



## Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership News Bulletin – May 2023

### **Welcome and Team News**

Welcome to the May edition of the MSCP News Bulletin! We hope you have had a restful Spring break and are looking forwards to brighter, warmer weather. Please do have a browse of our training courses on offer over the next couple of months as well as a range of local publications and national news. As always, please let us know of anything that can be included in future bulletins via emailing [mertonscp@merton.gov.uk](mailto:mertonscp@merton.gov.uk).

### **Hellos and Goodbyes**

**Independent Chair:** A big welcome back to Aileen Buckton, who is resuming her role as Independent Chair of the MSCP. Thank you to Nicky Brownjohn for her interim time as chair, thank you for your support!

**Police Executive Member:** A very warm welcome to Ian Cameron who is taking over from Andrew Wadey as Executive Member for the police in the MSCP. Best of luck, and thank you for all your work and dedication, Andy!

**Strategic Lead:** Helena Davey has been successfully appointed to the Strategic Lead (Policy & Improvement) and will be leading on inspection readiness activity, SEND strategic work and the department's continuous improvement approach. She will still be a part of our Policy & Partnerships team but no longer supporting with the MSCP. Thank you, Helena, for all your hard work over the past few years supporting the partnership!

**Policy and Partnerships Officer:** Halima Mehmood has recently joined as a Policy and Partnerships Officer and will be working on the MSCP, alongside other work within Children, Lifelong Learning, & Families at the local authority. Welcome, Halima!

