



# Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership

## Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership Bulletin - February 2022

### Welcome

Welcome to the February 2022 issue of the Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership news bulletin and a very happy new year to you all. If you missed our Independent Person's [recent blogpost](#) reviewing the 2021 year please do have a read on our website. We know lots of you continued to be busy over the Christmas and New Year period, though we hope you managed to have some rest and catch up with loved ones. There is plenty of news from the MSCP, so please have a browse in our local, regional, and national news sections. As always, if you have anything to include in future bulletins, please contact us at: [MertonSCP@merton.gov.uk](mailto:MertonSCP@merton.gov.uk).

This month we will be saying Goodbye to Margaret Mansfield, Designated Safeguarding Children Nurse for Merton, and co-chair of the Domestic Abuse and Think Family sub-group. We know Margaret will be sorely missed across the Partnership, but we wish her all the best in her new role in South East London Integrated Care System. Thank you, Margaret, for all of your hard work and dedication to the MSCP.

### Local News

#### Publication of MSCP's 2020-21 Annual Report

The MSCP's Business Support Unit has been working on the new MSCP Annual Report for 2020-21. The report covers the work of the Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership during the period April 2020 to March 2021 and reflects on what the Partnership achieved together on behalf of Merton's young residents throughout perhaps one of the most challenging periods for public services in recent history, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. You can read the full report by following the link [here](#).

#### MSCP Partnership Agreement

The Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership recently refreshed our Partnership Agreement, following consultation with the partnership. You told us that you would like us to engage more with our wider partners and focus our Full Partnership meetings on the work of the partnership. We have made some changes to better engage our wider partners and strengthen our governance structure to enable effective and efficient decision making so that we can act quickly to discharge our safeguarding responsibilities under Working Together 2018. You can find our new Partnership Agreement on our

website - [Partnership Agreement - December 2021 - Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership \(mertonscp.org.uk\)](https://www.mertonscp.org.uk).

### **Performance Workshops**

In recent weeks, workshops have been held with the MSCP Subgroups that monitor data on performance, to consider the key indicators and data these Subgroups would like to see going forward into the 2022-23 year. Our performance team will continue to work with our MSCP sub-groups to ensure their multi-agency datasets support the ability of sub-groups to improve safeguarding arrangements for children in Merton.

### **Neglect Strategy and Toolkit launch**

We are pleased to announce the launch of our refreshed Neglect Strategy and Toolkit, recently reviewed by the Early Help and Neglect sub-group with multi-agency input. A huge thank you to everyone involved in getting these key documents up to date. The MSCP's Neglect Toolkit aims to support practitioners in the early identification and assessment of neglect and in recognising the cumulative harm caused by neglectful experiences on children and young people. Use of the toolkit should facilitate access to appropriate support and interventions for children and families. We are keen to raise awareness across the partnership of the impact of neglect – if you think you could support us with this please get in touch, as we will be considering this at our next Policy and Training sub-group in March.

<https://www.mertonscp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/MSCP-Neglect-Strategy.docx>

<https://www.mertonscp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Neglect-Toolkit.docx>

### **Learning Reviews and Audits**

#### **Partnership Review - SUDI**

A partnership review on two cases of Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI) was recently undertaken and published, following recommendations from Joint Agency Response meetings. The review evidenced good relationships between mothers and health visitors, appropriate routine inquiry, and good agency information-sharing and decision-making. It also identified learning around professional curiosity, better links between Housing and CSF (Children Schools and Families) and improving access to earlier support for families. You can find details of the full review [here](#).

#### **Multi-agency Audit – Non-Accidental Injury**

We recently published findings from our multi-agency audit on Non-Accidental Injury. Overall, the audit found evidence of good multi-agency working, and swift action taken by agencies to safeguard children from further harm. It also evidenced collaborative work with the family and provision of support. However, it did highlight some learning around the importance of sharing information quickly and the availability of sufficiently senior managers to make decisions.

You can learn more about the findings of the audit here:

[Multi-agency-audit-NAI-1-2.pdf \(mertonscp.org.uk\)](https://www.mertonscp.org.uk)

### **Parental Conflict Training**

Early findings from our latest multi-agency audit on the lived experiences of children and young people affected by Domestic Abuse highlighted the need for earlier intervention around parental conflict. The MSCP would like to encourage all partners to sign up to the Parental Conflict Training currently on offer until 20<sup>th</sup> March. This is an e-learning course consisting of 4 modules, each of which takes approximately 45 minutes to complete.

