



Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership Bulletin – June 2022

Welcome

Welcome to the June 2022 issue of the Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership news bulletin – we hope you find it useful! As always, if you have anything to include in future bulletins, please contact us at: MertonSCP@merton.gov.uk.

Hellos

Janet Edwards, Designated Nurse Safeguarding, CCG

We extend a very warm welcome to Janet Edwards, our new Designated Safeguarding Nurse for Merton. She holds a wealth of experience and has already hit the ground running by helping us to coordinate our ICON implementation project and contextual safeguarding audit. A huge thank you to Liz Royle who did a great job of holding the fort in the interim.

Justin Roper, Director of Quality, CCG

We are pleased to welcome our new Director of Quality for the South West London Health and Care Partnership, Justin Roper. Justin will be the MSCP Exec representative for Health, and we look forward to working with him.

Farah Ikram, Head of Service Performance, Improvement and Partnerships (Interim)

A huge welcome to Farah Ikram, who is the interim Head of Service for Performance, Improvement and Partnerships in Children, Schools and Families. Farah manages the performance team, who support our sub-groups with multi-agency performance reporting. She also manages the Improvement and Partnerships team, which supports the MSCP.

Local News

Full Partnership June 2022

We would like to extend our gratitude for all of our partners who presented at and attended our recent Full Partnership meeting on 15 June. It was fantastic to hear from so many partners on such important topics for the MSCP.

We heard from Elliot Brunton, Head of Housing and Strategy at Merton, about the impact of poor housing and homelessness on safeguarding families in Merton and how Merton's housing team works with their partners to support these families and young people. Elliot spoke to the partnership about some of the areas he is working with partners to improve – such as housing for care leavers and refreshing the protocol for 16 and 17 year olds at risk of homelessness. He has kindly offered to talk about housing processes and improvement areas with individual agencies so if you would find this helpful please do get in touch with us.

We also discussed the story of Child Q, with Andrew Wadey, Detective Superintendent and Public Protection Lead at South West BCU, who provided an overview of how Merton's safeguarding partnership has responded to the themes raised in this review. It was really valuable to hear from a range of partners on what more we can do together to address some of these issues, such as the adultification of black children and young people, as well as the importance of engaging in healthy professional challenge between agencies. Our Scrutineer and Young Scrutineer will be leading on a piece of thematic scrutiny on adultification; if you would like to be involved in this work, please get in touch with us.

We also had the opportunity to hear from our Independent Scrutineer and Young Scrutineer on their thematic scrutiny on sexual harassment (see more below), and we heard directly from schools and students about some of the good practice we have in Merton. We will also be working on the MSCP's annual report over the coming months so you may hear from our team who are collating information; if you would like to see anything in particular included in the annual report let us know at MertonSCP@merton.gov.uk by the end of July.

Thematic Scrutiny on Sexual Harassment

The MSCP's Independent Scrutineer and Young Scrutineer recently completed their thematic scrutiny on how the MSCP and its partners are working to respond to sexual harassment in schools and colleges. We want to thank all the education settings, and other agencies, as well as the children and young people, who took part in this important work. The sexual harassment scrutiny findings will be shared at the June Full Partnership and shared with Education leads and upcoming sub-groups. It also made a number of recommendations to improve our approach and implementation of these will be overseen in the Quality Assurance and Practice Review Sub-Group.

"We have to trust the people before we'd tell them or report sexual harassment. If we have a bad experience before it puts us off telling them something so personal", Young Person who spoke to Scrutineers as part of the scrutiny.

Merton Children, Schools and Families Ofsted Inspection 2022

Since the last newsbulletin, Ofsted have published their findings of the recent ILACS Ofsted inspection of Children's Services for the London Borough of Merton on 9th May. Ofsted found the overall effectiveness of Children's Services in Merton to be 'Outstanding'. They found evidence of thoughtful and creative innovative practice with children and families in Merton, which is making a positive

difference to children while making them safer. Ofsted recognised the strength of Merton’s multi-agency partnerships, at both strategic and operational levels. Thank you to everybody who continues to work so hard to keep children and young people safe in Merton and we are delighted that Children, Schools and Families, along with their partners, have had this recognised. You can read the full Ofsted report here: [Merton OFSTED report 2022](#).

Prevent Changes

Merton Prevent referrals should no longer be sent to the Children and Families Hub. In line with national changes, Merton has adopted the Prevent National Referral Form (which is available on the [MSCP website](#)) and is sent directly to the police. Every referral is screened and after consideration may be shared with the relevant Local Authority Channel Panel. Channel Panel is an early intervention scheme that supports people who are at risk of radicalisation and provides practical support tailored to individual needs.

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>Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) training: Managing allegations against staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This training will support professionals to understand the Merton process and procedures for managing allegations and serious concerns about professional practice and standards of care; become aware of the help and support available to staff/ volunteers and carers in relation to allegations made against staff; and consider the process of implementing policies and strategies for staff/volunteers/carers in relation to minimising the risk of allegations and strategies for coping if they occur. 	<p>Wednesday 22 June (10:00 – 13:00) Virtual Session</p>
<p>Introduction to Contextual Harm in Merton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This training provides professionals with an introduction to understanding ‘Contextual Harm’ - I.e. harm outside of the home. Contextual safeguarding recognises the impact of the public/social context on young people’s lives, and consequently their safety. Contextual safeguarding seeks to identify and respond to harm and abuse posed to young people outside their home, either from adults or other young people. 	<p>Tuesday 5 July 2022 (10.00- 12:00) In person</p>
<p>Contextual Safeguarding and Introduction to Exploitation, Serious Youth Violence, Groups and Gangs</p>	<p>Tuesday 5 July (13:00 – 16:30) In Person</p>