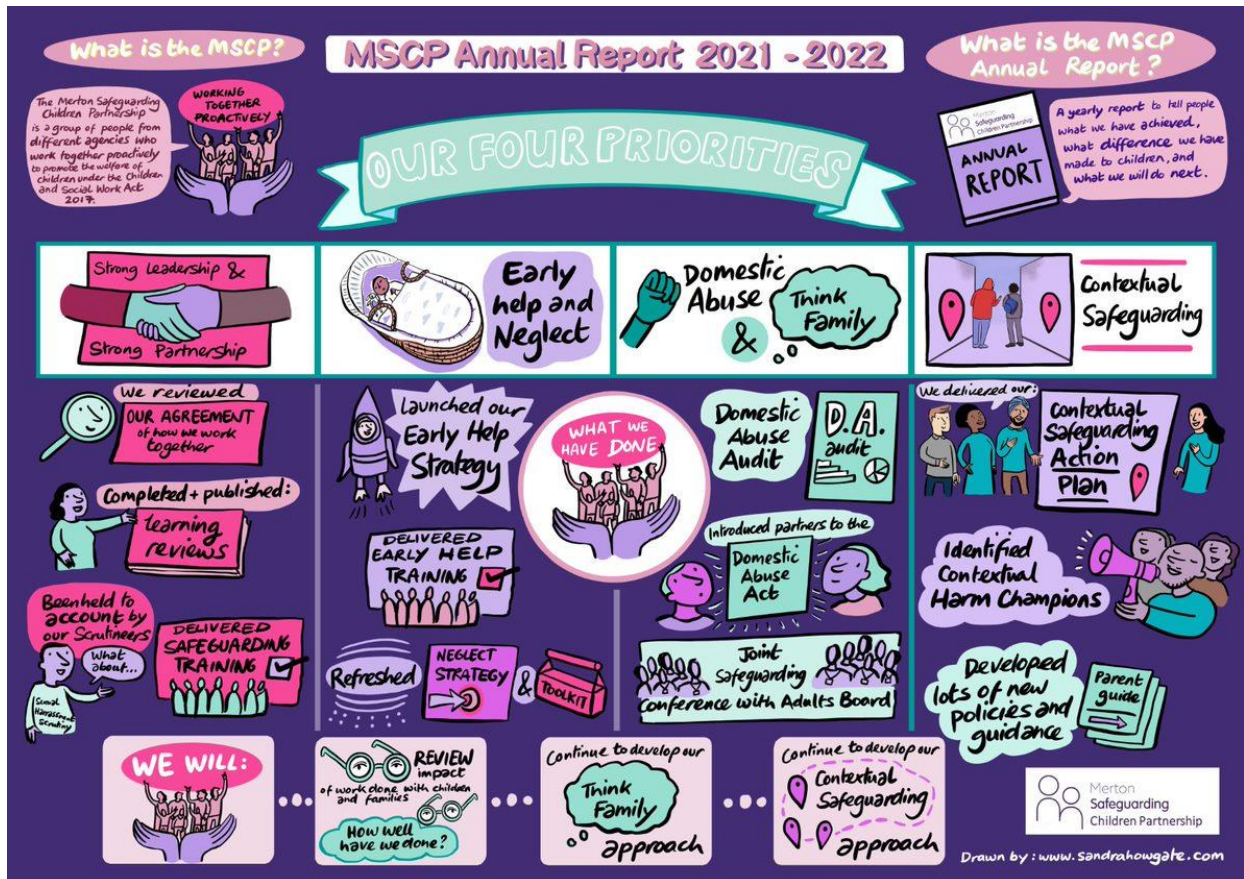
### **Senior Leadership Team:**

During May, Dheeraj Chibber will be moving on from his role as Assistant Director of Children's Social Care & Youth Inclusion and David Michael will be stepping into the interim position. As part of this, David will be covering the chairing of the MSCP Quality Assurance & Practice Review Sub-Group going forwards.

## Local News

### MSCP Annual Report

The full report can be accessed via: [MSCP-Annual-Report-2021-22-Final-.pdf \(mertonscp.org.uk\)](https://mertonscp.org.uk/MSCP-Annual-Report-2021-22-Final-.pdf) and the visual below provides a quick and easy to read overview of the report.



### Business Plan and Subgroup Structures

A revised sub-group structure has been agreed from April 2023 onwards, to allow the partnership to discharge statutory duties effectively as well as provide strong oversight of MSCP business plan priorities and cross-cutting themes. Full partnerships provide an opportunity to bring together the wider partnership with a view to both provide updates against the work plan as well as discuss emerging trends and issues. We have a couple of changes to our sub-group chairing arrangements this year; David Michael, who takes up the interim Assistant Director for Children's Social Care and Youth Inclusion, will be chairing the Quality Assurance and Practice Review sub-group. Allison Jones, who has been chairing Early Help and Neglect will now chair Policy and Training. The current Policy and Training chair, Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, will then take over our new Prevention & Early Intervention sub-group.

Sub-Group	Remit	Chair
<b>Quality Assurance &amp; Practice Review (QAPR)</b>	Quality assurance & audit programme Learning from reviews and scrutiny	David Michael, Interim Assistant Director Children's Social Care and Youth Inclusion, LBM
<b>Policy &amp; Training (P&amp;T)</b>	MSCP training programme MSCP policies	Allison Jones, Head of Early Help, LBM
<b>Prevention &amp; Early Intervention (PEI)</b>	Priority 1 - Early help Priority 2 - Mental health & wellbeing	Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, Assistant Director Education and Early Help, LBM
<b>Promote &amp; Protect Young People (PPYP)</b>	Priority 3 - Contextual safeguarding	Clive Vale, Detective Chief Inspector, SW BCU
<b>Effective Safeguarding &amp; Support (ESS)</b>	Priority 4 - Domestic abuse Priority 5 - Neglect	Janet Edwards, Designated Nurse Safeguarding & Benedicta Ogea, Designated Dr Safeguarding, ICB

### **MSCP Full Partnership**

The Full Partnership covered a few significant areas, including the findings from the Adulthood thematic scrutiny, and outcomes from local reviews. Thank you to our Independent Scrutineer, Sarah Lawrence, for providing a detailed insight into Adulthood and how this affects Merton.

The Full Partnership explored outcomes and actions from the following National Panel Reports: [Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel 2021 - annual report \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/94444/child-safeguarding-practice-review-panel-2021-annual-report.pdf) and [Annual review of local child safeguarding practice reviews \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/94444/annual-review-of-local-child-safeguarding-practice-reviews.pdf). The Full Partnership also covered the MSCP Business Plan, which can be accessed here: [MSCP-Business-Plan-2021-2023.pdf \(mertonscsp.org.uk\)](https://mertonscsp.org.uk/mertonscsp-business-plan-2021-2023.pdf).

