

# Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children for Volunteers

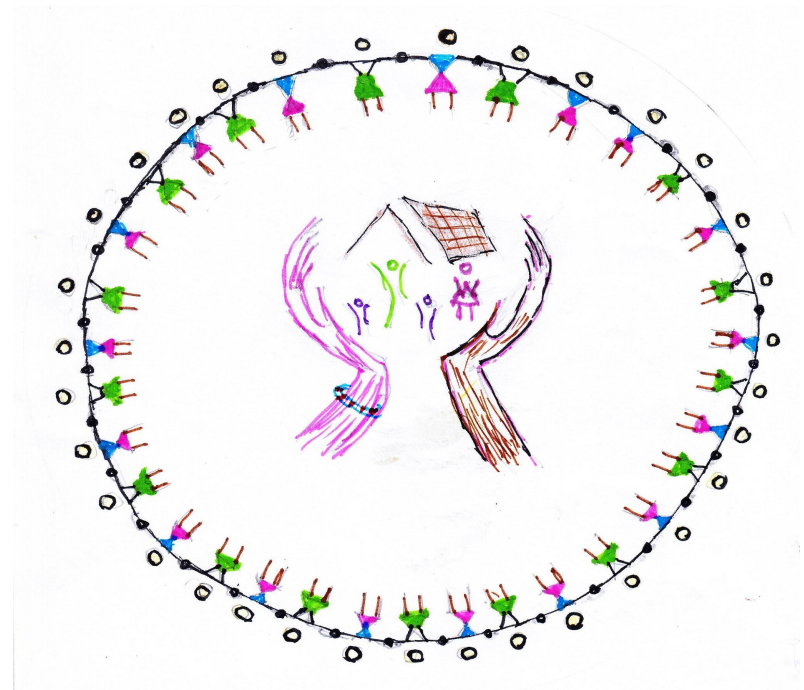


Kingston and Richmond  
Safeguarding Children Partnership

# Aims and Outcomes

This briefing will give you information on:

- The different **types of abuse**.
- What **you should do** if you have concerns about a child or vulnerable adult.
- What **you should do** if you have concerns about a volunteer.
- What **will happen** once you have informed someone about those concerns.



# Importance of Safeguarding Children

- Nothing is more important than **children's welfare** (Children Act 1989.)
- Children who need help and protection deserve high quality and effective support **as soon as a need is identified.**
- Safeguarding children and promoting their welfare is **everyone's responsibility.**
- **Everyone** who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.
- Important to consider needs of the **whole family = Think Family.**



# Key Guidance

There is legislation and guidance that sets out how we should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and vulnerable adults.

- [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#)
- [Care Act 2014](#)
- [London Child Protection Procedures](#)
- [Richmond Safeguarding Adults Board](#)
- [Kingston Safeguarding Adults Board](#)

# What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding children means:

- Protecting children from maltreatment/harm.
- Supporting their health, well-being, and development so they can thrive.
- Ensuring they live in safe environments and receive effective care.
- Taking prompt action if there are concerns about a child's welfare to help them achieve the best possible outcomes.



For example:

- Abuse such as Physical / Sexual / Emotional Abuse and Neglect
- Are children registered with GP & dentist, able to see HV, School Nurse? Are they meeting development milestones?
- Are children supported to be Safe / Healthy / Able to Enjoy & Achieve? Able to make a positive contribution?

# Vulnerable Adults

The Care Act 2014, is the legal framework for safeguarding adults

A vulnerable adult is someone who has:

- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and;
- Is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
- As a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.



# Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

## Richmond

Everyone has the right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. If you are the victim of abuse, or you know someone who you think is at risk, or has been abused, then it is important to get help. You can report your concerns to our Adult Social Care team by completing our [online form](#). If the danger is immediate, contact the police or emergency services on 999. If you suspect criminal abuse is involved contact the Police by dialing 101.

## Kingston

If you are being abused or know someone who is at risk of being abused, contact us about your concerns. If the danger is immediate, contact the police or emergency services on 999. If you suspect criminal abuse is involved contact the Police by dialing 101.

Telephone: **020 8547 5005**

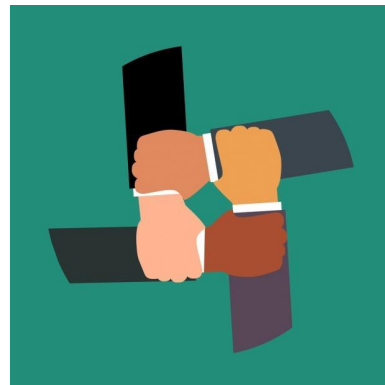
Email: [adult.safeguarding@kingston.gov.uk](mailto:adult.safeguarding@kingston.gov.uk)

For general information about safeguarding adults in Kingston & Richmond:

