



Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership Bulletin – April 2022

Welcome

Welcome to the April 2022 issue of the Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership news bulletin. It has been a busy time for MSCP in recent weeks, particularly with our Joint Conference with the Merton Safeguarding Adults Board and our recent Full Partnership meeting. We know Children, Schools and Families also had their recent Ofsted inspection, which you can read about in our local news section.

As always, if you have anything to include in future bulletins, please contact us using our email address below.

Goodbyes

Karl Mittelstadt, Head of Service Performance, Improvement and Partnerships

We are incredibly sad to say goodbye to Karl Mittelstadt who is moving on to the London Borough of Greenwich to take on the role of Assistant Director. Having previously held roles at Surrey County Council and the Youth Justice Board, Karl started as Head of Performance, Policy, and Partnership at Merton in May 2019. During his three years in the role, and despite a global pandemic, Karl has contributed significantly to the development of the Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership, and his positivity and dedication will be sorely missed. We would like to take this opportunity to wish Karl the very best of luck in his new role.

Hello

Liz Royle, Designated Nurse Safeguarding (interim)

We extend a very warm welcome to Liz Royle who replaces Margaret Mansfield in the interim as Designated Safeguarding Nurse for Merton. Liz will be temporarily co-chairing the Domestic Abuse and Think Family subgroup, alongside Dr. Benedicta Ogeah. Liz comes with a wealth of experience in child safeguarding as well as midwifery and health visiting. We are looking forward to working alongside her in the coming months.

Local News

Joint Annual Conference with the Adult Safeguarding Board

The MSCP joined the Merton Safeguarding Adults Board to deliver an Annual Conference focusing on the themes of Think Family and Transitional Safeguarding. The conference was well attended, and we were delighted to welcome keynote speakers from the Charlie Waller Trust and the Family Safeguarding Centre for Justice Innovation who delivered inspiring and informative presentations. Aileen Buckton, our Independent Chair, has written a blog on the event that you can read about [here](#).

Full Partnership in February

Thank you to everybody who attended our Full Partnership in February. A special shout out to Halima Mehmood, our Young Scrutineer, who presented the findings of the 'staying safe' elements of the Merton's Youth Residents Survey. It was a great opportunity to talk about how, as a Partnership, we are directly responding to the views of children and young people in Merton. Each of our sub-groups have been meeting with Halima to think through how we can strengthen this area.

We also talked about our Neglect Strategy and Neglect Toolkit, and welcomed a familiar face – Ann Marie Christian – a former colleague in Children, Schools and Families. Ann Marie talked to us about the different types of neglect and the role of us as partners in responding to children and young people at risk of, or experiencing neglect. We took away the importance of identifying affluent neglect and we will be sharing some additional resources on this on our website soon. We are looking for some representatives from across the Partnership who can support us with embedding our neglect strategy and toolkit so please get in touch if you would like to help with this important topic at MertonSCP@merton.gov.uk. Training and advice will be provided.

Multi-Agency Audits in Merton

Our Quality Assurance and Practice Review Sub-Group has been busy over the last few months. In February we took the findings of our recent Section 11 audit to the Full Partnership. The Section 11 audit allows the MSCP to hold agencies to account regarding their safeguarding arrangements and practice, as well as inform our training needs. We were delighted to have such strong engagement from across our Partnership and want to say a huge thank you to everybody involved. Agencies have been able to identify their own actions and we will catch up with you all later this year to hear how you have got on progressing these. The QA Sub-Group will also oversee the delivery of a small selection of multi-agency actions. You can find more on our website [Section 11 pages](#).

The MSCP have also undertaken an audit on Domestic Abuse and the lived experience of children and young people. Thank you to Margaret Mansfield, who has since sadly left us, for chairing the audit and everybody else who contributed. It has enabled some rich learning for the Partnership about the need to develop effective interventions that can 'stop the revolving door' of referrals. We will be working with our partners to take forward the audit recommendations. Our audits can be found on [our website](#). We will also be holding a Lunch and Learn to share the findings of the audit so look out for details on our training page.

Merton Children, Schools and Families Ofsted Inspection 2022

In February, Merton was given notice of an ILACS short inspection. Inspectors spent two weeks speaking with directors, heads of service, and practitioners within the Children, Schools and Families directorate and seeing examples of practice showcased. We are sure that CSF colleagues have had an opportunity to showcase some great work and we also thank all partners who contributed to the inspection. We look forward to the reading Ofsted’s assessment when published in May.

Mental Emotional Health and Wellbeing Resource

The South West London Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are exploring the ways in which we can better support families to manage child and adolescent mental health challenges in the communities. They have produced this Merton Emotional Health and Wellbeing Resources and Services Information Guide for Professionals: [Emotional Wellbeing Support Services for Children and Young People](#)

Child Sexual Exploitation Support Pack for Parents/Carers

We are pleased to present a new support pack available for local parents and carers who are concerned that their child could be, or is, experiencing exploitation. The pack has been developed in partnership with local parents, exploitation services, children’s safeguarding partnerships, public health teams and the Police Borough Command Unit. A special thank you to Emma Bradley from the Children, Schools and Families contextual harm team for coordinating this work on behalf of Merton.

Please read the new support pack [here](#).

Upcoming Training

MSCP Training

The table below shows up-and-coming training sessions for multi-agency partners. Please visit the dedicated MSCP [training page](#) to book places.

