



## Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership News Bulletin – July 2023

### Welcome and Team News

Welcome to the July edition of the MSCP News Bulletin! We hope you have been enjoying the brighter, warmer weather that has arrived! Please do have a browse of our personal training courses that we have 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 the bulletins via emailing [mertonscp@merton.gov.uk](mailto:mertonscp@merton.gov.uk).

### Welcome and Goodbyes

- **Independent Chair:** We are really pleased to welcome Aileen Buckton back as MSCP Independent Chair and are glad she is feeling better. At the same time, we say goodbye to Nicky Brownjohn and want to thank her for her excellent interim chairing over the past few months. We look forward to continuing work with Nicky on our next learning review.
- **Policy and Partnerships Officer:** We are delighted to welcome Hayley Carter who started with us as a part-time Policy and Partnerships Officer in June. Hayley joins us from Surrey County Council children's services. Hayley will be working closely with our other new Policy and Partnerships Officer, Halima Mehmood, and we are excited to be benefiting from her skills and experience.
- **Young Scrutineer Recruitment:** We'd like to thank everyone across the partnership for sharing our Young Scrutineer advert with your networks recently. We are hoping to have the post filled soon so we can hopefully introduce you to our next Young Scrutineer in our next newsletter!
- **Work Experience:** We'd like to say a big thank you to T-level students Noemie and Chioma who have been with our team for the past 4 weeks completing their work experience placement. Noemie led on this newsletter as well as helping to update MSCP website pages, and Chioma has been supporting with updating the children's social care workforce strategy.

## Local News

### Franklyn LCSPR publication (Lunch and Learn)

Franklyn was a baby born with a life limiting disability and complex health needs, who died aged four-and-a-half months old. Franklyn had suffered an out of hospital cardiac arrest and died later in hospital. At the time of his death, Franklyn had been subject to a child's protection plan for seven weeks due to concerns about domestic abuse and parental substance misuse, and therefore a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) was commissioned by the MSCP to explore learning. Themes included: **Trauma- Informed Practice; Family Voice (Including Hidden Men and Role of the Family); Disproportionality; Communication and Commissioning of services.**

The [LCSPR report](#) was published in May 2023, alongside a [7 minute briefing](#). A well-attended lunch & learn event took place in June 2023, from which the [recording is available on our website here](#). **Please do share on with your networks and run through the learning within your own agency.** An action plan is being overseen by the MSCP Quality Assurance Subgroup to help us implement the recommendations.

### **Children & Young people survey for new Merton strategies**

Merton is in the process of refreshing several of its strategies including SEND, Early Help, and the Children and Young People plan. As a result, a survey is being circulated to gain feedback from as many children and young people in the borough as possible. The survey has been designed to align with all three strategies so the feedback that we gather will benefit all three. The survey will close in September, and we hope to share the results through social media, schools, youth clubs and forums in the autumn.

**Please do circulate the survey among your workforces:** [Children and Young People Survey](#)

**GET INVOLVED AND HAVE YOUR SAY!**

The Participation and Engagement team at Merton Council work with children and young people across Merton to have their voice heard on matters that are important to them, and to ensure decision makers are acting upon what children and young people say.

We have launched a new survey for children and young people, up to the age of 24, to complete.

The survey is for anyone who lives, studies or socialises in the London Borough of Merton. That could be anywhere from Morden, Mitcham, Colliers Wood, Raynes Park or Wimbledon.

To access the survey, please scan the QR code below.

**SCAN ME**



## Safer After School campaign

The Merton LADO has set up the Safer After School campaign, which is aimed at ensuring that parents and carers have the information that they need to keep their children safe and happy in after school and extra-curricular activities. A set of leaflets and guidance designed by Rochdale Borough Council provides this information, alongside advice to providers about how to keep children safe and their safeguarding responsibilities.

Materials can be downloaded and shared with relevant parents/carers, schools and any other organisations/providers running after school and extra-curricular activities from our website here: [Safer After School campaign](#). If you have queries, please contact Merton LADO via [lodo@merton.gov.uk](mailto:lado@merton.gov.uk)

## Sexual Harassment Scrutiny

Last year, the Independent Scrutineer and Young Scrutineer asked students in Merton what they knew and how they felt about reporting sexual harassment in schools. They met with lots of key people such as school leaders and the Merton Safeguarding Children's Partnership. They gave schools the chance to do a survey so that feedback was able to be collected by the students. Children gave feedback and mentioned that asking 'identifiable' people was 'scary' for them and they are more likely to speak to their friends first due to having more trust within their friends. This poster below was created to bring more attention to younger people while also using child-friendly language and making it clear on who to report to and how. **Please share with your networks and keep discussing within your services how to respond to children and young people's feedback.**

**Sexual Violence in Schools Scrutiny**

**What did we do?**  
We asked students in Merton what they knew and how they felt about reporting sexual harassment in schools.  
Let's start a dialogue.  
We think...

**Current context**  
Sexual harassment does happen in schools in Merton.  
I find it scary to ask for help from an identifiable person.

