

Excellent turn out at DSL Forums this term



Maintained schools forum



The attendance at the DSL forums this term was really good. Thank you to all who came. We talked about recognising the impact of parental vulnerabilities on children. We heard from Counselling Psychologist, Dr Sarah Head, about a particular case she worked with and we learnt that the projected numbers of children living with vulnerabilities in the household are really high, for example we think 10,420 children in Kingston and Richmond live with parental mental ill health. DSL Jack Costello shared his excellent perspective on working with vulnerabilities from the point of view of a DSL and we also had a great presentation on the new Early Help Strategy and the resilience network meetings. I am thinking about themes for next year so do please email me your thoughts at

Lucy.macarthur@kingrichlscb.org.uk

You will remember in the Autumn term we spoke about creating an actively anti racist culture in our schools and I urge you to look back at those slides and think about how you can start to recognise racism in all its guises in your school, act on it and report it.

Let me know what action you are taking so I can share some good practice between all schools.

DSL Forum Summer Term: New Date

Please note the earlier advertised date has been changed. The new date is Wed 9 June 10-12.30 on Zoom. Please put it in your calendars now.

The link to join will be sent out nearer the time in the summer term. The theme for forum is so called honour based violence, FGM and Eating Disorders. This is a joint forum for independent and maintained schools.

Child Sexual abuse in the context of schools

In December the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) published the findings of The Truth Project. It describes the experiences of participants sexually abused in the context of schools between the 1940s and 2010s, with the most recent case beginning in the early 2010s. The term 'in the context of schools' in this report refers to child sexual abuse that occurred in schools or colleges, or was perpetrated by a member of staff who worked in them, or other students. You can read it [here](#).

Safeguarding magazine for children and young people



[Click here](#) for Primary school children version

During lockdown we worked with Headteachers Sophie Cavanagh from The Kingston Academy and Sophie McGeoch from Meadlands Primary. These are the education reps in KRSCP. We wanted to reach out to the children and young people at home while they weren't attending school, and give them some information about getting help if it is needed, whilst also connecting them with other young people going through similar experiences. With the help of their students, we produced these two magazines. Please do share them.



[Click here](#) for secondary school young people version

News from the SPA manager: referral training for schools



In the SPA we are trying to be better with giving feedback to referrers on how their referrals could be even better. Due to the high volume of work - we ideally do not want to have to call a referrer to clarify information.

Try to avoid saying general things like “they are violent”, “using drugs”, “self harming” as these are not specific enough. We need to know what specifically is happening. AfC is offering schools some training in making quality SPA referrals and you can book [here](#)

[here](#)
Cassey Spratt, SPA Service Manager
Cassey.spratt@achievingforchildren.org.uk

Breaking news around Supervision for DSLs: we have won some significant DFE grant funding to provide training for all schools to gain in house Supervision skills. Courses will be in the summer term – details to follow.



Learn how to support children and young people using psychological first aid

Public Health England

This [3-week course](#) by Public Health England explores the techniques of psychological first aid (PFA), the globally recommended training for supporting people during emergencies. You'll focus on children and young people's mental health, and what you can do to help them cope and access the support they need during and after emergencies and crisis situations. The course is based on international guidance from the World Health Organisation, United Nations and partners

Do you have Young Carers in your school?

Are you recognising your young carer? They might have a sibling with a disability or live with an adult with care needs. 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 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

Winston's Wish bereavement help

Helpline 08088 020021

Email service: ask@winstonswish.org

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.

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)

Journey to exclusion – deep dive learning event in January



This multi agency event was the culmination of learning around school exclusion and followed publication of this [report](#). There was a call to multi agency strategic leads to work to help children and young people because exclusion is wrongly thought of as purely for schools. Disproportionate numbers of students excluded are Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic (BAME) or have an Education, Health Care Plan (EHCP) and this is seen in our boroughs, as well as nationally. The pandemic has made strategists realise the hugely important role schools play in safeguarding children.

The same rationale applies with exclusion – we no longer have eyes and ears on the child. Schools are the focal point for families. Behavioural challenges can put pressure on relationships between schools and families and this increases risk of exclusion. Multi agency support is essential to help prevent exclusion. There's a need for multi agencies to put their heads together and develop a "Team around the school" approach. Young people and families need to build long term trust with an individual – that may not be someone in school, but it needs to be someone.

There were some interesting ideas suggested around continuity of support staff, keeping them attached to the child from Year 3 through to Year 11– (obviously that needs further development) and a recognition of the massively important role they (TAs and LSAs) play. The impact Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on very young children needs more recognitions and early help support before the ACEs translate into behavioural challenges is crucial. This [film](#) about the impact of ACEs throughout life is very useful to watch. Another call at the event was for schools to use the expertise of the Pupil Referral Unit without excluding the pupil, through outreach work and dual registration.

Save the date: 22 June. Our next Deep Dive Learning event is on the topic of domestic abuse and there will be a conference in the morning followed by a multi agency workshop in the afternoon. More details will follow nearer the time.