The consultation period for the Stable Homes, Built on Love implementation is taking place, which was also covered within the meeting. More information on the consultation can be found here: [Children's social care: stable homes, built on love - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/childrens-social-care-stable-homes-built-on-love).

### **Reflections on the MSCP/MSAB Joint Conference by Nicky Brownjohn, interim Independent Chair of the MSCP**

Nicky Brownjohn's blog covers the key events from the joint conference, with a focus on the experiences of young carers and trauma informed practice. Key areas of focus include:

- Continuing to strengthen relationship-based practice
- Being bold and developing a Think Family Charter
- Focus on children, not just the adults
- Childrens and Adults services working together

The full blog can be found via: [Reflections on the MSCP/MSAB Joint Conference by Nicky Brownjohn, interim Independent Chair of MSCP - Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership \(mertonscp.org.uk\)](#)

### **Publication of the MSCP's Franklyn LCSPR**

On 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023, the MSCP published our recent [Franklyn local child safeguarding practice review](#). The review identifies learning for the partnership across five themes: trauma-informed practice; family voice, including hidden men and the role of the family; disproportionality, inequality and access to services; communication; and the commissioning of services. We would encourage your agencies to share the learning among your workforces. You can access our [Franklyn review 7 minute briefing](#) on the MSCP website too for a summary of the case and key learning points. We plan to hold a lunch and learn session with the author shortly and will send out the details in due course, so please do encourage your staff to sign up.

### **The Children's Trust – Merton Partnership**

The Children's Trust met on 28<sup>th</sup> March for a very positive annual review. Kicking off with a collaborative reflection on the good news so far, it was clear that there have been some incredible outcomes and achievements made across all outcome areas. There continues to be a deep appreciation for the youth inclusion and participation in Merton; whilst the Merton Story indicates challenges we face from ageing populations to the East – West divide in the Borough, highlighting key areas to work on. Thank you to the Young Inspectors, Outcome Champions, and all those involved in developing the workstreams.



Figure 1: JamBoard of good news and successes

## **Upcoming Training**

### **County Lines Webinar for Parents and Carers, 20<sup>th</sup> June 7:00 -8:30pm:**

Would you like to understand more about county lines in Richmond, Kingston, Merton, and Wandsworth? Experts from PACE and the Metropolitan Police are hosting a free webinar for parents and carers exploring what county lines, child criminal exploitation, signs and risks that a child may be involved, and grooming specific to this area. Please register via:

<https://metfreeparentwebinar.eventbrite.com>.

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

<b>Training</b>	<b>Date and Time</b>
<i>Evidence Based Interventions to support Parents experiencing conflict in their relationships</i> <a href="#">Event : Evidence-Based-Interventions-to-support-Parents-experiencingconflict-in-their-relationships - 20142</a> <a href="https://safeguardingmerton.org.uk">safeguardingmerton.org.uk</a>	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2023 (09:30 - 12:30)
<i>Part 1: Introduction to Contextual Safeguarding</i> <i>Please note that this is Day 1 of a 2-day training course</i> <a href="#">Event : Part-1-Introduction-to-Contextual-Safeguarding - 18074</a> <a href="https://safeguardingmerton.org.uk">safeguardingmerton.org.uk</a>	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2023 (10.00 - 16.00)
<i>Part 2: Implementing Contextual Safeguarding</i> <i>Please note that this is Day 2 of a 2-part training session.</i> <i>Attendance at the first session, Introduction to Contextual Safeguarding, is a requirement for this course.</i> <a href="#">Event : Part-2-Implementing-Contextual-Safeguarding - 18076</a> <a href="https://safeguardingmerton.org.uk">safeguardingmerton.org.uk</a>	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2023 (10.00 - 16.00)
<i>Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) training: Managing allegations against staff - Virtual session</i> <a href="#">Event : Local-Authority-Designated-Officer-LADO-training-Managing-allegations-against-staff--Virtual-session - 17629</a> <a href="https://safeguardingmerton.org.uk">safeguardingmerton.org.uk</a>	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2023 (10:00 - 13:00)