- [https://www.kingston.gov.uk/info/200201/adult\\_safeguarding](https://www.kingston.gov.uk/info/200201/adult_safeguarding)
- <https://www.richmond.gov.uk/sab>

# Culture and Diversity

- Child abuse exists across all societies and cultures.
- Abuse or harm to children is never acceptable, regardless of cultural practices or beliefs.
- Harmful practices, such as physical punishment, FGM, or neglect, must be identified, challenged, and reported. (*e.g., contact safeguarding leads or use reporting channels.*)
- Consider other forms of abuse, such as forced marriage, honour-based violence, and domestic abuse.
- Volunteers play a key role by recognising signs, acting responsibly, and always putting children's welfare first.
- Please find out Equality Diversity and Inclusion Statement [here](#).





# Types of Abuse/Harm

## Physical:

- Definition: A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child. (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023).

## Sexual:

- Definition: Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts, such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing, and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children. ((Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023).

# Types of Abuse/Harm

## Neglect:

- Definition: The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical, emotional and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance use. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:
  - Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
  - Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
  - Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers);
  - Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs. (Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2023)



# Types of Abuse/Harm

## Emotional:

- Definition: The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child from participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone. (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023)

# Other forms of Harm/Abuse

While it is not common that you will encounter these issues directly in your role, the following information is provided to raise awareness and promote understanding.

- Domestic Abuse
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Radicalisation
- Adolescent Exploitation (including criminal and sexual exploitation)
- Missing Children
- Child Trafficking



# Other forms of Harm/Abuse

**Domestic Abuse:** The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 defines domestic abuse as any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, violent, or abusive behavior between individuals aged 16 or over who are personally connected, regardless of gender or sexuality. This encompasses, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:

- Physical
- Sexual
- Psychological
- Emotional
- Economic

**FGM:** The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (amended by the Serious Crime Act 2015) makes it illegal to:

- Perform FGM in the UK or assist its practice abroad, even if performed on a UK citizen or permanent resident.
- Fail to protect a girl from the risk of FGM (for individuals with parental responsibility or care of the child).

**Definition:** Refers to all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. There are no health benefits to FGM, and it is internationally recognised as a violation of human rights.

# Other forms of Harm/Abuse

**Prevent - Radicalisation:** The Terrorism Act 2000 defines terrorism as an action that endangers or causes serious harm to a person or people. It also includes actions that cause significant damage to property or seriously disrupt or interfere with an electronic system.

For an act to be considered terrorism, it must be designed to influence the government, intimidate the public, or advance a political, religious, racial, or ideological cause.

**What is Prevent?** Prevent is part of the UK's national counter-terrorism strategy, known as CONTEST, and aims to safeguard individuals from being drawn into or supporting terrorism. It seeks to address the root causes of radicalisation and prevent extremist ideologies from taking hold.

Under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, certain public bodies (e.g., schools, local authorities, health) have a statutory duty to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism." This is referred to as the Prevent duty.

Key Focus Areas of Prevent:

1. **Responding to the Ideological Challenge:** Addressing the threat from extremist narratives and terrorist ideologies, ensuring that harmful views are countered effectively.
2. **Preventing Individuals from Being Drawn into Terrorism:** Identifying those at risk of radicalisation and safeguarding them through early intervention, often via the Channel programme, which provides tailored support.
3. **Providing Advice and Support:** Offering practical help to individuals identified as vulnerable to radicalisation and working collaboratively with community groups, schools, and other organisations.

# Other forms of Harm/Abuse

**Adolescents at High Risk of Exploitation:** Certain groups of young people are at an increased risk of exploitation due to multiple intersecting vulnerabilities. These include:

- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Criminal Exploitation (e.g., County Lines)
- Looked After Children (LAC)
- Children involved with Youth Offending Teams (YOTs)
- Missing children

**What These Young People Need:** Young people in these situations often benefit from a more intensive, coordinated, and targeted approach to support and intervention. They are typically known to Children's Services and require multi-agency collaboration to address their complex needs effectively.

**As with any safeguarding concerns:**

- Speak to your Supervisor or Safeguarding Lead immediately if you have concerns about a young person at risk of exploitation.
- Be proactive in identifying signs of exploitation and supporting children by following your organisation's safeguarding procedures.

# What is Private Fostering?

Private fostering is a formal arrangement where a child under the age of 16 (or under 18 if they have a disability) is cared for by an adult who is not an immediate relative for 28 days or more.

Who is Considered Privately Fostered?

A child is privately fostered if they are living with:

- Extended family members (e.g., great aunt or uncle, cousin).
- A former partner or cohabitee of a parent.
- A non-relative (e.g., a family friend or neighbour).

Key Points:

1. Not Private Fostering:
  - If the arrangement is made by social services.
  - If the child is cared for by an approved foster carer.
2. Why It's Important:

Private fostering arrangements must be notified to local authorities to ensure the safety and well-being of the child.

