



Kingston and Richmond
Safeguarding Children Partnership

Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2022-23

Foreword from KRSCP's Chair

This report covers the work of the Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Children Partnership (KRSCP) during the period April 2022 to March 2023 which has been a time of change for the KRSCP team. The year began with a change of manager with Daksha Mistry taking the role of Interim Partnership Manager, and the KRSCP team being integrated into the Stronger and Safer Communities Directorate of Richmond and Wandsworth Councils being led by Kiran Vagarwal. This change has resulted in more collaboration and cross borough working with colleagues from the south west London partnerships. KRSCP also recruited a new independent scrutineer, Amanda Boodhoo, to support the scrutiny function of the partnership. We were also able to provide a 6-month placement for a graduate which was a positive experience both for the team and for the graduate.

The KRSCP subgroups have continued to work effectively with the coordination of the KRSCP team members. The subgroups have addressed local safeguarding themes and issues and considered learning from national child safeguarding practice reviews (CSPRs) including Star and Arthur as well as local CSPRs concerning intrafamilial child sexual abuse, and medical neglect. We have continued to raise awareness about broader national issues such as the cost of living crisis and adultification and consider how they could impact on vulnerable children and families across Kingston and Richmond.

KRSCP have continued to engage with our wider SLG membership through quarterly meetings and two partnership events held in July 2022 and March 2023.

The safeguarding arrangements for KRSCP continue to work well and our scrutineer has observed that:

‘KRSCP demonstrates a culture that is highly ambitious and aspirational for children and young people and is one that is reflective of continuous learning and, continuous improvement.’

We have been anticipating a potential joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) and so have been working to support multiagency colleagues to be prepared.

The team have, with support from Richmond Council, created a new KRSCP website (integrated into Richmond's web hosting) and embraced technology to support the work of KRSCP by investing in Chronolator to support rapid reviews and child safeguarding practice reviews, and PHEW to support our Section 11 audits of safeguarding practice across the agencies that make up our partnership.

We are proud of the commitment of all our partners who work tirelessly with families to keep them safe and promote their welfare and wellbeing. We aim to be ambitious for our children and families and hope the year ahead will bring further opportunities to improve how children and families experience our services.



Ian Dodds, Director of Children's Services for Kingston and Richmond, and Chair of Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Children Partnership

Message from KRSCP's Independent Scrutineer

I was delighted to be appointed as Independent Scrutineer for KRSCP in September 2022. As such this is the first annual report that I have contributed to.

Looking back over the period covered by this report, and in particular the six months I have been in post as independent scrutineer there has been much to focus the partnership. During 2022 the partnership organisations have needed to continuously focus and respond to the ongoing cost of living crisis ensuring advice and support was available to families experiencing hardship. On 1st July 2022 the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) transitioned to the Integrated Care Board (ICB). Throughout 2022-2023 all partners continue to experience workforce challenges in terms of recruitment and retention.

Within the reporting period the governance arrangements of the partnership have embedded and are sound. The role, function and purpose of the partnership is clear and strategic priorities are agreed collaboratively and are set out in the previous year's published annual report. The partnership's strategic priorities are aligned to particular workstreams and to the work plans of individual subgroups, which are chaired at senior level and accountable to the strategic leadership group (SLG). Priorities are regularly monitored through a meeting of the subgroup chairs.

The partnership has maintained a constructive and methodical approach in its focus on agreed priorities but has also been sufficiently adaptable to give time and attention to new challenges as they have arisen. The senior leadership arrangements are strong and there is evidence of a cohesive leadership team, working

together with the business team, to ensure that the priorities are progressed. This oversight by senior leaders has resulted in a balanced assessment, identifying what is working well alongside recognition of the areas where further work is needed in order that impact can be evidenced.

The partnership continues to develop a positive system of effective communication through use of its website, regular bulletins and briefing sessions. These enable the promotion of important safeguarding messages and act as a means of promoting a stronger understanding of the work of the partnership.

It is pleasing to see the evidence of the work undertaken to engage with young people and their families, including the work to develop a version of the annual report for children – Keeping You Safe.

Within the last year the report clearly confirms those areas of work that have been undertaken or are currently underway with evidence of achievement. In the coming year there is a need to further evidencing the impact this work has had in improving outcomes for Kingston and Richmond's children.

In my first six months in role, I have been impressed at the commitment, energy and enthusiasm shown by partner organisations and those working in Kingston and Richmond to safeguard children and young people. I extend my thanks for the collective work delivered in this regard and to the welcome I have received. I look forward to reporting further on the strengths and developments of the partnership alongside the difference it has made, in the year ahead.

Amanda Boodhoo, Independent Scrutineer



Local Context

Demographics in Kingston:

- ❖ The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames has approximately 168,000 residents.
- ❖ In 2020 estimates from ONS, 0-17 year olds accounted for 22% of the population.

Demographics in Richmond:

- ❖ The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames has approximately 195,000 residents.
- ❖ In 2020 estimates from ONS, 0-17 year olds accounted for 23% of the population.

What's going well?

- ❖ A new substantive independent scrutineer has been appointed, with a return to the model appointing a scrutineer to a yearly term rather than being bespoke to an individual piece of scrutiny as was previously trialled. This will assist scrutiny of impact over time.
- ❖ There has been great engagement from designated safeguarding leads (DSLs) and other education-oriented activities including audit which has given the partnership key insight into safeguarding and areas for development.
- ❖ There has been strong uptake of partnership training and developments to the way we design and deliver our training which has meant that despite budget constraints, we have been able to offer training that is targeted to emerging themes and learning needs identified through scrutiny and multi-agency quality assurance work.

- ❖ The team have developed a new website to ensure information is relevant to our audience. This process has highlighted areas for further work around policy development and updates required in the year ahead.
- ❖ The partnership has commissioned virtual tools to support partnership learning and audit activities, which are aimed at reducing workload and producing synthesised outcomes to aid analysis.
- ❖ Achieving for Children (AfC), the Council's children's services provider, promotes writing to the child in referrals from partner agencies to develop signs of safety model and respond to findings of Ofsted inspection relating to improvement required regarding quality of referrals.
- ❖ The focused Ofsted visit for Kingston Children's Services in May 2022¹ identifies a wide range of good practice within and beyond children's services to help keep children and families safe.
- ❖ The Joint Area SEND revisit inspection in Kingston in October 2022² found sufficient progress against each of the areas identified as requiring improvement at the previous inspection.