## **Violence Against Women and Girls**

Tackling VAWG remains to be a priority for Merton as well as being a key priority for the Mayoral Office within the Police and Crime Plan. Merton's VAWG strategy can be found here: [Merton's VAWG-Strategy 2022 to 2025](#) which details the local and national strategic contexts, as well as the key partnership objectives. Please note that the Safer Streets pages will be live in the upcoming months, and additional information on domestic abuse can be found here: [Violence against women and girls | Merton Council](#).

## **Stalking and Harassment**

The London Stalking Support Service LSSS provides advocacy and support to victims of stalking in the London area via the National Stalking Helpline (0808 802 0300) and points our clients to local assistance via the 'Am I Being Stalked' website tool <https://www.suzylamplugh.org/am-i-being-stalked-tool>.

**PHYSICAL STALKING**

- Consider carrying a personal alarm.
- Vary your daily routine and take different routes to and from work.
- Know where the nearest safe location is, for instance a police station. But, if there isn't one nearby, you could use a 24-hour supermarket with security guards and CCTV cameras.
- Talk to the police about using CCTV and/or installing a panic button in your home.
- Consider installing an alarm system.
- Ensure all your doors and windows are locked before you leave home or go to sleep.

**CYBER SAFETY**

- Get your computer checked for malware and key logging software.
- Change your passwords frequently and don't use the same password for everything.
- Limit the amount of information you share about yourself on social networking sites and check your privacy settings to ensure you are not giving away more information about yourself than you intend to.
- Keep your anti-virus software up to date.
- Report any stalking activity on websites to the administrators. If they won't act, contact the web hosting company.

**NATIONAL STALKING HELPLINE**  
**FREEPHONE 0808 802 0300**  
 For London press '2'  
[www.suzylamplugh.org/](http://www.suzylamplugh.org/)  
 or text to 8200000000

advice@stalkinghelpline.org  
 Open 09:30 to 16:00 weekdays  
 (except Wednesday 13:00 to 16:00)

@TalkingStalking  
 @stalkinghelpline

The National Stalking Helpline is run by Suzy Lamplugh Trust, registered charity number 802022 and a member of the National Stalking Helpline Network for Stalking Helpline (NSHT) and National Stalking Helpline (NSHL).

The National Stalking Helpline is a resource including free home visits, helpline calls to the helpline are confidential and are not on recording equipment.

For more information about our services:  
[www.stalkinghelpline.org/our-services](http://www.stalkinghelpline.org/our-services)

**suzy lamplugh trust**

**ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS OF STALKING**

**NATIONAL STALKING HELPLINE**  
**FREEPHONE 0808 802 0300**  
[www.suzylamplugh.org/](http://www.suzylamplugh.org/)  
 or text to 8200000000

**suzy lamplugh trust**

**London Stalking Support Service**  
 Advocacy Support for Londoners

**0808 802 0300**  
 Press '2' for London  
 or visit  
<https://www.suzylamplugh.org>

**We hear you.  
Your voice matters.**

Founded by **MOPAC** MAYOR OF LONDON

Clicking on the images will take you to PDF resources developed by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust.

## Kooth: a free digital health and wellbeing service

Kooth plc provides British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy accredited services: Kooth CYP and Qwell are commissioned online counselling services. Kooth is available in Kingston, Merton, Croydon, Wandsworth, Richmond and Sutton for any young people aged 11-25. The services provide a free, safe and non-judgmental place for people to connect with others and know they are not alone. They have instant access to self-help materials, live moderated discussion forums and tools such as online journals and goal trackers. Young people can also contribute written pieces of work reflecting their own experiences, as well as accessing drop-in or booked sessions with professional counsellors from 12pm-10pm weekdays and 6pm-10pm weekends. The services are completely anonymous and a fantastic way for people to get the help and support they need, with no long waiting times or referral processes. For more info, access the website via: [www.koothplc.com](http://www.koothplc.com).

