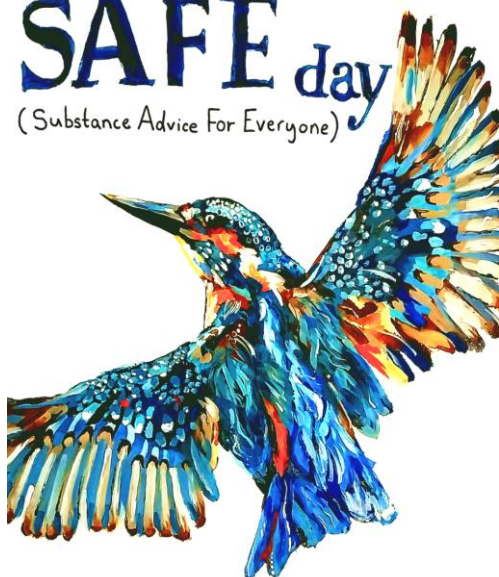


Safeguarding children and young people: Schools Spring Term 2024

SAFE day

(Substance Advice For Everyone)



Substance Advice For Everyone (SAFE) day was on March 4th and saw every secondary school and independent school with children aged 11+ deliver drugs education to children and their families at home.

For the first time schools delivered education to the children and their families in a coordinated Public Health campaign where everyone received the education on the same day.

[This short film](#) (not to be shown to the children in school) was sent to all families of children of secondary school age. [This harm reduction message](#) for children should be displayed around school using the posters in the resources [here](#). It is hoped this campaign will get parents/carers talking to their children about substances (vaping, alcohol and drugs) and start a life journey of protective

chats. If parents and carers have a better understanding of what their children are likely to encounter, then the children will be better equipped to navigate these difficult situations. There is a follow up workshop for parents/carers on 21 March. Please remind your parents/carers to [book their place here](#). A letter to send parents reminding them of this *is now included* within the resources. If children were absent on SAFE day you can deliver the lesson plan when they return. Please ensure you download the plan for the correct Year group.

DSL Forums this term

Thank you to all of you who attended the DSL forums this term. If you attended but haven't completed the [feedback form](#), please do so now.

The Serious Youth Violence managers from Kingston & Richmond presented the Counter Terrorism Local Profile. This is now available for 2024, so do please sign up to receive it [here](#). You can also sign up for the DfE London Prevent Newsletter [here](#).

The summer term DSL forum is online on Thursday 6 June and can be booked [here](#).

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



Gender Questioning Children

The new [guidance](#) from the DFE was published in December and the consultation closes on March 12, so please read the guidance and respond to the consultation [here](#)

Calling all DSLs in maintained schools

AfC needs your help to submit racist incident reports using [this form](#) each term. Due date for Autumn term 2023 is **Friday 15th March** (this was delayed from January due to staff absence).

Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Partnership have been working with Achieving for

Children's school improvement team on improving how we report on racist incidents, and use the information to support schools' work in this key safeguarding area.



Following our recent presentation to headteachers, we have agreed that DSLs should take up the responsibility for reporting to Achieving for Children on racist incidents each term.

The racist incident reporting form has been updated to reflect appropriate terminology, and to make sure we are collecting useful information that can then be analysed, shared with school leaders, and contribute to training offers and future collaboration. See [here](#) for further details about how your data is used.

We request schools to submit their data each term. Due to staff absence, the request is going out now for Autumn 2023. Usually, the request for the previous term will go out in the first two weeks of a new term through the school enews. We will send out the request for the Spring term after the Easter break.

We are particularly keen to get **zero returns** - please do not see this as an unhelpful or negative report. If you had no racist incidents reported in the term, and still complete the form, it will give us a good idea of how many schools are engaging with this process. Furthermore, we know that racist incident reporting will increase as schools further develop their racial justice approaches, as pupils become more confident in sharing their experiences or supporting others. So therefore a key indicator of success, although this feels strange, will be the number of zero returns falling and racist incident reporting going up.

Thank you for your partnership in this!

Youth Council's most successful survey yet - on racism in schools

The Kingston and Richmond Youth Council were mandated through their election process last year to look at racism in secondary schools as one of their three key areas of work. Over the past year they have undertaken racial literacy training, written a survey, collated and analysed the findings and presented to a range of professionals. Secondary headteachers, the Safeguarding Partnership, school EDI leads, Achieving for Children and local authority staff, the police, and governors have all heard their impressive presentation and considered their key recommendations.



