borough of Richmond upon Thames website](https://www.londonboroughofrichmond.gov.uk)

Find out more here:

<https://www.kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/practitioners/private-fostering-134.php>

Free Private Fostering Awareness Virtual training session- on Friday 29th April between 3:30 and 4:30

A reminder Everyone should know

Children's safeguarding is shaped by the Children Act 1989, but the key statutory guidance for faith groups is ['Working together to safeguard children'](#), which states:

Every VCSE (voluntary, community and social enterprise), faith-based organisation and private sector organisation or agency should have policies in place to safeguard and protect children from harm. These should be followed and systems should be in place to ensure compliance in this.

Questions to ask yourselves

When was our safeguarding policy updated last ?

Have the policy been circulated recently ?

Do all our members staff , volunteers know about the policy and what to do if they have a concern about a child/ family

Does everyone know who the safeguarding leads are for our setting ?

What is a Culture of Safeguarding?

Creating a culture of safety means embedding safeguarding into everything an organisation does. Embedding a culture of safety starts at the very top of the organisation with those in senior positions pledging absolute commitment and support, including ensuring the resources are available to make it happen.

This commitment cascades through to the staff who know that abuse can and does happen and are prepared to take action if the need arises

What Does a Safeguarding Culture Look Like?

A positive culture of safeguarding has several different aspects key to it:

1. A safeguarding policy and procedure that are understood and shared to those who need to see it
2. Effectively resourced and prioritised function
3. Appropriate safeguarding training
4. A code of conduct for volunteers and staff (trustees)
5. Approaches that are child and adult focussed

Partnership Working

Central to good safeguarding are links with other professionals and agencies that support children and adults to stay safe:

- Local Safeguarding Children Partnership
- Local Safeguarding Adult Board • Social Services (children and adults)
- Local schools and colleges
- Charities, food banks and support services

Be aware that sharing information with some professionals is a legal requirement

Monitoring Your Culture

Continuing to check that your culture is safe is vital and should be part of your ongoing work.

Look out for:

- Language: does this always reflect a safe and respectful attitude to others?
- Awareness: do people talk about safeguarding, or demonstrate any misunderstandings?
- Behaviours: do we receive reports, or have conversations about concerns?
- Partnership: do we have links with children, parents, other interested adults, other professionals, or groups, to help us to safeguard?



FREE Human Resources Conference 12th July -Save the Date!

Some of your organisations will have HR (Human Resources) responsibilities, whether with volunteers or staff members.

Together with our South West London Partnerships, we are holding part in a HR Conference looking at the safer workforce recruitment implications.

Please join us on 12th July 9-12: you will hear from the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) who manages allegations made against volunteers and staff as well as other safeguarding leads in the field.

Support for your families

With Citizen Advice Bureaux

For free debt support in any language, the CABs (Citizen Advice Bureaux) are the place to start: There are also lots of other matters they can help with too: housing, legal advice, immigration.

Kingston CAB: <https://www.citizensadvicekingston.org.uk/>

Richmond CAB: <https://www.citizensadvicekingston.org.uk/>



For support with any of the above please contact Tracey Welding

Mobile: 07957 206 874

Email: tracey.welding@kingrichlscb.org.uk

How can I access KRSCP Training?

Visit: <https://Kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/training.php>