What are we worried about and areas for development?

- ❖ The partnership dataset did not include Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) data as at 31/03/23 as permission for the inclusion of its revised data product had not yet been confirmed.
- ❖ The concern around electively home educated children, or those absent from school due to emotionally related school avoidance continues; however, there are established mechanisms for monitoring these children, and the multiagency group established

¹ <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50186491>

² <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50198215>

to respond to covid-19 undertook assurance activity against the requirements outlined in a letter from the Department for Education.

- ❖ GPs' report provision to child protection (CP) conferences has shown some improvement but continues to be an area of focus to ensure this is sustained and expanded.
- ❖ Work continues with ensuring the right professionals are invited and attending strategy meetings along with work supporting GPs submitting reports to these.
- ❖ There are two key health designate posts that have been persistently vacant across both boroughs creating pressure on local resourcing.
- ❖ Timeliness of initial health assessments for children looked after is a persistent area requiring improvement. The KRSCP Strategic Leadership Group (SLG) has agreed some further remedial action for 2023/24.
- ❖ The focused Ofsted inspection of Kingston Children's Services in May 2022 identified the following areas for improvement: consistent and appropriate application of strategy meetings; the early recognition and response to domestic abuse concerns; and consideration of children and families' ethnicity and culture at the earliest opportunity.
- ❖ A CQC inspection of maternity services at Kingston Hospital in October 2022³ identified some areas requiring improvement including the need for access to regular safeguarding supervision for midwives.
- ❖ Transitional safeguarding is identified as an area for development.

- ❖ The cost of living crisis and the impact on families; the partnership has been awareness-raising to ensure the multiagency workforce is aware of help available and mindful of intersection with safeguarding.
- ❖ There is increasing difficulty in accessing accommodation to meet the needs of homeless families. There has been a reduction in the availability of private rental accommodation also.
- ❖ MPS colleagues have challenges in terms of balancing their operational duties, internal training requirements, and capacity constraints to routinely enable officers to participate in multiagency training, meaning reduced opportunities for interaction in this context with other agencies. The partnership will consider how this may be addressed.
- ❖ The self-assessment audit process for schools identified as an area for development that more schools should sign up to police Operation Encompass.
- ❖ Out of schools providers had low engagement with the self-assessment process. This will be developed in the year ahead to encourage uptake response to this safeguarding audit to ensure the partnership have assurance as to these settings.

³ <https://api.cqc.org.uk/public/v1/reports/ab9a089c-8cf2-4840-9377-a022b76f9a62?20221214090305>

Progress on Priorities

KRSCP priorities for 2022-24 have been agreed as mental health, early help to support parental vulnerabilities, contextual safeguarding, and child sexual abuse. Throughout the partnership's work there is also an agreed focus on disproportionality, diversity, and anti-racism. Below are some key activities that have been undertaken for each of the priority areas:

| Priority | Progress |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mental health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ An audit of MPS merlin reports made a recommendation for trauma informed training to be delivered to frontline MPS officers to assist with their knowledge in recognising the impact of trauma. ❖ Richmond young people's health and wellbeing survey⁴ presented across the partnership giving us valuable insight into emotional wellbeing from children's perspective. ❖ AfC's Emotional Health Service have rolled out an Early Intervention Mental Health service for schools. ❖ South West London Integrated Care Board (SWL ICB) launched a new pathway for child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS). ❖ Forums for early years and schools' settings designated safeguarding leads feature learning about self-harm, suicide awareness, and neurodiversity. |
| Parental vulnerabilities and early help | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Mock JTAI workshop held with early help theme generated valuable learning for the partnership including issues on impact of identity, information sharing, voice of the child, CAMHS, and fathers and other significant adults. The report⁵ has been shared at the Early Help Strategic Board (EHSB) and SLG. ❖ Maternity Early Childhood Sustained Home (MECSH) visiting has begun in Kingston. Richmond is considering whether to enrol in this national programme. ❖ Think Space continued. ❖ Neurodiversity and related pathways considered across the partnership. Assurance provided about children on waiting lists for assessment. ❖ Assurance being sought from violence against women and girls (VAWG) leads regarding recommendations agreed as a priority from the deep dive into domestic abuse including wider workforce knowledge and appropriate interaction with multiagency risk assessment conference (MARAC) where indicated. ❖ More schools have appointed a nominated lead for young carers. |

⁴ https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/public_health/public_health_publications/young_people_health_wellbeing_survey

⁵ https://kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/media/fuhbifry/krscp_dry_run_early_help_audit_report_executive_summary.pdf

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Contextual safeguarding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Contextual safeguarding conferences for risk outside the home established. ❖ Webcast produced aimed at parents and carers highlighting risks of unsupervised gatherings and substance misuse. ❖ Young people benefitting from work of Project X speak at partnership events. ❖ Communications campaigns developed for and with young people to highlight resources available to them. ❖ Harmful Sexual Behaviours (HSB) training has been developed, delivered, and evaluated. |
| Child sexual abuse | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Task and finish groups convened across three themes: multiagency information sharing; signs and indicators; and therapeutic support - to deliver on recommendations from child safeguarding practice review concerning intrafamilial child sexual abuse. ❖ Multiagency partners participating in enhancing sexual abuse pathway programme for South London. ❖ Agreed with the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse that KRSCP will be a pilot to embed their new direct work resources for practitioners. |
| Disproportionality, diversity and anti-racism | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Cultural competency work undertaken with senior leaders. ❖ AfC disproportionality audit presented and considered across the partnership. ❖ Assurance obtained from MPS regarding strip searches in context of City and Hackney's CSCR for child Q⁶. ❖ Partnership audit tools refined to encourage reflection on all aspects of a child's identity and how they intersect. ❖ Promotion to schools around need for reporting of racist bullying incidents. ❖ Awareness-raising across the workforce concerning adultification. ❖ Presentation and consideration at SLG of external reviews of the London Fire Brigade⁷ and the MPS⁸ ❖ Mock JTAI re early help highlights the need for all partner agencies to accurately document and explore the impact of identity including ethnicity, culture, language, religious tradition and other factors on a child and their family. Partners are reminded to make use of tools such as genograms and chronologies to support understanding of connected communities. Partners must also consider the accessibility of information they are providing to clients and whether support is needed such as interpreters, translation, easy read versions. |