New EDI forum set up to explore recommendations



Following a recent meeting with school EDI leads and DSLs from state and independent schools, the youth council are working on significant projects to support schools to respond effectively to racist incidents.

We are really excited about their work, and the powerful way that this youth centred approach will help us all to support young people and school staff to learn more about what racist incidents are, how to use an educative, restorative and transformative approach and how to ensure that all involved are safeguarded. Further details will be shared next term.

If you have any questions for the Youth Council about how best to respond to racist incidents in your school, please email Kathryn Kashyap on kathryn.kashyap@achievingforchildren.org.uk by **March 11th** and use the title "Youth Council racism project" for your email.

Racism and mental health

what young people say

The charity Mind has done extensive work with young people about racism and its impact on mental health - see the link to their report [here](#). Shockingly after the age of 11, young Black men are far more likely to experience poor mental health compared to their peers. Research with young people highlights the impact on their wellbeing of lived experiences of racism, including the ways in which racism online can cause

harm. In school it is often easy to focus on addressing an incident with the alleged instigator of harm - what we know from this research and from pupil voice through the youth council survey, is that we need to spend the same amount of time on supporting those who have and often continue to experience harm.

Mind's work also emphasizes the inequalities that racialised communities find when trying to access support services. Focusing on young Black men's experiences, Mind found that they are either unsupported or culturally inappropriate interventions are suggested which are then not taken up. As well as countering bias and assumptions in professional services, stigma within some families or communities around mental health needs to be understood, and ways found to engage with difference, rather than expecting people to fit into certain models of support. In [this video](#) a young man talks about how a project designed by young people for young people to support his physical health has helped his mental well being.

Furthermore, Mind found that Black young people are more likely to be subject to judgement rather than understanding, and are disproportionately sectioned as adults compared to their white peers. The concept of mental illness is deeply racialised, with its roots in slavery. Mental health organisations and professionals need to use an anti racist, trauma informed lens to address the impact of structural racism on mental health, and consider how all racialised communities can input into planning effective support which reflects their knowledge, traditions and culture.

This research and recommendations have significant lessons for our work on safeguarding, thinking through how we listen not judge, engage with difference and challenge structural racism.

[Our work with Young Black Men | Mind](#)

[Facts and figures about racism and mental health - Mind](#)

[Race is part of the history of mental health - Mind](#)

[Improving mental health support for young people | Mind](#)

Guilaine Kinouani's book "[Living While Black](#)" is excellent on this topic.



Safeguarding for newly resettled communities



Ensuring that all our parents and carers understand key messages about safeguarding came to the fore at the start of the war in Ukraine.

Firstly, a discussion prompted by a Primary Headteacher in Twickenham resulted in AfC and the Safeguarding Partnership writing specific advice for schools on [welcoming new arrivals](#), which was then published by the DfE in their guidance to schools.

More recently, [St Mary's Ukrainian School](#) has been running parent workshops on Sundays, whilst children are attending the supplementary school, with lead speakers facilitated by Sanya Walker- Batson, AfC's Parent and Carer Champion. A key area of discussion has been safeguarding, making sure that Ukrainian parents and carers understand the UK systems, which are different to those in Ukraine and how to ask for help. Inna Hryhorovych, headteacher of St Mary's, explains that the Ukraine system can be quite harsh compared to the UK and for parents already dealing with the trauma of war and displacement, anxiety that any statutory involvement will mean that their child will be taken away from them can mean that they withdraw and do not come forward for support. St Mary's also has an amazing team of 5 Education Support Workers attached to each borough, visiting schools half a day a week to support in whatever way is needed. The relationships formed in this ongoing work can have huge benefits for addressing safeguarding and other sensitive issues as they arise.

Contact the supplementary schools via the links in St Mary's website [here](#) to refer families to the Sunday groups. Email Kathryn Kashyap on kathryn.kashyap@achievingforchildren.org.uk for any Education Support Worker requests, and bespoke support needed for your whole school approaches to new arrivals.

