

Safeguarding children and young people: Schools Summer 2022

New referral pathway for CAMHS

As part of the drive to improve the referral journey for Children and Young People into the local CAMH Services, they are moving towards direct referral to CAMHS rather than referrals being directed via Children's Services in the first instance.

Schools will be able to refer directly to CAMHS via the referral form available on the South West London St George's Mental Health Trust website [link for Kingston & Richmond](#) and email it to [CAMHS SPA Referrals inbox](#):

Please note that CAMHS referrals will not be accepted via the Children's Services Single Point of Access (SPA) from 1st July 2022.



Recording Harmful Sexual Behaviour

Normal	Inappropriate	Problematic	Abusive	Violent
Developmentally expected	Single instances of inappropriate sexual behaviour	Problematic and concerning behaviours	Victimising intent or outcome	Physically violent sexual abuse
Socially acceptable	Socially acceptable behaviour within peer group	Developmentally unusual and socially unexpected	Includes misuse of power	Highly intrusive
Consensual, mutual, reciprocal	Context for behaviour may be inappropriate	No overt elements of victimisation	Coercion and force to ensure victim compliance	Instrumental violence which is physiologically and/or sexually arousing to the perpetrator
Shared decision-making	Generally consensual and reciprocal	Consent issues may be unclear	Intrusive	Sadism
		May lack reciprocity or equal power	Informed consent lacking or not able to be freely given by victim	
		May include levels of compulsivity	May include elements of expressive violence	

We are asking schools to use the language from the Hackett continuum (left). By using a uniform language it will be easier to demonstrate that you are picking up on behaviours early and recording them in a way that makes tracking and identifying patterns easier. We know that sexual behaviour exists on a continuum and when behaviours become normalised in school you are inadvertently creating an environment for behaviour to escalate along the

continuum. Therefore we suggest schools use **"Inappropriate"** for recording behaviours that can be managed internally (such as name calling, rating attractiveness). We ask schools to use the term **"Problematic"** in their recording where the behaviour cannot be managed entirely by internal systems and where Early Help is sought from external agencies. When a child has been harmed or is likely to suffer harm, such as a sexual assault, the school should refer to SPA and record the incident as **"Abusive"** in the recording system. Any sexual behaviour that would involve the police (as well as SPA), such as rape, would be recorded as **"Violent"**.

Any staff changes to your safeguarding team? Notify [me](#) so the DSL and your DDSs are on the mailing list and continue to receive forum invitations and news.

Child Q learning: she was considered to be “*the risk*” rather than “*at risk*”

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review into what happened to Child Q, the girl who was strip searched by the police in her school with no appropriate adult present, has revealed that there was an absence of a **safeguarding first** approach and that racism was likely to have been an underlying factor.

Where children are suspected of carrying drugs or weapons, the review points out that it is “more likely than not that they are being exploited in some way or form”.

The review states that the approach of the school and police to establish whether a crime had been committed or not ran the risk that important aspects of the child’s life were missed. Important aspects that may make the difference between that child being protected or not.

The review says that “little to no thought was given as to whether a referral to external agencies might be required. Indeed, if the rationale to strip search Child Q was based on fears about exploitation, then it should have followed that this concern was escalated as a safeguarding referral. As it was, Child Q was sent home in a taxi.”

Importantly the review faulted the school for deferring to the police and not challenging them. Regarding the school, one of the Review’s findings was: “They should have been more challenging to the police, seeking clarity about the actions they intended to take. All practitioners need to be mindful of their duties to uphold the best interests of children.”

One member of staff said:

“In hindsight I put my trust in the law; I know now that I need to understand the law better... For example, insisting on staying with a student at all times...”

You can read the full Review [here](#)

New guidance from DFE about emergency planning

All education, childcare, and children’s social care settings should have emergency plans in place detailing what you would do and how you would respond if you needed to take any temporary actions in the event of an emergency. The aim of an emergency plan is to help you and your staff respond effectively to an emergency at the setting or on an educational visit or outing while, where possible, continuing to prioritise and maximise face-to-face learning. Your emergency plan should be generic enough to cover a range of potential incidents occurring during, and outside, normal working hours including weekends and holidays.

You can read the new guidance [here](#)



Dates for your diary: DSL forums 2022-23 on Zoom



Kingston and Richmond
Safeguarding Children Partnership

Autumn Term 2022

Maintained Schools **Wed 28 September** 10am-12.30pm

Independent Schools **Wed 9th November** 10am-12.30pm

Spring Term 2023

Maintained Schools **Wed 25 January** 10am-12.30pm

Independent Schools **Wed 1st Feb 2023** 10am-12.30pm

Summer Term 2023

All schools Joint forum **Wednesday 7 June** 10am-12.30pm

DSL forums in
future should be
booked using
[afccpdonline](https://afccpdonline.org)

Safeguarding children from Ukraine

Children arriving from Ukraine under the Homes for Ukraine scheme will have no safeguarding files and unlike other children in your school, you will know nothing about their back stories. In order to safeguard these children and other children arriving in the UK with no information, AfC has developed some guidance which includes what to ask at the initial welcome meeting to give you the safeguarding fundamentals you need. You can read the guidance [here](#)



Talking with your pupils about Ukraine/Russia and other difficult topics

The situation in Ukraine could bring up tensions between pupils and require conversations with students that are tricky. AfC recommends the resources [here](#). The Key has published useful resources [here](#) and the DfE Education Hub blog [here](#) is also useful.