<p>PLEASE NOTE: In order to attend this session, you MUST have attended the morning Introduction to Contextual Harm in Merton session.</p> <p>This training will cover the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining Child Sexual Exploitation, Gangs and Criminal Exploitation, • Recognising signs of exploitation and gangs • Knowledge of risk and vulnerabilities • Overview of current climate and trends in Merton • Referral pathways / protocols 	
<p>Evidence Based Interventions to support Parents experiencing conflict in their relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>This training introduces practitioners to three online programmes for parents who are experiencing conflict in their relationship:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Me, You and Baby Too is designed to help new and expectant parents adapt to the changes that parenthood can have on their relationship. ○ Arguing Better is designed to help parents manage their stress and communicate with one another in ways that are helpful to their relationship and their children. ○ Getting it Right for Children is designed to support parents who have, or in the process of separating. It is a stressful time and, with emotions running high, even everyday arrangements can become a source of arguments, this programme supports parents to think about positive ways in which they can effectively communicate and work together to best support their child/young person. • Parents can access the programmes independently, or as part of a blended approach with the support of a practitioner encouraging reflection and supportive conversations. • This training equips practitioners with the skills, confidence, and tools required to support parents to access these interventions and shares the evidence base behind each intervention and demonstrate how they can be used with families to achieve positive outcomes for families. 	<p>Friday 8 July (09:30 – 12:30) Virtual Session</p>

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

HR Safeguarding Conference

Sutton Safeguarding Children Partnership are hosting a joint event with the MSCP and other South West London safeguarding partnerships on safeguarding in HR. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness about statutory child safeguarding requirements for professionals involved in HR processes; to promote best practice in safe recruitment and employment, and the management of allegations against staff and volunteers; and to strengthen partnership working across the South London LSCP region. We are delighted to be working regionally to deliver learning and development opportunities for our colleagues involved in HR processes and will share further information about what is discussed in our next newsbulletin.

Children falling accidentally from heights: Free Learning Event

The London CDOP Network and London's Safeguarding Children Partnerships would like to invite you to join us to hear updates from key organisations, listen to best practice and case studies involving work that has been done on preventing children falling from heights. The event is on 22nd June 11.00 - 13.00.

This learning event will provide:

- A serious case review showcasing best practice in working collaboratively to prevent children and young people falling from heights
- High level keynotes on the latest developments from the police and housing teams
- Case examples

This is a free event, please book your place via this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-multidisciplinary-event-on-childrenfalling-accidentally-from-heights-tickets-34464546285>

Supporting suicide prevention

Tuesday 5 and Wednesday 6 July 2022, 10.00am – 12.30pm

As part of the national Suicide Prevention SLI Programme, ADPH National and LGA, will jointly deliver a webinar exploring the key issues currently impacting suicide prevention work locally and nationally, inviting experts in the area to lead discussions on interventions available to help shape existing plans and strategies. The event will be free to attend, and delegates are encouraged to join both morning sessions.

Please book via the link below

[Local Government Association](#)

National News

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has published their review into child protection in England following the tragic deaths of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson. The report found that there had been weaknesses in information sharing and lack of robust critical thinking and challenge between agencies. It found that multi-agency arrangements for protecting children were more fractured and fragmented than they should be and there was insufficient attention to, and investment in, securing the specialist multi-agency expertise required for undertaking investigations and responses to significant harm from abuse and neglect. The report concludes by recommending that multi-agency child protection units – integrated and co-located multi-agency teams staffed by experienced child protection professionals – are established in every local authority area. The report also made some specific recommendations for local safeguarding partnerships which have been considered at the MSCP Executive and will be brought to the upcoming Full Partnership and sub-groups. You can read the report in full here: [National review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/114422/national-review-into-the-murders-of-arthur-labinjo-hughes-and-star-hobson.pdf)

Independent Review of Children's Social Care

The Government's Independent Review of Children's Social Care has now been published and makes a range of recommendations to support children in care, leaving care or at the edge of the care system. It recommends strengthening multi-agency arrangements with multi-disciplinary teams to support earlier help to families. It also makes recommendations to support involvement of wider family networks, recruitment of foster carers, and being ambitious for care experienced people in improving outcomes. You can read the report in full here: [Final Report - The Independent Review of Children's Social Care \(childrensocialcare.independent-review.uk\)](https://www.childrensocialcare.independent-review.uk/)

Working Together 2018 Revisions

The Association of Safeguarding Partnerships (TASP) has informed us of the following update from the Department for Education regarding future revisions to the Working Together 2018 guidance:

“The Department for Education wants to inform you of their plan to update the Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) statutory guidance. They intend to do this in two phases. Phase One will consist of a small number of factual updates, including changes to reflect the proposed statutory Integrated Care Systems planned for July 2022. Phase Two will be a more substantive update, requiring a public consultation. The Department for Education will continue to provide further updates on the process in due course. Working Together can be found at: [Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)”

NHS Safeguarding Learning Together Week: Bearing Witness to Child Sexual Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation

NHS Safeguarding are pleased to invite you to the Safeguarding Learning Together Week event: Bearing Witness to Child Sexual Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation from 27th June to 1st July 2022. Please find further information in the brochure attached.

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)

Other key contacts in the Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership can be found [on our website](#).

Forward Look

June

- *Wednesday 22nd June 2022 (2:00-4:00pm) – Quality Assurance Subgroup*
- *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 (TBC)*

- *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*