⁶ <https://chscp.org.uk/portfolio/local-child-safeguarding-practice-review-child-q/>

⁷ <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/about-us/independent-culture-review/>

⁸ <https://www.met.police.uk/police-forces/metropolitan-police/areas/about-us/about-the-met/bcr/baroness-casey-review/>

Voice of the Child

The voice of the child is explored and emphasised across partnership work. We have also had the benefit of hearing directly from young people during some partnership activities this year as follows:

Oliver, a 17 year old sixth-form student spoke to us in May 2022 about alcohol and substance use amongst teenagers in Richmond. He bravely contributed to our webcast featuring advice for parents and carers on unsupervised gatherings and substance misuse⁹, telling us about the widespread use of Class A drugs amongst his peer group. Steph, a local mum from Richmond, also contributed to the webcast by sharing with us what happened to her 13 year old daughter when she attended an unsupervised birthday party of a 14 year old friend. The webcast, aimed at parents and carers, was the first time we had targeted parents/carers in our work to safeguard children and young people. It recognised the protective role parents and carers can play.

Ellie (aka EEKS) is a 17 year old local singer songwriter who writes rap music. Ellie had multiple challenges growing up and was supported by Project X, following her being excluded from school and getting into trouble with the police. Project X encouraged her to pursue a music career and supported her by giving her access to the recording studio at Kingsnympton in Kingston and Heatham House in Twickenham. Ellie wrote and performed two songs about exploitation at our partnership event in July 2022.

⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1News5Xrk0>



In March 2023, we met Callum, Finlay and Chip who shared their amazing turnaround stories at our partnership event on professional curiosity. All had been helped by the curiosity shown by the professionals working with them. Callum had been excluded from school and had got into trouble with the police. Through learning to box at Twickenham Marshall Arts College with Project X, he learnt to be disciplined, hard working and respectful. His anger became easier to manage. The coaches also gave his mum some personal training sessions to help her with her confidence and parenting skills.

Finlay had been volunteering with Project X as a boxing coach after he had gained a huge passion for boxing through working with the project and won the national youth flyweight title. Project X employed him as a boxing coach and through the project he met PC Lewis and was inspired to join the MPS.

Chip was at school with Finlay and had got into trouble with shoplifting. Project X helped him and his younger brother to develop other interests and keep out of trouble. Chip now volunteers with the project and is pursuing a career in security. Chip and Finlay have both worked with Callum and with the support of the youth workers in AfC, Callum is following his dream of joining the British Army.



Additionally, we have tracked youth participation across the partnership and included some of the work undertaken by partners to ensure the views of children and young people to inform local service provision:

- ❖ Public Health Richmond carried out a young people’s health and wellbeing survey - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames in May 2022 with 4800+ responses from young people in primary and secondary schools. This has been presented across the partnership to ensure the views inform and guide our work.

- ❖ Getting It On¹⁰ summer safety campaign 2022 was developed by Public Health and shared on Instagram and other platforms to engage young people in key safety messages.
- ❖ In July 2022 Youth Out Loud launched its film by and for young people about sexual health¹¹.
- ❖ In September and November 2022, the Community Safety Team in Kingston launched its Speak Up Speak Out community safety project which received 183 responses from young people.
- ❖ Work has been underway on refreshing the Children and Young People’s Plan in Richmond. This plan has been informed by engagement with young people in the borough via multiple avenues, such as 4,000 responses to a survey conducted by AfC. Richmond Council’s Community Engagement Team contributed by engaging the harder to reach young people through focused events in October and November 2022, and young people engaged with officers through youth clubs and the youth council to help develop the plan.
- ❖ AfC’s SEND Participation Lead has recruited a young person to sit on the working party for the Alternative Provision Strategy. They have also involved young people in the recruitment of staff and have a young person on the recruitment panel.
- ❖ The Youth Council followed up its sexual harassment survey by engaging with 300 boys in December 2022 – February 2023 to gain boys’ perspectives on sexual harassment and VAWG.

¹⁰ <https://www.gettingiton.org.uk/>

¹¹ <https://youtu.be/138ZKCJ1MsU?si=4iqgxERQQ4fcTYoj>

- ❖ The chair and vice chair of the youth council were involved in developing the Joint AFC Board and Young People's meetings. Four meetings take place every year and are attended by all youth voice projects, such as young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and Children in Care Councils. This will ensure all data from surveys and consultations undertaken by all youth voice projects informs the decisions made by the AfC Board on services for young people.
- ❖ In January 2023, the Youth Engagement Lead in partnership with colleagues in Kingston and Richmond Councils, as well as housing associations, developed the *Involving Young People in Planning and Regeneration steering group*. The purpose of the steering group is to coordinate the effective and meaningful involvement of young people in planning and regeneration projects that are planned across Kingston and Richmond over the next 2 years, such as Piper Hall, Cambridge Road Estate and Ham Youth Centre.
- ❖ Eight members of Youth Out Loud reviewed the South West London Children and Young Peoples' Mental Health and Wellbeing Directory in March 2023.

Each year we are assisted by local young people to produce a version of our annual report for children – Keeping You Safe. It is published on our website and shared through the schools network. This year we plan to have this version available by December 2023.



A hands-on learning opportunity at our partnership event on professional curiosity courtesy of the young people involved in Project X

Quality and Innovation

The Quality and Innovation Subgroup oversees a range of tasks to strengthen our understanding of local performance and determine how we can improve our multiagency work to better serve children. This includes scrutiny of a multiagency partnership dataset, protocols and policies, single and multiagency audits including section 11 audits, partnership deep dives and learning events.