For other difficult topics, [this](#) NSPCC resource is a useful guide for any kind of difficult conversation you may need to have.

Conference service to chair supervision order review meetings

Following a successful pilot, the conference service will now chair **supervision order review meetings** for all Kingston and Richmond children on a standalone court granted supervision order, and who remain in the care of their parents. The conference service will also consider reviewing other children with complex supervision order arrangements. A supervision order review meeting is a meeting between a child (when aged 12 years and over), parents, their family and professionals. The court threshold for a supervision order is that the child has already experienced significant harm.

Therefore, a supervision order review meeting cannot review this decision, but given the level of worry, the same standards and expectations are set as they would of a child protection conference. The Independent Chair is provided by the conference service. Supervision order review meetings take place within 10 working days of the court granting a supervision order, and three monthly thereafter until the supervision order expires.

Supervision order review meetings are held face to face in an Achieving for Children conference room.

They involve the family and professionals sharing information about what is working well and what we are worried about, and agreeing a plan to support the child and their family.

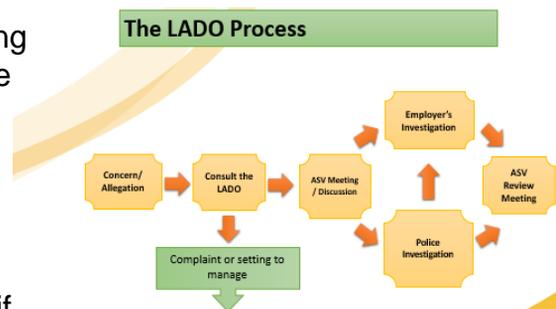
LADO Service

If you have any concerns about an adult working with children you can contact the LADO service on

020 8891 7370 or 07774 332 675 or email: LADO@achievingforchildren.org.uk

The LADO referral form is now online and can be accessed [here](#).

When making a LADO referral remember that if there is a safeguarding concern for a child you will also need to make a SPA referral for the child.



Child Sex Abuse between siblings

The NSPCC has released a new podcast about child sex abuse between siblings. You can listen to it [here](#). Lots of information about what children social care need to think about when managing a case and the complicating factors that can exist in a home environment. There is also a new File on 4 podcast, which explores a real case of CSA between siblings. You can listen to it [here](#)

Domestic Abuse News

Physical violence is just one type of abuse – domestic abuse can be any behaviour which is used to harm, punish or frighten you, or make you feel bullied, controlled or intimidated. This includes mental, sexual, financial and emotional abuse and other harmful practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM), so called “honour” based violence and forced marriage.



Deadline 26 June at midnight

You have until midnight on 26 June to take part in [this consultation](#) on the revisions to the Crown prosecution Service’s legal guidance on Domestic Abuse (DA). The purpose of the consultation is to provide interested persons with an opportunity to provide comments and to ensure the final version of the guidance is informed by as wide a range of views as possible.

Support for victims of domestic abuse

Richmond borough – Refuge (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor(IDVA) and Outreach Service) **020 8943 8188** Monday – Friday 9am-5pm

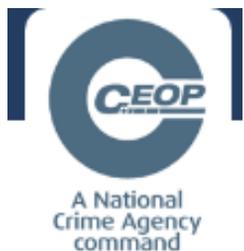
Kingston Borough - Domestic Abuse Hub, support and advocacy for survivors of DA: **0208 5476046** (Mon – Fri 9.30 – 5pm)

Concerned about a child, call the SPA: **0208 547 5008** (Mon – Fri 8am-5pm)

Are you recognising racism in your school? Call it out, stamp it out



There are still a lot of nil returns of racist incidents being submitted to AfC. Are you really recognising what racism looks like for your students, as part of their daily lived experience in your school? We need to recognise it and report it, in order to stamp it out as part of an actively anti racist movement.



New online safety resources from CEOP

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) command has developed [this new resource](#) for teaching young children aged 4-7 about online safety.

There are lots of new resources for older children aged 11-18 [here](#) about the internet and relationships.

Do you have Young Carers in your school?

If you know a child is in a caring role, refer them to the local Young Carers groups for Kingston and Richmond. Caring responsibilities have a huge impact on young people and these groups can offer valuable support.