- Module 1 - Parental conflict and its impact on child outcomes: Interpreting and using the evidence base
- Module 2 - Identifying and discussing parental conflict with parents, including the role of values, beliefs and influences
- Module 3 - Having challenging conversations on parental conflict: support, refer or intervene
- Module 4 - Reducing parental conflict: The role of supervisors and managers

If you would be interested in taking part in this training, please email [MertonSCP@merton.gov.uk](mailto:MertonSCP@merton.gov.uk) to receive your free online token, which will allow you to access the course. We will also be progressing a train the trainer model to further embed training on parental conflict across the partnership – so watch this space!

### **Merton Hate Crime Advice Surgeries**

Merton Hate Crime Advice Surgeries are a safe space to discuss hate crime and how to report it anonymously. Members of the public can get free advice with no appointment necessary. Surgeries are currently being run over the phone on the second Tuesday of every month, from 12pm to 1pm. Please call 020 8545 4146. Upcoming dates for this year are as follows:

- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022
- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2022
- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022
- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022
- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022
- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022

If you would like to read further about hate crime and associated resources, please follow the link below to the Merton Council web page:

[Hate incidents and hate crime | Merton Council](#)

### **Joint Conference- Integrated Safeguarding: Working Together to Safeguard Children and Adults**

The Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership and Merton Safeguarding Adults Board will be holding a joint conference on 21st March 2022 focusing on 'Think Family' and 'Transitional Safeguarding'. We are expecting exciting keynote speakers and we will also be hosting workshops and sharing local information on these topics. Please don't miss it! You can sign up on our website here: [Event : Integrated-](#)

### Upcoming Training

The table below shows up-and-coming training sessions for multi-agency partners. Please visit the dedicated MSCP [training page](#) to book places. We are also in the process of publishing dates for the upcoming 2022-23 year so please check our webpages for the latest courses available.

Training	Date and Time
<p><b>Key Principles in Responding to Young People’s lived experiences of Sexual Violence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Social and Educational Context of Sexual Violence and Young People; key principles of sexual violence reduction; and responding to sexual violence with a whole organisation approach</i></li> </ul>	Tuesday 22 February 2022 (10:00 – 14:00)
<p><b>Female Genital Mutilation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Awareness and understanding in identifying and responding to harmful practices</i></li> </ul>	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> February (10:00 – 13:00)
<p><b>Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) training: managing allegations against staff</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Merton process and procedures for managing allegations and serious concerns about professional practice and standards of care, help and support available to staff/volunteers and carers in relation to allegations, and implementation of policies and strategies to minimise risk of allegations</i></li> </ul>	Wednesday 16 March (10:00 – 12:30)
<p><b>Honour Based Violence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The dynamics of "Honour" Based Violence, including an introduction to Traditional Harmful practices associated with MENA region.</i></li> </ul>	Wednesday 6 April (10:00 - 13:00)
<p><b>Reducing Parental Conflict</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>E-learning – 4 modules to complete in your own time on parental conflict, impact on child outcomes, having challenging conversations and reducing parental conflict.</i></li> </ul>	E-learning – available to complete in your own time

### Parenting Programmes

The Merton Early Years and Family Wellbeing Service aims to enable those working in children’s social care to identify appropriate parenting programmes for families they are working with. The table below shows the list of courses available to families and who, specifically, they are aimed at:

Programme	Age	Description
<i>English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)</i>	Under 1 year	Parents with a child in age range with little or no English Language
<i>Baby Early Learning Together (ELT) 5 weeks</i>	0-8 months	Baby Massage with key messages covering the importance of early brain development, communication, and bonding – for new, first-time parents

<i>Baby Incredible years (IY) 10 weeks</i>	0-12 months	Understanding and responding to baby's cues, the importance of communication and interactions with baby, how and where to go for support and advice.
<i>Toddler Early Learning Together (ELT) 6 weeks</i>	8-36 months	Understanding a child's development. The importance of play and communication and providing ideas to enhance the home learning environment.
<i>Preschool Early Learning Together (ELT) 6 weeks</i>	19-36 months	Understanding a child's development and developing school readiness in preparation for nursery or preschool.
<i>Attentive Parenting Incredible Years (IY) 6 weeks</i>	2-5 years	Support to understand child's development, the importance of communication and strategies to manage challenging behaviour.
<i>Empowering Parents, Empowering Communities (EPEC) 6 weeks</i>	5-11 years	Practical support to manage emotional and behavioral development