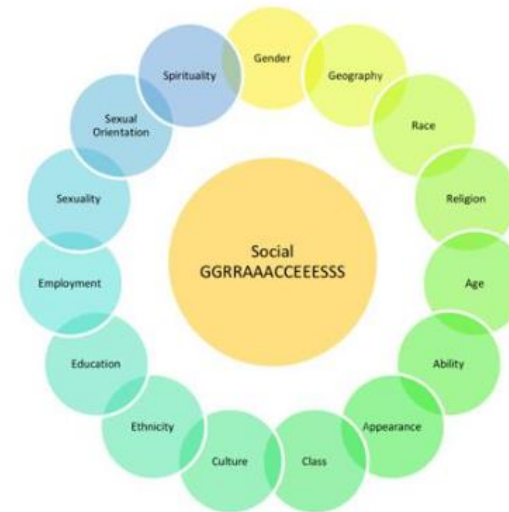
The chairing of the subgroup was undertaken by Caroline Mark, Associate Director for Quality Assurance and Review, Achieving for Children. A vacancy for co-chair has remained open throughout the year. The subgroup met three times during 2022/23.

Key activities undertaken were as follows:

- ❖ Scrutiny of quarterly partnership multiagency dataset based on key priorities with highlight reporting to SLG.
- ❖ Reflective model pilot 'Think Space' meetings begin a new approach to multiagency working, reflection and best practice in order to improve outcomes for children and young people. Terms of reference were developed and agreed, and a Think Space animation film¹² was developed and shared across the partnership to support the roll out.
- ❖ Received presentation focused on equality, diversity and disproportionality from partner agencies' findings from an audit of disproportionality in child protection. This identified learning around: use of cultural genograms and 'family tree' of significant people around the child and their connections; the need to hear

¹² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6aADofZZ4SY>

male voices; strengthening supervision for practitioners in professional curiosity, unconscious bias, and social graces. It was also recognised that recording of ethnicity and inclusion in referrals, requires improvement.



The term 'Social Graces', is a mnemonic to help us remember some of the key features that influence personal and social identity (see above) as developed by John Burhnam, Alison Roper-Hall and colleagues (1992).

<https://www.basw.co.uk/media/news/2020/jul/social-graces-practical-tool-address-inequality>

- ❖ Assurance provided regarding the number of children strip searched not under arrest (MTIP searches) from the South West London data for 2021; the numbers are very small: Five in Kingston, and one in Richmond, with schools are never used.

- ❖ Agreed plan for reflective sessions with multiagency partners to explore how to support the multiagency workforce across Kingston and Richmond to be more 'culturally competent'.
- ❖ Richmond Public Health as commissioners of current 0-19 Health Visiting and School Health Service provided an overview of the outreach work including public education around safe sleeping, home safety, working with fathers and training the trainers on ICON (prevention of abusive head trauma in babies. Excellent practice around safeguarding and high impact areas (Family Nurse Partnership, mental health, breastfeeding) was noted.
- ❖ Received presentation from Kingston Public Health on an initiative being commissioned, MECSH (see early help section)
- ❖ Deep dive revisit into missing children. The key themes identified were: gender and outcomes; identified vulnerability factors; cross borough challenges; adolescent concerns; children presenting much younger; exploitation seen earlier; trusted adults; listening to what children are telling us. Recommendations have been agreed to take this learning forward.
- ❖ MPS Merlin audit conducted in July 2022 which made four recommendations: communication to officers to ensure all adult details are captured on Merlin reports to ensure appropriate checks can be carried out to prevent further risks not being identified; all children should be seen regardless of time of police call; trauma informed training to be delivered to frontline police officers to assist with their knowledge in recognising the impact of trauma; and, amendments to merlin form to include nationality and language spoken.
- ❖ Received a presentation from AfC's Conferencing Service Annual Report 2021-22. This provided updates on the resumption of face-to-face conferences, the contextual safeguarding pilot and launch of risks outside the home (ROTH) conferencing launch.
- ❖ Received presentation of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Report 2021-22. Referrals, which had been low due to schools being closed during lockdown, are now back to pre-pandemic rates. A children and young people leaflet has been issued, specifically to inform children and young people what the LADO is and how allegations are managed.
- ❖ Received presentation from public health on Richmond Young People's Survey results which contributed to our understanding the impact of Covid 19 on children and young people.
- ❖ Repeat CP Plans Briefing presented from the conference service regarding high number of repeat CP Plans ever- children returning to plans who have been on one sometime before. Multiagency dip sample audits illustrated themes: impact of Covid-19; children stepped down too early; issues around domestic abuse leading to interventions being incident-led; alcohol/substance misuse where both parents were engaging, then relapsed leading to crisis. Along with the impact of poverty as a theme and repeat plans due to older siblings.
- ❖ Received presentation and report on section 11 audits for schools, and safeguarding survey to early years providers.
- ❖ Scrutiny of multiagency attendance at strategy meetings. A 7-minute learning was presented showing the results of the recent dip sample into strategy meetings. Managing the increasing number of strategy meetings was highlighted as a challenge, there was also learning around safety planning for the child.
- ❖ Presentation received regarding GP reports for child protection conferences leading to amendments being made to the template to assist with inclusion of think family approaches, and analysis, rather than solely clinical information.
- ❖ Reviewed and agreed terms of reference.

Local Learning Review

The Local Learning Review Subgroup (LLR) considers any serious child safeguarding case notifications for Kingston and Richmond and undertakes rapid reviews as required by the statutory guidance in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. During 2022-23 chairing of the LLR subgroup was undertaken by Louise Doherty, Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children. The LLR subgroup met for scheduled subgroup meeting five times during 2022/23, and additionally on an ad hoc basis for rapid reviews as required.

In this period, four serious incidents were considered, with rapid reviews undertaken in two cases, and the remaining two cases were reviewed with a signs of safety model to develop local learning.

The subgroup has also initiated a local learning review concerning neglect which whilst it was not felt to meet the threshold for formal notification to the national panel, was identified as an important focus for local learning. This local learning review is expected to conclude in 2023/24.

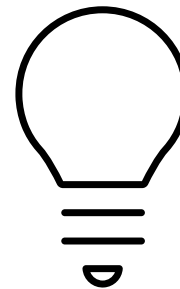
The subgroup has overseen the progress of two local child safeguarding practice reviews (CSPR) one of which was concluded in this period and one which was initiated in this period and was ongoing as at the end of March 2023. The subgroup also received the partnership response to a single agency learning review which has generated an action plan to improve the multiagency response to vulnerable adolescents.

