



## March 2020

### Message from the KRSCP Chair, Ian Thomas

As a strategic leadership group we have set our vision with your support **working together to keep children's safety and wellbeing at the heart of everything we do**. At this difficult time, we plan to keep communicating with you and help you to keep focused on safeguarding. Our first Independent Scrutiny of our multi-agency working was carried out to look at missing children in autumn 2019, culminating in our Contextual Safeguarding Conference and Learning Hub Event in January. This saw the launch of our refreshed MARVE (Multi-Agency Risk & Vulnerability to Exploitation) Protocol: <https://kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/news-resources/policies-and-procedures-87/child-exploitation-marve-88.php> read on for highlighted learning and our actions going forward.

Thank you for taking part in our Children's Partnership Priority setting for 2020-22. As a Senior Leadership Group we had some time in early March to consider your thoughts- 79 of you responded to our Survey Monkey Poll and we have chosen these top three priorities **Mental Health of young people**; **Parental Vulnerability** including parental mental health concerns, substance / alcohol misuse and domestic abuse, 'Think Family' and 'Early Help'; **Contextual Safeguarding**.

Ian Thomas, CBE Partnership Chair

### Minutes from SLG Meeting

The minutes from our last meeting in January can be found here:

<https://kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/media/upload/fck/file/KRSCP%20Senior%20Leadership%20Group%20%202015%20Jan%202020%20website.pdf>

### Overheard – Looked After Children (LAC)

Although it can be necessary and useful shorthand it is important to think about how professional terminology can impact the people we are trying to work with and support and may alienate them. Looked After Children and its acronym LAC may be perceived negatively by children and young people as it places the emphasis on their legal status as looked after, before the most important part of their identity - individual children just like any other. We asked Richmond's Children in Care Council their views and they felt ideally they would rather not be labelled at all but simply referred to as young people or children; however, if a term is needed the majority would prefer Children Looked After and this will be used by Kingston & Richmond's Safeguarding Children Partnership.

This article provokes further thought about how use of professional language may undermine relationships and individual's wellbeing. Food for thought for us all: <https://www.communitycare.co.uk/2019/04/29/the-language-of-care-unfairly-labels-children-and-professionals-are-complicit/>

Thank you to the children and young people who participate in Richmond's Children in Care Council and shared their views.

### Accommodation for children in care

The Department for Education (DfE) has launched a consultation on unregulated provision for children in care and care leavers in England. It has been launched alongside a research report on the same topic and transparency data on looked after children in independent or semi-independent placements. The consultation seeks views on proposals to: ban placing children in care under the age of 16 in unregulated homes; give new powers to Ofsted to tackle unregistered children's homes; require local authorities and policy forces to cooperate before placements in unregulated settings are made out of area; and introduce national quality standards for unregulated accommodation. The consultation closes on 8 April 2020.

Take part here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/unregulated-provision-for-children-in-care-and-care-leavers>

## Private Health Forum

For all private health practitioners in Schools, private GPs, and Private Hospitals come to the next Private Health Forum on 10th June 3-5:30pm in Teddington. Clearly we will be in contact as this meeting may now need to take place virtually.

Contact [Sarah.Bennett@kingrichlscb.org.uk](mailto:Sarah.Bennett@kingrichlscb.org.uk) for more information

## Missing Report

Missing Children report by Chris Robson, Independent Scrutineer here: <https://kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/about-richmond-lscb/subgroups-107/quality-and-innovation-subgroup-109.php>

Chris was tasked to consider our response to missing children. He found that our multi-agency work was good around safeguarding missing children. He met young people and practitioners from a range of agencies in some focus groups.

**Leadership** - Leaders from all agencies recognise the importance of missing episodes in terms of safeguarding. Individual agencies have prioritised this area of safeguarding as a priority with the Metropolitan Police Service making significant changes to practice.

**Policy** – Multi-agency practice is being revised and recommendations have been made to ensure this opportunity is maximised.

**Practice** – Evidence from the multi-agency audit, focus groups and themed learning event shows that the majority of practitioners and managers are aware of professionals' roles and responsibilities across the Partnership. They are confident in their own practice and view missing as a priority. This understanding was most evident from social care, police and education colleagues. The cases audited drew praise and the contribution in focus groups was professional, insightful and showed a real commitment to safeguarding young people.

**Training** – Multi-agency training in this area is delivered as part of wider safeguarding training. Whilst this in itself is adequate there is a need to review this offer to ensure Missing maintains its current position as a safeguarding issue.

Chris made several strategic recommendations:

1. **Leadership** - The SLG should consider identifying a single senior leader to lead in this area. This would afford greater accountability, increase confidence (internal and external) through strategic commitment and oversight on improvements.
2. **Prevention** - The SLG should prioritise the development of a preventative strategy and programme of preventative multi-agency work will be delivered to children and young people. The strategy should be developed across the Partnership and would add significantly to excellent work that is already taking place. It is key to involve young people, families and practitioners in the development of this strategy.
3. **Data** - The SLG should commission a review of current statistical information presented in this area, to find the best possible opportunity for strategic leaders to understand the full picture and take informed policy, recourse and practice decisions that will improve outcomes for children.

Please find our link to the 7 minute learning here: <https://kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/about-richmond-lscb/subgroups-107/quality-and-innovation-subgroup-109.php>

## Upcoming KRSCP Training

The KRSCP only offers online safeguarding training at this time, please use this link to create an account: [https://richmondscb.melearning.university/user/self\\_register](https://richmondscb.melearning.university/user/self_register).

For future courses please do look at our calendar, however it is hard to predict when they will be face to face again.

If you work within education and are interested in going on any of these courses and you can apply here:

<https://www.afccpdonline.co.uk/earlyyears/courses/bookings/default.asp?curpage=2>. Otherwise you can apply for any

here: <http://kingstonandrichmondscb.org.uk/training.php>