## Regional News

### **Change of Name for the procedures and updated Terms of Reference for the Editorial Board**

The London Child Protection Procedures and Practice Guidance are to be renamed the London Safeguarding Children Procedures and Practice Guidance in line with the same terminology as Working Together to Safeguard Children. The focus of the Guidance will be the same and the MSCP remain a signatory of these procedures. You can view the procedures at their website: [London Child Protection Procedures \(londoncp.co.uk\)](http://London Child Protection Procedures (londoncp.co.uk))

## National News

### **Learning from the tragic deaths of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson**

We are deeply saddened by recent high profile abuse cases of children, including Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson. As our Independent Chair mentions in her review of 2021, we echo [recent comments by Isabelle Trowler and Lyn Romeo](#) in their letter of support to social workers. There can be no doubt about the important part practitioners play in supporting and protecting the country's most vulnerable children and families and the positive difference this makes every single day. We join the Chief Social Workers in condemning those targeting abuse towards the social work profession or any other professionals working with children and families. We very much recognise across the partnership the very challenging circumstances in which so many professionals are operating and will continue to look at how we can best support joined up working and best practice. We will follow closely the learning from the tragic deaths of Arthur and Star.

### **Keeping Children and Young People Safe this Winter, Department for Education**

Last month, along with other safeguarding partnerships across the country, the Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership received [a letter from the Department for Education 'Keeping children and young people safe this winter'](#). It highlights the importance of identifying our vulnerable children and working as agencies to keep them safe and well. The letter was discussed with sub-group chairs and with our Exec partners to ensure we have a robust response locally. The MSCP has existing structures in place to safeguard vulnerable children and we know that agencies are working hard to ensure we can continue to keep them safe during the ongoing uncertainty around the pandemic.

### **Incident in Texas**

*Please find below a message from Jane Corrigan, Detective Superintendent and London Prevent Coordinator for Counter Terrorism Policing – SO15:*

In response to the recent incident at a Synagogue in Texas, the Police have shared some local resources, as this type of incident can have a profound effect on all communities and, in this instance, particularly British Jewish communities. The incident is still under investigation and officers from Counter Terrorism Policing are also liaising with US authorities and colleagues from the FBI regarding the incident.

[The Community Security Trust](#) provides security advice and training for Jewish communal organisations, schools and synagogues.

Please report any **hate crime** incidents to the police – via 999 in an emergency or 101 for a non-emergency. You can also report online through the police hate crime reporting site True Vision (<http://report-it.org.uk/home>), or via a third party reporting centre such as Stop Hate UK, the CST or Tell Mama.

**Security at places of worship** - The National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) has guidance with protective security advice covering a range of places including places of worship as a specific sector. It can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/crowded-places-guidance>

For anything immediately concerning contact **101**, or in an emergency situation always call **999**.

Emotional and practical support for anyone affected by this incident can be found at <https://victimsofterrorism.campaign.gov.uk/>

Our Strategic Engagement Team will be monitoring tensions over the coming days, if you do have any increase in concerns, feel free to feed it into your local policing team so we can capture it in our pan London and national overview.

I'd be grateful if you could share this message with your networks and of course visit – [www.ActEarly.UK](http://www.ActEarly.UK) or contact the advice line on 0800 011 3764 if you are concern about someone who is vulnerable to being radicalised.

### **Important contacts**

To contact us with any queries, questions, or items to add to future news bulletins:

Email: [MertonSCP@merton.gov.uk](mailto:MertonSCP@merton.gov.uk)

Telephone: 020 8545 4866

To contact the Children and Families Hub:

Email: [candfhub@merton.gov.uk](mailto:candfhub@merton.gov.uk)

Telephone: 020 8545 4226 or 020 8545 4227 (out of hours 020 8770 5000)

## **Forward Look for 2022**

*\*\*We are currently planning dates for next year's meetings so please keep an eye out for these coming into your diary. Provisional dates for 2022 are:*

### January

- *Friday 14th January 2022 (3:30-5:00) – Subgroup Chairs Meeting*
- *Thursday 20th January 2022 (11:00-11:30am) – MSCP Executive Meeting*

### February

- *Wednesday 9th February 2022 (2:00-4:00pm) – Quality Assurance Sub-Group Meeting*
- *Thursday 10th February 2022 (11:00am-12:00pm) – MSCP Executive Meeting*
- *Monday 21st February 2022 (10:30-12:30) – Subgroup Chairs Meeting*
- *Tuesday 22nd February 2022 (13:00pm-15:00pm) - Domestic Abuse & Think Family Subgroup*
- *Monday 28th February 2022 (2:00-5:00pm) – Merton Safeguarding Partnership Meeting*