Key activities undertaken were as follows:

- ❖ Monitoring of action plans from rapid reviews and child safeguarding practice reviews. Work to develop the learning

tracker was undertaken and some initial themes identified: trauma informed practice; siblings to be considered individually; multiagency working; was not brought; family engagement; professional curiosity; neurodiversity; and, cultural competence.

- ❖ A 7-minute briefing was developed on maternity terminology informed by learning from the subgroup.
- ❖ Lunchtime briefings were devised and delivered to share learning from local and national reviews with the wider workforce.
- ❖ Received presentation on the autism spectrum disorder (ASD) pathway and related work.
- ❖ The independent scrutineer undertook observation of the subgroup in December 2022 and proposals for revision to the subgroup including their terms of reference and operating procedures have been developed with this feedback and in consultation with subgroup members. These are anticipated to be implemented in 2023-24.
- ❖ Scrutinised the local assurance activity required of local authorities arising from the national panel review of safeguarding children with disabilities in residential settings.



'It illustrated for me just how the various specialists with their particular knowledge offer so much resources for sharing the pressures surrounding complex cases, and how this learning can assist the correct agency to be curious in the interests of the safety and wellbeing of the child. However, that is dependent on this information being effectively shared in a timeously manner.'

Learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews delegate

Vulnerable Children and Adolescents

The Vulnerable Children and Adolescents (VCA) Subgroup aims to ensure an effective and timely response from all agencies involved in managing children and young people missing from home, care, or education and those at risk of criminal and/or sexual exploitation, radicalisation and extremism, HSB, trafficking, serious youth violence, gangs and groups, and substance misuse. The group also ensures that criminal exploitation issues and children missing from home, care and education are interlinked at a strategic level to ensure they are addressed independently but with reference to one another. The subgroup is co-chaired by Alison Twynam, Director of Children's Social Care, AfC, and Clive Vale, Detective Chief Inspector, South West Borough Command Unit, MPS. The subgroup met four times during 2022/23.

Key activities undertaken were as follows:

- ❖ Each subgroup meeting has been provided with an overview of the Kingston and Richmond Pre-Multiagency Child Exploitation (MACE) and missing children dashboards and themes and trends from MACE and Missing Children Panel have been highlighted and discussed. The subgroup members have updated the VCA Action Plan and sectioned it into themed areas of work and it has been monitored it at the subgroup meetings.
- ❖ Updates have been provided on activities regarding the Kingston and Richmond Youth Council Sexual Harassment Survey Action Plan including work taking place in schools and the community and awareness-raising regarding spaces and places.
- ❖ The subgroup has been given updates on the programme of multiagency HSB training which has been developed and delivered by KRSCP.

- ❖ The Vulnerable Adolescents Supported into Adulthood (VASA) Panel has provided regular updates to the subgroups on the numbers of young people who are 18-25 years who are not discussed on any other panel, at risk of sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation and high risk of harm.
- ❖ Crying Sons and Project X have attended the subgroup to feedback on their work with vulnerable children.
- ❖ Considered learning from the Child Q CSPR undertaken by City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership and adultification.
- ❖ Reflected on the cost of living crisis and potential increased vulnerability for children and young people to exploitation.
- ❖ Received the AfC disproportionality audit.
- ❖ Explored the implications of the Serious Violence Duty for the work of the subgroup.
- ❖ Received information on safer streets funding.
- ❖ Received a presentation on case mapping from a police operation concerning complex child abuse.
- ❖ Received feedback from the Richmond Young People's Survey 2022.

7% (7% of pupils (11% of Year 10 boys) said that they have been involved in a violent incident where a weapon was used/threatened.

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/public_health/public_health_publications/young_people_health_wellbeing_survey

Learning and Development

The multiagency training offer from KRSCP is overseen by the Learning and Development Subgroup. This subgroup is chaired by Suzanne Parrott, Executive Head Teacher and Associate Director, Education Standards, Children with a Social Worker, Achieving for Children, and supported by Daksha Mistry who leads on learning and development in the partnership team. The group met three times during 2022/23.

Key activities undertaken by the subgroup were as follows:

- ❖ Subgroup meetings have included samples of training courses being delivered for subgroup members to evaluate content and quality of training being offered 'bringing the training into the room'.
- ❖ A standing item on safeguarding children online.
- ❖ Monitoring of KRSCP's learning and development action plan.
- ❖ Disseminated learning from local CSPRs concerning intra-familial child sexual abuse, and medical neglect, and from other partnerships and the national panel, including Child Q (Adultification), and Star and Arthur respectively.
- ❖ Development of the KRSCP and Single Point of Access (SPA) 'what makes a good referral' webcast (which was developed as a result of the Kingston Ofsted Inspection) and a 7-minute briefing on information sharing.
- ❖ Set up a task and finish group to plan the activities for the local child sexual abuse awareness month which will be taking place in November 2023.

- ❖ Discussed plans to re-introduce some face-to-face sessions as part of the KRSCP multiagency safeguarding training programme during 2023-24.
- ❖ Scrutinised attendance data and identified relatively low attendance of police colleagues at KRSCP training. This matter has been escalated to KRSCP SLG; the partnership will consider how this may be addressed.

During 2022-23 due to budget constraints, the KRSCP multiagency training offer was limited to the core offer; however, the partnership has worked flexibly and innovatively to ensure this was supplemented by additional training where local needs were identified, and the core training materials are kept regularly updated with issues emerging locally.

Key activities undertaken regarding local workforce development were as follows:

- ❖ Ninety-two courses/learning events were delivered, which were attended by a total of 2,203 multiagency delegates. KRSCP also continued to offer the e-learning safeguarding modules which were completed by a total of 6,218 multiagency learners.
- ❖ A small number of additional courses were offered (beyond the core offer of Level 2, Level 3, and Level 3 refresher safeguarding training) including: Intra-Familial Child Sexual Abuse; and, Neglect, and Communication with Children with Disabilities. These courses were commissioned as a result of multiagency training needs identified in a local CSPR concerning intrafamilial child sexual abuse.
- ❖ In addition to the above a programme, an Introduction to Harmful Sexual Behaviours training was delivered by a group of in-house multiagency trainers who attended a training for trainers' event organised by KRSCP and were supported to deliver the training.

