



## November 2019

### Message from the KRSCP Chair, Ian Thomas

Welcome to our November Partnership newsletter. I am delighted to be Chair of the Safeguarding Children Partnership for Kingston and Richmond and I chaired our first SLG (Strategic Leadership Group) earlier this month. The SLG includes the Designated Nurse and Designated Doctor for Safeguarding in Richmond and Kingston, the Directors of Children's Social Care in both boroughs, Headteachers representing schools in both boroughs - Sophie Cavanagh from Kingston Academy and Sophie McGeoch from Meadlands, Richmond, and DCI Clair Kelland, Met Police, South West London.

As one of the new ways of working for our Partnership, the Strategic Leadership Group has decided that every three months we will set out the Five Partnership Strengths that we can celebrate, and the Five Areas for Development that we will seek to make progress on within the next three months.

These will be more detailed and granular issues that should complement the longer term strategic priorities of the Partnership. For this quarter our Top Fives! are:

### Top Five! Strengths

- The SPA (Single Point of Access) run by AfC, has been consistently praised in Kingston and Richmond as offering a strong service to all local agencies and families. I am delighted with this feedback, and further in this newsletter you will find guidance on sharing new information on already open cases to Children's Social Care.
- Secondly, I wanted to highlight our positive local engagement in learning and development. We have seen rising figure for our partnership face to face and elearning opportunities.
- Thirdly, I would like to recognise our mature learning culture. As agencies we have an open attitude to learning and findings from case reviews, audits and our safeguarding self-evaluation work through Section 11s. Very few matters are escalated to senior managers through our dispute resolution policy here: <https://kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/news-resources/policies-and-procedures-87/dispute-resolution-264.php>
- The fourth strength we agreed upon was the Designated Safeguarding Lead network in our schools, which has real strength in terms of engagement and effective understanding of safeguarding issues and effective responses.
- Finally, there was agreement across partners that Signs of Safety has already established itself across the partnership as a popular and widely adopted practice framework - and as Strategic Leaders, we agreed to endorse Signs of Safety more formally as the common way of working with families that all partners should adopt across Richmond and Kingston, in ways that work for their agency.

### Top Five! Areas for Development

- Transitions between schools and children's and adults services can be a difficult time for young people. We will be working on pathways, working on a learning event with the Safeguarding Adults' Boards and promoting Think Family training for all practitioners.
- The Early Help Assessment will be revised in collaboration with partners and then re-launched with the expectation that all partners will then use this common tool where there is a need for additional support but where that support should come from is unclear or there is a need to involve more than one agency.
- We will be seeking additional assurance that the increasing numbers of children who are Electively Home Educated are safe, that any risks to them are being effectively identified and responded to.
- Work is underway to improve the contribution of GPs to safeguarding, in particular to Child Protection Conferences - and we will be following up with our oversight to ensure that the actions planned are effective.
- We will seek further understanding of the reasons that some children are becoming subject to a Protection Plan for a second time, in order to understand what learning we need to disseminate.

## New arrangements 7 Minute Briefing

Please click [here](#) to view our 7 Minute Briefing on our New Arrangements.

## How SPA manage calls and new information concerning open cases

In general, the SPA (Single Point of Access in Children's Social Care) has a limited role with cases open to children services. Child Protection concerns should be reported using the on-line SPA referral irrespective of the status of the case, however case discussion should only take place with the allocated team.

- If a partner agency has a concern regarding a child who has an allocated Social Worker, the best advice is to contact the allocated Social Worker or Team directly. If it is something that doesn't require immediate action, send an email to the Social Worker and Team Leader.
- If professional needs to speak to a social worker immediately and the allocated social worker is not available, all teams have Duty Social Workers, who should be available.
- If a professional doesn't have the contact details for the Social Worker they can contact the SPA and they can direct them to the correct team.
- If a professional identifies a new Child Protection concern on an open case, it is best practice to do a SPA referral so that there is a written record. SPA will then put the contact on Liquid Logic and assign it to the operational manager. In such cases always speak to the Social Worker or Team, if they are not available then the SPA can assist.
- All new information sent to SPA by the online referral or to the SPA in box are put on Liquid Logic as contacts and assigned to the operational team manager. All contacts need to be responded to within 24 hours. If SPA identify an urgent Child Protection concerns, they will ensure that the team are aware as soon it is identified.
- While the SPA Service is always happy to help, it is important to remember that SPA is safeguarding and referral hub and not a telephone contact centre for AfC, however if necessary SPA will email urgent information to allocated team and put new contacts on Liquid Logic (electronic information system), where appropriate.

## Think Family

"See the Adult, See the Child" our working together protocol, to safeguard children and adults has been refreshed with the SABs (Safeguarding Adults' Boards) in both boroughs here: <https://kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/news-resources/policies-and-procedures-87/see-the-adult-see-the-child-protocol-1>

We carried out a helpful audit with Adults Services in July about working together. Find out more about the learning here: <https://kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/training.php>

This helpful article in Psychology Today

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/gb/blog/the-savvy-psychologist/201910/three-ways-childhood-trauma-affects-adulthood>

Outlines how Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) can affect the emotional well-being and physical health of adults, and how all practitioners should consider childhood history in their interventions, as they get to know people.

## Safe in Faith Conference

We had a second great Safe in Faith Conference earlier this month. Thank you for coming along!

More information here with the presentations: <https://kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/practitioners/faith-groups-263.php>

## Faith Newsletter

Our Faith Newsletter is [here](#).

## Upcoming KRSCP Training

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

The KRSCP also offers face to face training to all working with children and families. Here is a list of available courses until the end of the year:

- 02/12/2019 - Safeguarding Children: Child Protection Process Level 3 (Richmond)
- 02/12/2019 - Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Exploitation (Level 3)
- 04/12/2019 - Workshop to Raise Awareness about Radicalisation & PREVENT
- 06/12/2019 - Direct work with children who have additional vulnerabilities training course
- 13/12/2019 - Attending Coroner's Court
- 17/12/2019 - Safeguarding Children: Child Protection Process Refresher (Level 3) (Richmond)

The KRSCP are also running a Conference in January to all practitioners in the boroughs. Contextual Safeguarding, is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships.

Dr Carlene Firmin, MBE, who leads on this concept at the University of Bedfordshire will be coming to explain more at our Contextual Safeguarding Event.

We look forward to meeting you there!

- **Contextual Safeguarding** - 23/01/2020 - St Mary's University, Twickenham

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>