## 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. Professionals can contact us for further advice/referrals via email at [fsd@merton.gov.uk](mailto:fsd@merton.gov.uk) or alternatively visit our website for more information at [www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/family-support-and-parenting](http://www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/family-support-and-parenting)

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)</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

### **ESOL Courses**

The Learn English in Merton (LEiM) project is a referral service for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses in the borough. Potential learners can come to one of LEiM’s referral and advice sessions where their level of English can be assessed, and they can then be signposted to the most relevant class. The advice sessions take place at the following times and places:

<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Place</b>
Mondays – 1:00pm – 2:00pm	New Horizons Centre, Pollard’s Hill
Mondays – 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Vestry Hall, Mitcham
Wednesdays – 1:00pm – 2:00pm	Wimbledon Library

For more information regarding this service, please contact [advice@learnenglishmerton.org](mailto:advice@learnenglishmerton.org), or visit [www.learnenglishinmerton.org](http://www.learnenglishinmerton.org)

### **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:

## **Regional / National News**

### **Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel: Safeguarding children with disabilities in residential settings**

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has released the Phase 2 report focussing on the learning and outcomes from the Phase 1 report on Hesley Doncaster. Key points in this report include shared responsibilities for children’s safety, combatting siloed work practices, and crucially: centring disabled children’s voices at the heart of policy and practice discourse. The full report can be found via:

[Safeguarding children with disabilities in residential settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) (both Phases 1 and 2 are included).

### **Baroness Casey Review**

The March 2023 update to the Casey Review can be found via: [BARONESS CASEY REVIEW Final Report \(met.police.uk\)](#). This highlights the impact of austerity and multiple challenges facing policing because of resourcing and the changing nature of crime.

### **Adultification**

Jahnine Davis has worked alongside Missing People exploring adultification within their recent publication on the ethnicity of missing people. This can be found via: [Missing\\_Ethnicity-report.pdf \(missingpeople.org.uk\)](#). The report recommends internal bias training along with external oversight and scrutiny by organisations such as Missing People and Listen Up.

### **Social Care Reform in England**

The Local Government Association statement on the Social Care Reform emphasises the welcome reception and highlights the need for caution within the context of wider resource challenges. The NSPCC is also providing resources due to particular interest in kinship carer training and responses to significant harm.

Useful links: [Children’s social care reform: implementation strategy and consultation | Local Government Association](#) and [The government’s plans to reform children’s social care in England | NSPCC Learning](#).

### **Cost of Living Crisis**

Local health chiefs are considering the cost-of-living crisis to be a second health emergency following the Covid-19 Pandemic. Those with the least financial resilience are affected the most, however those who were previously managing are also affected. Local governments are using relationships and mutual aid groups formed out of the lockdowns as a resource; nonetheless, continue to battle existing funding challenges.

[Cost of living a ‘second health emergency’ | first magazine for councillors \(lgafirst.co.uk\)](#).

### **Pan-London Training**

The London Safeguarding Children Board offers a range of training offered free of charge by the London Safeguarding Children Partnership with the support of the Local London Safeguarding Children Partnerships: [Training and bookings – London Safeguarding Children Board \(londonscb.gov.uk\)](#).

Please note that the London Safeguarding Children Procedures have released the six-monthly update on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Additional information can be found here: [London Safeguarding Children Procedures](#).

## **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 – MSCP Meetings

**Policy & Training Subgroup** - Monday 15 May 23 (10:30am-12:30pm)

**Subgroup Chairs** – Monday 22 May 23 (10:30am-12:00pm)

**Executive Group Meeting** - Thursday 1 June 23 (12:30-1:00pm)

**Effective Safeguarding & Support Subgroup** - Wednesday 7th June 23 (9:30-11:30am)

**Full Partnership Meeting** - Monday 12 June 23 (14:00-17:00)

**Quality Assurance & Practice Review Subgroup** - Thursday 15 June 23 (10:00am-12:00pm)

**Promote & Protect Young People Subgroup** - Tuesday 27 June 23 (2:00-4:00pm)