Moving forward, Emma Clarke, Education Safeguarding Adviser for AfC (contact on emma.clarke@achievingforchildren.org.uk) is looking with schools at how to ensure key messages about safeguarding are communicated effectively with multilingual families, and considering how schools can act early on using interpreters and advocates to gain understanding about family situations and use culturally sensitive approaches to explain UK systems of support. See our [guide on using interpreters](#) which includes links to key organisations.

Domestic Abuse News



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

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)

Local Poverty Support

Recent findings from [Barnardo's](#) states that in the last year 894,000 children have had to share a bed or sleep on the floor and over 1million families have parents/carers giving up their own bed so a child can sleep. Furniture is not a priority when poverty strikes.

[AfC Fuel Ur Everyday Lives holiday support](#)

[Citizens Advice Richmond](#)

[Citizens Advice Kingston:](#)

[BBC Children In Need Emergency Essentials Programme](#)

[Connected Kingston](#)

Richmond council Cost of Living [Support Hub](#)

Kingston Council Cost of Living [Support Hub](#)



Invitation to all DSLs: 26 March 2pm – 5pm

KRSCP Partnership safeguarding event in Twickenham



We are hosting a face to face multi agency safeguarding event in Twickenham on the afternoon of 26 March at Clarendon Hall, York House. Focusing around the complexities of Child Exploitation.

Hear from young people about their experiences, and updates regarding local work
From next week you will be able to book your place [here](#)

SPA Update

Watch [this](#)
webcast
about the
SPA

Leaflet to
accompany
the SPA
webcast is
[here](#)

Hi All,

It was lovely to see so many of you at the recent DSL forums.

Some updates from SPA - we have some changes with staffing in the next few months, but it will mean we will be fully staffed which is great news.

Something that has come to our attention recently is the use of interpreters within school and supporting the referrals made. There have been a couple of recent referrals to SPA where an interpreter had not been used to discuss the worries with the family before making a referral to SPA. If this had happened it may have meant a referral was not required as the family would have been clearer on the worries held and appropriate community support could be offered. We sought some advice around this and have been made aware this is something as schools you can and should be accessing. Below is the link that was shared with us and that I believe you should all be aware of.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/11eLtW7ENI-9-LtclUdUSs1Utiyowxze-0Zf_pN8ML4M/edit

We are also going to be having another coffee morning. More communication will be sent out shortly but save the date! 2nd May 2024.

As always if there is anything we are able to support within SPA do not hesitate to contact us.

Donna Phillips

Team Leader - Single Point of Access (SPA)

LADO Service

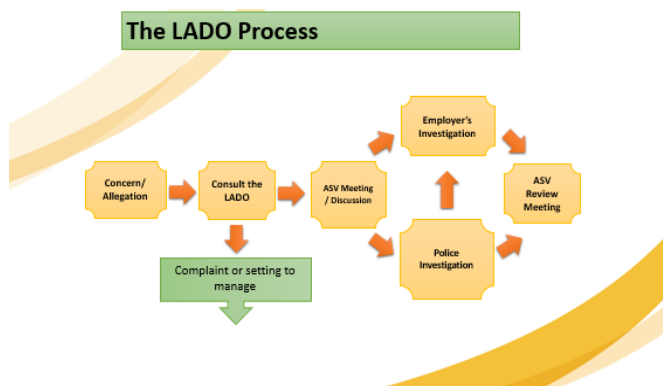
If you have any concerns about an adult working with children you can contact the LADO service on

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.



Do you have Young Carers in your school?

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

020 3031 2754 Kingston Young Carers Project

020 8867 2383 Richmond Young Carers Project



Cruse Richmond Bereavement Support Service



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



Kingston and Richmond
Safeguarding Children Partnership

Kingston Bereavement Service

Please contact us on 020 8547 1552 or email

info@kingstonbereavementservice.org.uk

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

Mental Health support

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



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

Child Death Helpline

Sadly colleagues across all partner agencies may at some time be affected by the death of a child known to their service or involved in responding to their death. Besides internal employee support mechanisms which all are encouraged to explore, professionals may also find it helpful to be aware that the child death helpline is available to speak to if you are affected by the death of a child on 0800 282 986. For more information you can visit <https://www.childdeathhelpline.org.uk/>