**Reporting Sexual Harassment**  
Intersectional barriers prevent children from reporting sexual harassment.  
The school nurse could be a key person for children to go to report sexual harassment.  
Children are more likely to speak to friends first about sexual harassment.  
Children are unaware of consequences of reporting sexual harassment.

**Responding to Sexual Harassment**  
Innovation from settings around responding to sexual harassment.  
Lots of ideas!  
Questions around what to do when incidents happen outside of school.

**Children have said:**  
not sure when something should be reported to places other than school.  
We have to trust the people before we tell them or report sexual harassment, if we have a bad experience before, it puts us off telling them something so personal.  
Anonymous reporting is a good thing. There is a lot of stigma attached to telling someone about sexual harassment.

**We will:**  
Think about learning on intersectional barriers.  
Consider Safer Schools Officers in all types of schools.  
make it easier for children to report sexual harassment.  
Share good practice with partners.  
Use child-friendly language in reporting.

Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership

Drawn by: [www.sandrahowgate.com](http://www.sandrahowgate.com)

### **Adultification Scrutiny**

Work continues to develop in response to the Adultification thematic scrutiny led by the MSCP's Independent Scrutineer and Young Scrutineer, with successful workshops delivered at the most recent Merton Race Equalities Conference for schools held on 30th June. We are setting up a Task and Finish group in direct response to the thematic scrutiny, and we would like to thank all those who have been in touch about getting involved so far. As part of the response, the MSCP is planning a lunch and learn session for partners, which will allow for wider dissemination of the Merton-specific work in response to adultification and Child Q. Also relevant to this work, the City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership has recently published an [Update Report on the Child Q review](#).

### **MSCP Full Partnership**

The MSCP Full Partnership met on 12 June and was well attended by multi-agency partners. The Safer Merton service led an item on Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) where breakout groups discussed what the MSCP can do to support this work, including the White Ribbon activity and further promoting guidance around VAWG. The partnership also heard young people's feedback on the stable homes, children's social care government consultation, and an update on local learning reviews and thematic scrutiny. The partnership will meet again in October.

### **MSCP/MSAB Joint Strategic Safeguarding Group**

On 12 June, the newly established Merton Strategic Safeguarding Group met for the first time. The group will be chaired by Hannah Doody (Chief Executive, LB of Merton) and co-chaired by Clair Kelland (Chief Commander SW, Met Police) and meet twice yearly to ensure senior leadership oversight of key strategic safeguarding issues affecting both children and adults in Merton. Membership will include senior leadership from the three statutory safeguarding partners (Local Authority, Integrated Care Board & Police) and the independent chair for Merton's safeguarding children partnership (MSCP) and safeguarding adults' board (MSAB).

### **ICON week**

ICON Week 2023 is from 25-29 September. Building on the success of last year, the ICON steering group is planning an exciting programme of webinars. See more details here: [ICON Week 2023 - ICON Cope](#)

### **Merton Uplift is now Merton Talking Therapies**

Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) services, has been renamed as **NHS Talking Therapies**. This was announced by NHS England in January 2023. The NHS Talking Therapies Services can help with a whole range of difficulties for anxiety and depression – people refer themselves or are referred by their GP or other professionals working with them.

Southwest London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust operates four NHS Talking therapies services across South West London, who are all accepting new referrals and are able to offer assignments within a few days. For Merton, this will be: **NHS Merton Talking Therapies** (previously Merton Uplift IAPT team).

Merton Uplift will remain the name for the rest of the community mental health services. Click [here](#) to read more about the name change and [here](#) for more information about NHS Talking Therapies.

## Upcoming 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 and share widely with your networks.

Most of the training listed below is virtual, but **please double check** when booking as we are beginning to hold some training in-person.

<b>Training</b>	<b>Date and Time</b>
<i>Clare's Law</i>	Tuesday 18 July 2023 (10:00 – 12:00) – <a href="#">Sign up here.</a>
<i>An Overview into Child Trafficking, Modern Slavery and Exploitation</i>	Tuesday 5 September 2023 (9:30 – 16:30) - <a href="#">Sign up here.</a>
<i>Evidence Based Interventions to support Parents experiencing conflict in their relationships</i>	Thursday 7 September 2023 (13:00 – 15:00) - <a href="#">Sign up here.</a>
<i>Multi-Agency Safeguarding</i>	Friday 8 September 2023 (9:30-12:30 – TBC) - <a href="#">Sign up here.</a>
<i>Effective Support for Families In Merton</i>	Wednesday 13 September 2023 (10:00 – 12:00) - <a href="#">Sign up here.</a>
<i>Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) training: Managing allegations against staff – Virtual session</i>	Thursday 28 September 2023 (10:00 – 13:00) - <a href="#">Sign up here.</a>
<i>Faith-Based Abuse and Forced Marriage</i>	Friday 29 September 2023 (10:00 – 15:30) - <a href="#">Sign up here.</a>
<i>Forced Marriage, Honour-Based Violence/Abuse and Female Genital Mutilation</i>	Tuesday 10 October 2023 (10:00 - 12:00) - <a href="#">Sign up here.</a>
<i>Part 1: Introduction to Contextual Safeguarding</i>	Monday 16 October 2023 (10.00 - 16.00) - <a href="#">Sign up here.</a>
<i>Domestic Violence and Abuse - Virtual Session</i>	Tuesday 17 October 2023 (9:30 - 12:00) - <a href="#">Sign up here.</a>
<i>Part 2: Implementing Contextual Safeguarding</i>	Tuesday 17 October 2023 (10.00 - 16.00) - <a href="#">Sign up here.</a>

### **Domestic Abuse resources**

Please note that the following resources and links are available to signpost people requiring support around domestic abuse.