This training was established as a result of the 2021 Ofsted Review into sexual assaults in schools, which combined with our own findings and the Youth Council Survey outcomes about sexual assaults between children and the disclosures on the Everyone's Invited website, which revealed that there was a gross lack of awareness of the prolific nature of this type of child on child abuse.

- ❖ Learning from CSPRs lunch time briefing sessions delivered by Daksha Mistry and Louise Doherty were offered from February 2022 to disseminate learning from both local and national CSPRs and rapid reviews to multiagency practitioners.
- ❖ Some longer-term evaluation of the impact of HSB training was undertaken by the partnership team but this was limited as it was challenging to obtain responses. Generally, all KRSCP training has been positively received; however, the partnership acknowledges the need to develop means of evaluating impact over time.
- ❖ The administration of partnership training moved to AfC's learning and development team.
- ❖ A model for service level agreements has been agreed for schools wishing to buy in to the partnership training offer.

The group discussions were thought provoking and informative as there were perspectives from people from wide ranging roles across the organisation.

Harmful Sexual Behaviours delegate

I feel like I learnt a lot from this course, I would now feel more confident in dealing with a situation such as referring children to SPA. The trainer kept it fun and interesting with a lot of activities to do to keep us engaged.

Level 3 Safeguarding delegate

I was dubious about whether this would work as an online training as the nature requires real engagement, however the breakout rooms were used really effectively to allow meaningful conversations with other professionals, and I made loads of lovely notes on my computer and downloaded lots of key publications in real time so it was super-efficient.

Level 3 Refresher delegate



Early help

Core to KRSCP's vision for early help is that it's everyone's business and it is essential to work in partnership with children, families, and communities in building resilience and sustaining improved outcomes. The Early Help Strategic Board (EHSB) has oversight of the continuing development of the Early Help Strategy, monitoring its implementation and holding the partnership to account for early help engagement, performance, and responses in Kingston and Richmond.

The EHSB is chaired by Ian Dodds, Director of Children's Services for Kingston and Richmond, and consists of senior representatives from all local partners from both the statutory, voluntary, faith and community sectors. It has met four times during the year.

Key activities undertaken during the year were as follows:

- ❖ Received updates from the Early Help and Resilience Networks regarding all age groups. Emerging themes discussed included overcrowded housing and rent arrears, children unable to regulate their emotions, and school attendance. There is extra help for schools to prevent exclusion. There has been support for welcome visits for Ukrainian nationals. It was highlighted that emotional impact of parental conflict is very high due to relationship breakdown and parental mental health issues. Training around parental conflict has been accessed with early help workers being trained to support families.
- ❖ Received presentation from AfC's Emotional Health Service (EHS), Neuro-developmental Assessments (pre-diagnosis) have seen a 50% increase in referrals, especially with regard to attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in Richmond. A new project through the EHS only for post-diagnosis of autism spectrum conditions includes four check-ins a year, plus additional workshops around emotional wellbeing to avoid referrals coming back into the service. The presentation also included an update on the rollout of the Mental Health Support Teams to all state-funded schools in Kingston and Richmond.
- ❖ Presentation from Kingston Public Health Commissioner regarding the new initiative MECSH, a home visiting programme that aims to provide more contacts with increased frequency from antenatal to postnatal period, for the most vulnerable mothers/children. This will be delivered within existing health visiting capacity. Vulnerable clients will be identified by midwives, health visitors, or partner agencies. Impact should be seen in improved child development, attachment and communication leading to fewer vulnerable children at school entry, improved warm parenting in mothers and reduction in hostile parenting, improved health, longer time breastfeeding, improved parenting confidence, and improved use of services. Resources for parents have been translated into several locally spoken languages, including Tamil and Korean. All Kingston health visitors have completed a 2-day training on the MECSH programme.
- ❖ Early years update included funding for 2 year olds, and detailed an extension of the portage service to reflect the increase in referrals with a portage programme developed to include holiday services.
- ❖ Housing updates shared increasing difficulty in accessing accommodation to meet the needs of homeless families.
- ❖ Cost of living crisis update from partners regarding the resources available, ensuring professionals are aware and may effectively signpost/refer families they are working with.
- ❖ Considered preparations for JTAI and the outcomes of a mock audit on the theme of early help.

Engagement with Early Years and Education settings

KRSCP recognises the integral role early years and education settings play in safeguarding children and ensuring their wellbeing. Local arrangements make provisions for inclusion of education representatives in the strategic leadership group. The partnership also undertakes a range of engagement activities to ensure safeguarding is promoted across the local education economy.

KRSCP's Education Coordinator organises termly forums for the DSLs in the maintained schools, the independent schools and early years settings (open to private nurseries and childminders). There are three forums per term, one for each sector. Since the pandemic these have been online, and attendance has been very strong. Each forum includes learning inspired from findings of the audit or from national or local emerging issues. These are also covered in termly newsletters to each sector, circulated via relevant network communications and available on KRSCP's website.

Key issues covered in DSL forums for 2022/23 included:

- ❖ Learning from local CSPR concerning child sexual abuse and general awareness-raising.
- ❖ Learning from City and Hackney's CSPR concerning Child Q; schools were encouraged to have a safeguarding first approach to avoid children being treated as "the risk" rather than "at risk".
- ❖ Presentation on private fostering arrangements how to identify them and what to do.
- ❖ The role of early years in CP conferences.
- ❖ Presentation on contextual safeguarding from AfC.

- ❖ Presentation on the local risks of radicalisation from the Prevent leads for Richmond and Kingston councils.
- ❖ Learning about self-harm from the external expert trainer Satveer Nijar founder of Attention Seekers, as well as suicide awareness from the mental health charity Mind, and neurodiversity (ADHD) from an external expert, Finn O'Regan.
- ❖ Local information relating to an out of school provider's behaviour was shared, and schools were reminded of the safeguarding expectations when they have out of school providers deliver services in school.

DSLs were asked to share how they feel about their role; 80 responded and their feeling are captured in the below graphic. The networking and safeguarding support provided through the forums is greatly appreciated by the DSLs.



During 2023/23 AfC and KRSCP collaborated to design a new online audit tool in order to support increased submission rate. During the spring of 2023, the tool was improved further with a redesign in time for the 22-23 auditing cycle.