Training	Date and Time
<p><i>Substance Misuse Part 1</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Training to increase awareness and understanding of substances used by young people. Substance Misuse Training comes in two parts. The expectation is you must book for both parts 1 & 2.</i> 	<p>Wednesday 20 April (10:00 – 13:00) Virtual Session</p>
<p><i>Lunch and Learn – Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI) National and Local Learning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Looking at findings from the national panel report “Out of routine: A review of sudden unexpected death in infancy (SUDI) in families where the children are considered at risk of significant harm,” as well as learning from recent local reviews and their implications for partners.</i> 	<p>Thursday 21 April (13:00 – 14:00) Virtual Session</p>
<p><i>Substance Misuse Part 2</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Training to increase understanding and develop skills in working with young people and substance use. Substance Misuse Training comes in two parts. The expectation is you must book for both parts 1 & 2.</i> 	<p>Tuesday 26 April (10:00 – 13:00) Virtual Session</p>

<p>Evidence Based Interventions to Support Parents Experiencing Conflict in Their Relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This training introduces practitioners to three online programmes for parents who are experiencing conflict in their relationship. See our training page for further details. 	<p>Wednesday 27 April (09:30 – 12:30) Virtual Session</p>
<p>Difficult Conversations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course aims to equip multi-agency professionals on how to deal with a difficult conversation in practice supporting the safeguarding needs of the children and vulnerable in our community. This course will provide clear competence guidelines to support you. This is an interactive, CPD-accredited session, which will include support for planning for difficult conversations and will use case studies and role play. It will support multi-agency professionals in making use of healthy, professional challenge to support good practice in children’s safeguarding. 	<p>Wednesday 4 May 2022 (10.30 - 12.30) Virtual Session</p>
<p>Multi-Agency Safeguarding Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training to provide participants with the opportunity to develop an awareness of what to do if they have concerns about the safety and welfare of children and young people. 	<p>Tuesday 10 May (10:00 – 13:00) Virtual Session</p>
<p>Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Details of the training session TBC. Please check our training page. 	<p>Wednesday 25 May (10:00 – 13:00) Virtual Session</p>

Safer Merton Training

Bystander Training

The Inner Strength Network on behalf of Safer Merton are running Bystanders Training courses aimed to equip multi-agency professionals, local officers, leaders, parents, teachers, and anyone else who wants to understand how to deal with violence and crime in our community from a bystander perspective. Please find attached details of dates/times of training, which is running from April through to July.

Hate Crime Third Party Reporting Training Session

On Thursday 14th July (10.30 - 12.00), Maureen Bailey of ISN has kindly agreed to lead a training session around Safer Merton’s hate crime Third Party Reporting scheme. The aim is to provide a refresher for those organisations taking part in the scheme on how to recognise a hate crime or incident and how to take a report. You may also have new members of staff who haven’t had any training previously. The session will take place via zoom. More details will be shared nearer the 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)</i> 5 weeks	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)</i> 10 weeks	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)</i> 6 weeks	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)</i> 6 weeks	19-36 months	Understanding a child’s development and developing school readiness in preparation for nursery or preschool.
<i>Attentive Parenting Incredible Years (IY)</i> 6 weeks	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)</i> 6 weeks	5-11 years	Practical support to manage emotional and behavioral development

Regional News

Child Q Learning Review

City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership recently published a review involving Child Q, a 15-year-old girl who was strip-searched in her school without an appropriate adult present. You can read the MSCP’s response to Child Q [here](#). The full review from City and Hackney can be found [here](#). We will be reflecting further on the issues arising from the Child Q review, and what more we can be doing locally in our upcoming Full Partnership meeting in June.

London Safeguarding Children Procedures - Changes

On 31st March, the "London Child Protection Procedures" changed to the "London Safeguarding Children Procedures," following consultation. There have also been other significant changes to the layout of the website including:

- Core Procedures - the order remains the same but two additional chapters have been added
- Safeguarding Partnership Arrangements includes agency responsibilities and partnership arrangements - this is themed with some added content.
- Practice Guidance - is now in alphabetical order with shorter titles in the index which hopefully makes it easier to locate what you are looking for.

Despite the change of name, internet searches for the "London Child Protection Procedures" and for the "London Safeguarding Children Procedures" will continue to function until September 2023. Colleagues that use a link to access frequently visited sections of the procedures may need to update their links.

For further information on the changes please visit the [website](#).

NHS London Violence Reduction Programme - New Social Prescribing Pathway

The NHS London Violence Reduction Programme is launching a new specialist Social Prescribing Pathway for children and young people at risk of violence in London. Designed as a preventative model, the pathway will specifically support the needs of young people aged 11-25 years old who may be at risk of violence, promoting change on an individual and community level. It focuses on young people and utilises the strengths of individuals who may have lived experience to connect with at risk young people and empower them to make better life choices.

To find out more about the new pathway, and the reduction programme in general, please click [here](#).

National News

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has given updates on current national reviews together with some advice on the timeliness and quality of local child safeguarding practice reviews:

Arthur Labinjo-Hughes/Star Hobson

Work is progressing on the national review into the tragic deaths of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson. The review is due to be published in May 2022. The updated terms of reference are available [here](#).

Safeguarding Children with Disabilities

In January, the Panel published the terms of reference for a national review into safeguarding children with disabilities and complex health needs in residential settings. The terms of reference are available [here](#) and more details are contained below.

You can find out more information about the reviews mentioned [here](#).

Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse - Communicating with Children Guide

Research and practice both show that it can take years for a child to get to the point where they feel able to tell someone about their experiences. It is vital that anyone who works with children knows how to recognise what is happening and understands how to help the child to have that conversation. The CSA has published a guide that brings together research and practice guidance to help give professionals the knowledge and confidence to act.

You can read more by clicking [here](#).

Contact us...

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

Email: MertonSCP@merton.gov.uk

Telephone: 020 8545 4866

To contact the Children and Families Hub:

Email: candfhub@merton.gov.uk

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

Forward Look

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*