- <https://wearehourglass.org/> - Hourglass supports older people experiencing domestic abuse.
- <https://www.pegssupport.co.uk/> - CAPA – Child and adolescent to Parent Abuse.
- Other support is on: <https://www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/crime-prevention-and-community-safety/domestic-violence>



## 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)</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 behavior.
<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:

Date and Time	Place
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**

### **Working Together Consultation has opened!**

DfE are seeking views on the revisions to Working Together to Safeguard Children Statutory guidance. **As key children's safeguarding partners in Merton, we encourage you to share your views.** [Click here to participate](#). Throughout this period, the DfE will also be running engagement events, to help partner agencies and stakeholders involved in children's social care to engage with the consultation process. You can sign up for sessions at this link: [Free Online Working Together To Safeguard Children Events](#)

### **National Review of Non-Accidental Injury in Under 1s**

In this webinar, Elie Godsi provides an understanding of his role in the National Review and the work he did interviewing male perpetrators of injuries in Under 1s. The focus is on drawing out lessons for professionals to understand the key factors that must be recognised to identify those children most at risk of harm. [To watch the webinar, click here](#)

### **Mandatory Reporting for CSA – Call for Evidence**

Following the government's response to the IICSA report, a consultation regarding Mandatory Reporting is open until 14<sup>th</sup> August. Views and evidence are sought from a wide range of stakeholders. Please share with your networks so as broad a view as possible is gained into the challenges and opportunities around the implementation of mandatory reporting. [Mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse: call for evidence](#)

### **Consultation – Information Sharing Advice**

The Government consultation on a revision to the Information Sharing Advice for Practitioners is now live. Within the Information Sharing Advice, it outlines the professional responsibilities and key principles of sharing information about children/young people/their families to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The consultation is running for **11 weeks**, closing on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September**. If you would like to contribute, more details can be found here: [Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

### **Keeping Children Safe in Education for September 2023**

The DfE has uploaded the latest version of Keeping Children Safe in Education ready for implementation in September 2023. You can find it here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

The government has made few changes this year. The key topic to be aware of is around the implementation of the newly published standards for 'Filtering and Monitoring'. In particular, all staff are to understand their role in this and DSLs are expected to have the 'lead responsibility'. The standards can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/meeting-digital-and-technology-standards-in-schools-and-colleges/filtering-and-monitoring-standards-for-schools-and-colleges>

### **Library of case reviews**

The NSPCC Library hosts the national collection of case reviews, where you can search all published local child safeguarding practice reviews, including by theme. [See more details here](#)

### **Child Sexual Abuse Network Events – South London**

- 20th July - Social work focus - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/csa-pathway-lunch-and-learn-social-work-focus-tickets-658315448227>
- 26th July - FREE all-day workshop on Pre-Trial Therapy with The Bluestar Project - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/csa-pathway-pre-trial-therapy-workshop-tickets-658568775937>

### **LSCP Training**

The LSCP is the London Safeguarding Children Partnership, and they provide some free training advertised [here on their website](#). The following session is taking place in July:

	Course Details
<b>Tue, 18 July 2023, 10:00 – 13:00</b>	<b><u>DBS – Playing a part in safer recruitment</u></b>  Delivered by Kiran Rehal is the DBS Regional Outreach Adviser for Greater London  Please book using this link: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dbs-playing-a-part-in-safer-recruitment-tickets-667007506407?aff=oddtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dbs-playing-a-part-in-safer-recruitment-tickets-667007506407?aff=oddtcreator</a>

## **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**

### **August 2023**

*Thursday 3 August 2023 (12:00-13:00) – Executive Meeting*

*Monday 7 August 2023 (9:30-11:30) – Prevention & Early Intervention Subgroup*

*Tuesday 14 August 2023 (10:30-12:30) – Policy and Training Subgroup*

*Thursday 24 August 2023 (10:30-12:30) – Subgroup Chairs*

### **September 2023**

*Wednesday 6 September 2023 (14:00-16:00) – Quality Assurance & Practice Review Subgroup*

*Thursday 7 September 2023 (12:30-13:00) – Executive meeting*

*Monday 11 September 2023 (14:00-16:00) – Effective Safeguarding & Support Subgroup*

*Monday 18 September 2023 (10:30-12:30) – Subgroup Chairs*

*Tuesday 26 September 2023 (14:00-16:00) – Promote & Protect Young People Subgroup*