### March

- *Wednesday 2nd March 2022 (2:00-4:00pm) – Promote and Protect Young People Subgroup*
- *Thursday 10th March 2022 (11:00-11:30am) – MSCP Executive Meeting*
- *Monday 14th March 2022 (1:00-3:00pm) – Policy & Training Subgroup*
- *Monday 21st March 2022 (10:30-12:30pm) – Subgroup Chairs Meeting*
- *Tuesday 29th March 2022 (9:30-11:30am) – Early Help & Neglect Subgroup*

### April

- *Thursday 7th April 2022 (11:00-11:30am) – MSCP Executive Meeting*
- *Wednesday 20th April 2022 (11:00am-1:00pm) – Domestic Abuse & Think Family Subgroup*
- *Monday 25th April 2022 (10:30-12:30) – Subgroup Chairs Meeting*
- *Thursday 28th April 2022 (2:00-4:00pm) – Quality Assurance Subgroup*

### May

- *Wednesday 4th May 2022 (2:00-4:00pm) - Promote and Protect Young People Subgroup*
- *Thursday 12th May 2022 (11:00am-12:00pm) – MSCP Executive Meeting*
- *Monday 16th May 2022 (1:00-3:00) – Policy & Training Subgroup*
- *Monday 23rd May 2022 (10:30-12:30) – Subgroup Chairs Meeting*
- *Tuesday 31st May 2022 (9:30-11:30am) – Early Help & Neglect Subgroup*

## June

- *Wednesday 1st June 2022 (2:00-4:00pm) – Quality Assurance Subgroup*
- *Thursday 9th June 2022 (11:00-11:30am) – MSCP Executive Meeting*
- *Wednesday 15th June 2022 (2:00-5:00pm) - Merton Safeguarding Partnership Meeting*
- *Monday 20th June 2022 (10:30-12:30) – Subgroup Chairs Meeting*
- *Monday 27th June 2022 (11:00am-1:00pm) – Domestic Abuse & Think Family Subgroup*

## July

- *Thursday 7th July 2022 (11:00-11:30am) – MSCP Executive Meeting*
- *Monday 11th July 2022 (1:00-3:00) – Policy & Training Subgroup*
- *Monday 18th July 2022 (10:30-12:30) – Subgroup Chairs Meeting*
- *Thursday 21st July 2022 (9:30-11:30am) – Early Help & Neglect Subgroup*
- *Wednesday 27th July 2022 (2:00-4:00pm) – Promote & Protect Young People Subgroup*

## August

- *Tuesday 2nd August 2022 (11:00am-1:00pm) – Domestic Abuse & Think Family Subgroup*
- *Wednesday 10th August 2022 (2:00-4:00pm) – Quality Assurance Subgroup*
- *Thursday 11th August 2022 (11:00am-12:00pm) – MSCP Executive Meeting*
- *Monday 22nd August 2022 (10:30-12:30) – Subgroup Chairs Meeting*

## September

- *Thursday 8th September 2022 (11:00-11:30am) – MSCP Executive Meeting*
- *Monday 12th September 2022 (1:00-3:00) – Policy & Training Subgroup*
- *Monday 19th September 2022 (10:30-12:30) – Subgroup Chairs Meeting*
- *Thursday 22nd September 2022 (9:30-11:30am) – Early Help & Neglect Subgroup*
- *Wednesday 28th September 2022 (2:00-4:00pm) – Promote & Protect Young People Subgroup*

## October

- *Wednesday 5th October 2022 (2:00-4:00pm) – Quality Assurance Subgroup*
- *Thursday 6th October 2022 (11:00-11:30am) – MSCP Executive Meeting*
- *Wednesday 19th October 2022 (2:00-5:00pm) - Merton Safeguarding Partnership Meeting (Full)*
- *Monday 24th October 2022 (10:30-12:30) – Subgroup Chairs Meeting*
- *Wednesday 26th October 2022 (11:00-1:00pm) – Domestic Abuse & Think Family Subgroup*

## November

- *Wednesday 2nd November 2022 (2:00-4:00pm) – Promote & Protect Young People Subgroup*
- *Thursday 10th November 2022 (11:00am-12:00pm) – MSCP Executive Meeting*
- *Monday 14th November 2022 (1:00-3:00) – Policy & Training Subgroup*
- *Monday 21st November 2022 (10:30-12:30) – Subgroup Chairs Meeting*
- *Tuesday 29th November 2022 (9:30-11:30am) – Early Help & Neglect Subgroup*