Find out more [here](#).





# Children with disabilities are 3 times more likely to be abused than any other child. This is because:

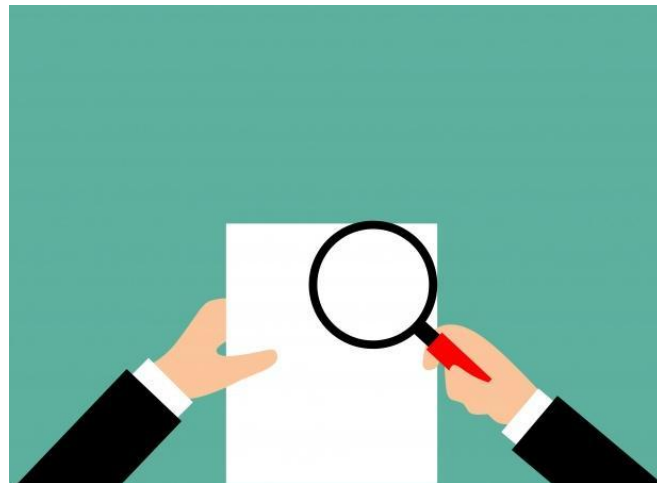


# Information Sharing

If you, staff, colleagues or any volunteers are worried about report anything speak to your supervisor or safeguarding lead.

Here is a guide about information sharing:

[Guidance: Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners](#)



# Responding to disclosures

## Do:

- Act quickly: Respond without delay to ensure their safety.
- Stay calm and listen: Allow them to speak without interruption.
- Seek advice: Consult with your supervisor or safeguarding lead immediately.
- Reassure the individual: Let them know they've done the right thing by speaking up and that help will be sought.

## Don't:

- Promise confidentiality: Explain that you may need to share the information with those who can help.
- Investigate or interrogate: Avoid asking leading or repeated questions, as this could compromise evidence.
- Judge or make assumptions: Take what you are told seriously, without prejudice.
- Delay action: Don't wait for confirmation or 'be sure' — report your concerns immediately.
- Fear being wrong: Reporting in good faith is always supported, even if concerns are unfounded.

# If you are worried about a child young person

- Please speak to the person supervising you or the safeguarding lead as soon as possible or within one working day of the concern.
- The safeguarding lead will –**Contact the SPA Team immediately on 020 8547 5008.**
- If Out of Office Hours - referrals can be made to 020 8770 5000.
- If an immediate response is needed to safeguard the child, then you need to call the Police on 999.

What happens next?

- The SPA Team will make a decision on the action that will be undertaken within 24 hours.
- Necessary action will be taken to ensure the immediate safety of children.
- The referrer will receive feedback about their referral.

# Safe practice guidance

## Volunteers and staff should:

- **Maintain professional boundaries:** Avoid forming close personal relationships with parents or carers, as this may affect your ability to report concerns objectively.
- **Be mindful of your online presence:** Regularly review your privacy settings and avoid sharing personal or inappropriate content.



## Volunteers and staff should NOT:

- **Do not add children or young people** to your social media accounts (e.g., Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram). Maintain a professional relationship both offline and online.
- **Never ignore allegations:** If anyone makes a disclosure or allegation, do not leave it unresolved, unacknowledged, or unreported.
  - a. **Act immediately:** Speak to your supervisor or safeguarding lead to ensure concerns are properly addressed.

# Concerns About the Behaviour of Volunteers

If you are concerned about the behaviour of a volunteer:

1. Speak to your Supervisor or Safeguarding Lead immediately.
2. The Safeguarding Lead may consult with or refer the concern to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

**When to Refer to the LADO:** A referral to the LADO must occur if a professional or volunteer has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed, a child.
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child.
- Acted in a way that indicates they could pose a risk of harm to children.

**Why This Matters:** The LADO oversees concerns about individuals who work with children to ensure appropriate action is taken to protect children and uphold professional standards.

# Remember: Safeguarding is everyone's business

If in doubt about any concerns at all – speak to your manager, supervisor or designated safeguarding lead

# Resources:

## General Links

- [TPD Free Online Resources](#)
- [Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

## Legislation and Key Statutory Guidance

- **Working Together to Safeguard Children:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>
- **London Child Protection Procedures:**  
<https://www.londonsafeguardingchildrenprocedures.co.uk/>
- **Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and Their Families (2000):**  
<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20130404002518/https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/Framework%20for%20the%20assessment%20of%20children%20in%20need%20and%20their%20families.pdf>
- **Information Sharing: Advice for Practitioners:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice>
- **What to Do if You're Worried a Child Is Being Abused – Advice for Practitioners:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-to-do-if-youre-worried-a-child-is-being-abused--2>