The audit process provided us with the following snapshot of safeguarding in schools and early years settings:

Schools Summary Table

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| No. of schools submitted an audit | 122 (made up of 30 independent schools and 92 maintained). High no is likely due to the introduction of a new online audit tool (used by 77 schools in this academic year) |
| Key Strengths | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All schools have DSL and DDSLs and good systems for disseminating information. • Systems in place to capture staff who miss safeguarding training during INSET. • Increasing awareness and training around LGBT+ with many schools having unisex uniforms and toilets. • 42 of the 77 who used the new audit tool have a Lead Teacher for Young Carers. |
| Key Areas for Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many are using their safeguarding governor to check the Single Central Record when they shouldn't be doing the check. • More schools should sign up to MPS Operation Encompass. • Need to recognise and record racism and understand what the data is telling them. |
| Key themes | Children who are Looked after or previously looked after are not considered relevant by many independent schools who assume they don't have any on roll. |
| Feedback to schools | Where concerns were raised, schools were contacted. All schools that submitted an audit using the old-style paperwork received feedback by email. |

Early Years Summary Table

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| No. of EY practitioners submitting an audit | 296 |
| Key Strengths | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 81% of nurseries responded. • 55% of childminders responded. • Overall, very positive about early years being compliant with the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. • The inclusion and improvement advisers (IIA) followed up all concerns raised to seek assurance. |
| Key Areas for Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns raised by childminders not reading the question properly or not understanding what was being asked. • 55% of childminder engagement is not bad but could improve. • Need to engage Out of Schools providers in the process and safeguarding more broadly; very poor that only 6% responded to the audit. |
| Key themes | Some questions were deemed not relevant to the childminders and OOS. Next year we will approach them as separate groups with customised versions of the audit. |
| Feedback to Early Years | Managed by the EY team via the IIA. |

Independent Scrutiny

The role of the independent scrutineer is to act as a critical friend to promote reflection and drive continuous improvement. The independent scrutineer considers how effective our local safeguarding arrangements are and provides constructive feedback and recommendations on this to the SLG for their consideration. The independent scrutineer also scrutinises the partnership's annual report.

KRSCP appointed the current independent scrutineer, Amanda Boodhoo, in September 2022, for an initial term of one year. A baseline assessment of the local safeguarding arrangements in Kingston and Richmond was established through scrutiny of:

- ❖ The KRSCP Annual Report 2021-22;
- ❖ The KRSCP Business Plan 2022-24;
- ❖ The partnership's identified priorities;
- ❖ Evidence of the progress against actions identified in previous scrutiny activity;
- ❖ KRSCP draft learning framework;
- ❖ KRSCP dataset; and,
- ❖ Terms of reference for partnership subgroups.

From September 2022 and March 2023, the independent scrutineer has undertaken the following key activities:

- ❖ Regular engagement with senior leaders and subgroup chairs through one-to-one meetings and attendance at a range of other meetings including the education and children's services committee meeting, SLG meetings, subgroup chairs meeting, a local learning review subgroup meeting, and a learning and development subgroup meeting. This activity has involved scrutinising reports

and information submitted to and considered by the above meetings, commenting on the contributions made by partners and providing feedback.

- ❖ Scrutiny and advice in respect of serious incident notifications, rapid review decision making, and case reviews and the emerging learning and assessment of impact.
- ❖ Scrutiny of multiagency audit focusing on early help as part of KRSCP's preparation for a possible JTAI - acting as a critical friend and providing independent analysis of the process, the findings and agreed actions.
- ❖ Ongoing support for a key area for development identified in previous scrutiny activity, children transitioning to adulthood. The independent scrutineer has improved and further developed this area through joint meetings with members of KRSCP, senior leaders and independent chairs of the Safeguarding Adult Boards and senior leaders from other strategic boards. This has supported a range of focused activity.
- ❖ Engaged in pan London groups with other independent chairs and scrutineers to ensure the sharing and promotion of wider learning and consistency of safeguarding practice.
- ❖ Responded to any matter that has been escalated by the partnership, reflecting its open and transparent culture by ensuring an independent viewpoint.

The independent scrutineer's assessment from activity undertaken to date is that KRSCP demonstrates a culture that is highly ambitious and aspirational for children and young people and is one that is reflective of continuous learning and, continuous improvement. As we move forward, scrutiny will focus upon activities that seek to evidence the difference made for children and young people, by the partnership's work. This activity will include approaches to ascertain the views and feedback from Kingston and Richmond children.

Child Death Reviews

Responsibility for reviewing the deaths of children under 18 years of age is not a function of the safeguarding children partnership, but since 2019 has been the specific responsibility of two of the statutory partners, the local authority and ICB according to the statutory guidance for child death reviews¹³.

From this time, Kingston and Richmond have shared a joint South West London Child Death Overview Panel (SWL CDOP) with Croydon, Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth which is centrally managed by NHS South West London Integrated Care Board. SWL CDOP has an independent chair, Kelly Williams, appointed in October 2021.

Support for deaths of children resident and/or occurring in Kingston and Richmond continues to be resourced locally through the partnership coordinator who acts as the single point of contact, and there is a joint Designated Paediatrician for child deaths across Kingston and Richmond, Dr Rowan Heath. There is also significant support to the process from other local designates and wider multiagency professionals.

In 2022-23, 11 child deaths were notified in Kingston, and 12 child deaths were notified in Richmond. Across South West London CDOP a total of 64 deaths were notified. Of the 23 deaths across Kingston and Richmond, 7 required a joint agency response.

¹³

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1120062/child-death-review-statutory-and-operational-guidance-england.pdf

During 2022-23, eight child deaths in Kingston and five child deaths in Richmond had final reviews at SWL CDOP (these deaths include some notified in previous reporting periods). Across South West London CDOP a total of 54 child death reviews were completed. Of all the deaths reviewed, 19% were identified as having modifiable factors, those through which by means of local or national intervention, risk of future deaths might be reduced.

The SWL CDOP Annual Report for 2022/23 will be finalised in autumn 2023 and presented to the SLG and each local authority areas' health and wellbeing boards for their information and action as applicable.