JTAI Inspection Heads Up

This is an HMI Joint Targeted Area Inspection which is expected sometime this academic year. Inspectors look at all agencies involved in a small number of real cases of children referred into the SPA. The inspection involves every agency involved in that child, including the school. This is just a heads up to make you aware that your school might be contacted if one of the case study children is a pupil in your school.

Thank you

FGM – reminder of policy

There is a legal duty to report suspected FGM to the police on 101 and make a referral to the SPA. In our boroughs there is a risk professionals might think "It doesn't happen here", which could act as a barrier to spotting signs. Please read our FGM [policy](#) and refresh your knowledge about spotting the signs and taking action.



Early Help Resilience network meetings

You can read about the Early Help strategy [here](#). Central to the Early Help strategy are the resilience network meetings where you can discuss specific cases and get help and support from multi disciplinary partners. The meetings for March April and May are now available to book on to and the links are below.

March

[Resilience Networks \(Kingston - 0 - 5 years\) - Tuesday 23 March 2021 10:00 - 12:00](#)

[Resilience Networks \(Richmond - 0 - 5 years\) - Tuesday 23 March 2021 10:00 - 12:00](#)

[Resilience Networks \(Kingston - 5 - 10 years\) - Wednesday 24 March 2021 10:00 - 12:00](#)

[Resilience Networks \(Richmond - 5 - 10 years\) - Wednesday 24 March 2021 10:00 - 12:00](#)

[Resilience Networks \(Kingston - 11- 19 years\) - Thursday 25 March 2021 10:00 - 12:00](#)

[Resilience Networks \(Richmond - 11- 19 years\) - Thursday 25 March 2021 10:00 - 12:00](#)

April

[Resilience Networks \(Kingston - 0 - 5 years\) - Tuesday 20 April 2021 10:00 - 12:00](#)

[Resilience Networks \(Richmond - 0 - 5 years\) - Tuesday 20 April 2021 10:00 - 12:00](#)

[Resilience Networks \(Kingston - 5 - 10 years\) - Wednesday 21 April 2021 10:00 - 12:00](#)

[Resilience Networks \(Richmond - 5 - 10 years\) - Wednesday 21 April 2021 10:00 - 12:00](#)

[Resilience Networks \(Kingston - 11- 19 years\) - Thursday 22 April 2021 10:00 - 12:00](#)

[Resilience Networks \(Richmond - 11- 19 years\) - Thursday 22 April 2021 10:00 - 12:00](#)

May

[Resilience Networks \(Kingston - 0 - 5 years\) - Tuesday 18 May 2021 10:00 - 12:00](#)

[Resilience Networks \(Richmond - 0 - 5 years\) - Tuesday 18 May 2021 10:00 - 12:00](#)

[Resilience Networks \(Kingston - 5 - 10 years\) - Wednesday 19 May 2021 10:00 - 12:00](#)

[Resilience Networks \(Richmond - 5 - 10 years\) - Wednesday 19 May 2021 10:00 - 12:00](#)

[Resilience Networks \(Kingston - 11- 19 years\) - Thursday 20 May 2021 10:00 - 12:00](#)

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Oxygen, a local charity, offers support to children in Kingston and Richmond. They are funded by the GLA (Greater London Authority) to provide mentoring and intervention for young people at risk of exclusion, offending and poor mental health. Please [apply here](#):



Do you know about hidden harms?

Adult vulnerabilities are what we call hidden harms because they can impact on the adult's ability to keep the children in their care safe. The Children's Commissioner estimates there are 18,220 children under 18 years old living in Kingston and Richmond where an adult in their household has one of the three serious vulnerabilities in the chart below, putting the child at greater risk of harm. Of course there are plenty of other hidden harms that affect children and young people, many of which have been exacerbated by the pandemic, such as Poverty, Clinical vulnerability to covid-19, Separation/relationship breakdown, Stress, Job loss/threat of job loss, Bereavement, Illness/worry. The question is do you know who these children are and are they getting the support they need? As part of the "Think Family" approach we encourage all adult service professionals to consider the impact of these vulnerabilities on the children in the household and engage with children's services to get appropriate support for the children. The impact of the pandemic has intensified issues such as DA, parental MH and alcohol/substance misuse. All these factors put children at greater risk of harm – we call them hidden harms because there are no obvious physical signs

Parental vulnerability	Kingston No of YP aged 0-17	Richmond No of YP aged 0-17	Total No of YP aged 0-17
Alcohol/drug dependency	1370	1420	2790
Domestic Abuse	2390	2620	5010
Symptoms of Mental ill health	4890	5530	10,420
All 3	390	400	790

Counselling support for 11-22 year olds in Kingston and Richmond boroughs.

Kooth is accredited by The British Association of Psychotherapy and Counselling (BACP) and a trusted delivery partner of the NHS. It's

anonymous, free and open up until 10pm 365 days a year. There are no waiting times and it integrates with face-to-face local services to ensure a seamless transition when needed.



Qualified counsellors, therapists and support workers provide guided, outcome-focused help for each individual. Children and young people can visit www.kooth.com to chat to professional counsellors, read articles written by young people, receive peer-to-peer support and keep a daily journal.