020 3031 2754 Kingston Young Carers Project

020 8867 2383 Richmond Young Carers Project



Cruse Richmond Bereavement Support Service



Cruse has a strong, experienced group of volunteers, all having moved across to providing telephone and Zoom support, to new and existing clients. They can offer regular support to people within weeks of having registered with Cruse Richmond and are able to support families and children through bereavement. All volunteers undergo an extensive training programme and are experienced in providing emotional support to the bereaved - whenever and however that bereavement occurred. Leave a voicemail on **07495 777401** or email referrals@cruserichmonduponthames.org.uk. They will respond within 24 hours (not including weekends) to offer initial support and explain how to get regular telephone or Zoom support sessions with one of their volunteers.



Kingston and Richmond
Safeguarding Children Partnership

Kingston Bereavement Service

Please contact us on 020 8547 1552 or email

info@kingstonbereavementservice.org.uk

For immediate help, you can call the CRUSE National Helpline on 0808 808 1677

Mental Health support

Charlie Waller organisation has lots of free guides and resources for professionals working with young people. Have a look [here](#)



Getting it

[on...](#) information and services for young people on sexual and mental health issues, drugs & alcohol and relationship problems

Audit reminder

Have you done your schools safeguarding self audit for 21-22 academic year? Under Working Together, ALL schools need to submit an audit to KRSCP as evidence of their safeguarding. Our new audit tool is [here](#), and initial feedback is that it's much more user friendly and easier to complete than previous tools we recommended. Thank you to all the schools who have submitted their audit this year, I read every one! Please try to get this done before end of term. THANK YOU!

SPA Update

First of all we would like to say a massive THANK YOU to each and every one of you. We appreciate how hard you are working to not only teach children and young people, but also to safeguard them.

We hope you enjoy your summer break and have time to yourselves.

It has been great working with you all and we hope to be able to continue building on the relationships we have all formed.

We also wanted to ensure that you continue to know that our door is always open to you. If any of you would like to come and visit us in SPA, please do get in contact. This can either be to say hello and meet some of the team or if you would like to attend a Signs of Safety session we do each Friday, it would be great to have your input.

Please also don't forget to call us for a consultation if needed, I think you will agree these can be very positive and informative.

Donna Phillips Team Leader - SPA



Opportunity for all:
strong schools with great
teachers for your child



SEND Review:
Right support
Right place
Right time



Changes are coming

The DFE [white paper](#) and the [SEND review](#) aim to introduce and implement standards that will improve children's education, deliver the right support if they fall behind and give them the tools to lead a happy, fulfilled and successful life.



Promote attendance

The Children's Commissioner for England has published findings from [its audit](#) exploring the groups of children missing from education and the reasons behind it. 1.7 million children were missing from education in the Autumn term 2021, almost double the number pre pandemic and equates to an astonishing 1 in 4 of all children.

Recommendations include having child friendly versions of your attendance and behaviour policies and create a policy about Young Carers and how they will be supported.

Remember the Young Carers Lead teacher idea we discussed at the Autumn DSL forum? The Children's Commissioner says attendance should be prioritised by schools and LAs. The report recommends schools should become statutory partners in the Safeguarding Children Partnership. Resources to help schools are [here](#).

What children worry about?

49% Pressure from school

42% Their mental health

38% Physical appearance

30% family finances

[This Brighter Future Ahead](#) report from Action for Children has lots of insights from its research

One significant finding found that mental health is a bigger worry for children in 2019.

Forty two per cent said they were worried about their own mental health in our survey – compared to 29% in 2019.

Parents and grandparents are also far more aware of their child or grandchild's mental health worries. Only 17% of parents and 9% of grandparents identified mental health as something they thought their child or grandchild worried about in 2019. In our latest survey, the figures jumped to 45% of parents and 30% of grandparents who thought their child or grandchild ever worried about their mental health.

Almost a third of children (30%) worry about their family having enough money to live comfortably.

Among the children surveyed from low income backgrounds, nearly half (47%) said they worry, about their family's finances, while only 14% of children from high income families said so.



Have you shared our new webcast with your parents?

Last week I shared our [new webcast and resources](#) for parents about unsupervised gatherings and the dangers of alcohol consumption and substance misuse, alongside the issue of harmful sexual behaviour.

The resources and video are aimed at parents of Years 5-13 but primary schools should use their professional judgement. We hope you will share the resources on your websites and at new parents evenings. We want primary schools to be involved because we need to capture parents before the unsupervised gatherings and the expectation to drink alcohol begin, which is usually around Year 8, but sometimes earlier. We would like all secondary schools and Sixth Forms to share it with their parents. Thank you for your cooperation.

And finally...

A huge and heartfelt "thank you" from me, Lucy, and all of us at KRSCP, to each and every one of you for your sustained hard work and constant drive and enthusiasm to do the best for the children and young people in your schools. All this during the toughest of times, makes me feel very proud. Thank you. Your excellent attendance at the DSL forums is much appreciated and I love hearing from you and supporting you with your safeguarding. I hope the next few weeks are good and you have a well deserved rest over the summer holidays. I am working until the end of July if you need support with anything before next year.