KRSCP has promoted a range of initiatives and campaigns based on learning from child deaths reviewed in this and previous years across South West London and beyond, including the following:

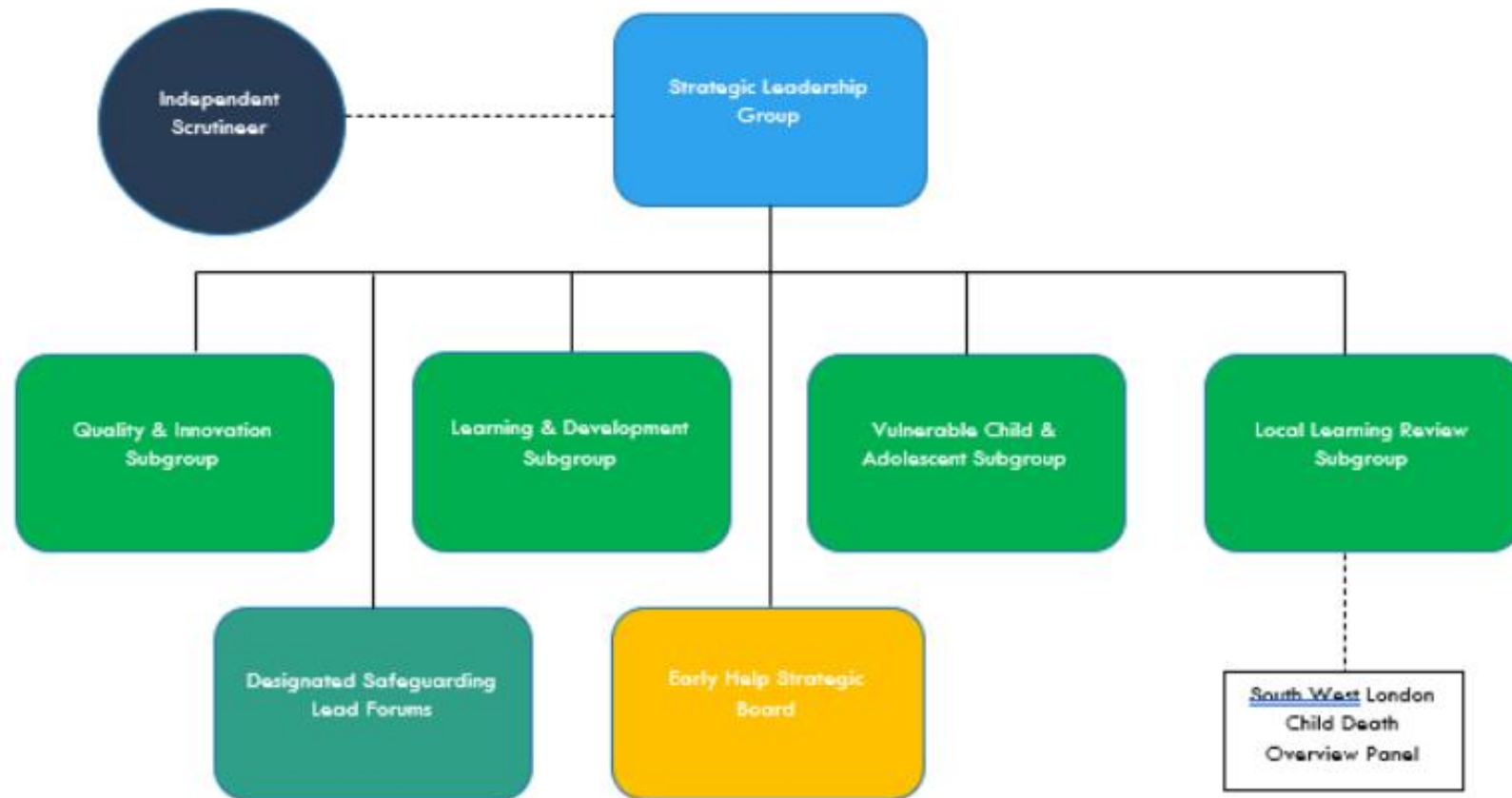
- ❖ KRSCP Baby and Infant Safe Sleeping Practice Guidance;¹⁴
- ❖ Social media and mental health;
- ❖ KRSCP training - understanding and managing childhood neglect webinar;
- ❖ KRSCP training on learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews; and,
- ❖ KRSCP 7-minute briefing on maternity terminology¹⁵.

¹⁴ <https://kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/guidance-policies-and-procedures/baby-and-infant-safe-sleeping-practice-guidance/>

¹⁵

https://kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/media/x5msesi3/maternity_terminology_births_seven_minute_briefing.pdf

Appendix 1: KRSCP Structure



Appendix 2: KRSCP Finance

As acknowledged in last year’s finance report the 2022-23 budget did not cover the total expenditure for KRSCP including salaries (including partnership coordinator hours allocated to child death review), the training offer, and costs of case reviews. Therefore, KRSCP started the financial year with a deficit of £42,844 which was carried over to the 2022-23 budget.

We faced additional financial challenges as a result of an unexpected legal bill from South London Legal Partnership (SLLP) including invoices for legal services dating back to 2017 (we are grateful for SLLP for being open to agreeing a reduced amount) and cost for the administration for KRSCP training by AfC (we are grateful to Ian Dodds and AfC for agreeing to the revised costs and we are still negotiating an agreement which is acceptable to both parties).

However, due to stringent budget management, not recruiting to vacant posts, and establishing SLAs with maintained schools for safeguarding training, KRSCP ended the financial year with a surplus.

The following table outlines KRSCP income based on partner contributions for 2022-23:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Kingston Council | £140,000 |
| Richmond Council | £140,000 |
| SWL ICB contribution for Kingston | £52,808 |
| SWL ICB contribution for Richmond | £24,192+ |

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | £12,500 child uplift |
| Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) for Kingston and Richmond | £10,000 |
| Total | £379,500 |

The expenditure for KRSCP during 2022-23 including salaries (including partnership coordinator hours allocated to child death review), the training offer, and costs of case reviews totalled £326,910.

The partnership team management will continue to monitor the KRSCP finances to ensure that we can meet the demands of the service within the budget available. The total KRSCP Budget 2023-24 will be £379,500 (this includes an uplift of £12,500 from Richmond ICB).