



Merton
Safeguarding
Children Partnership

Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership

News Bulletin October 2024



Welcome to the October edition of the MSCP News Bulletin! We hope you are enjoying the beautiful autumn colours and are staying warm. 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 the bulletins via emailing mertonscp@merton.gov.uk.

We gave a warm welcome back to Service Manager, Maisie Davies, to the Performance, Improvement and Partnerships team from her maternity leave – we are very happy to have her back!

Christina Pace joined us as the new Director of Strategy, Commissioning and Partnerships in Children, Lifelong Learning and Families in September. Christina has already made a big positive impact on the department staff and we are very pleased to welcome her to the MSCP!

We said goodbye to Rafiq this month. During his time with CLLF, Rafiq successfully made a brilliant impact on the processing and completion of SARs, as well as helping shape a new role and process in Merton. Rafiq will be very missed by the team, and we wish him the best of luck in his new role in Brokerage.

We welcomed our supported intern, Widad Makki, to our team. Widad will be with the Performance, Improvement and Partnerships team for the upcoming months, and we are excited to support her in gaining valuable experience.



Headline News

Black History Month October 2024 - Reclaiming Narratives

Black Child Safeguarding Roundtable

The Alliance for Police Accountability held their Black Child Safeguarding Roundtable on 9th October 2024, following their recent Policing and the Black Child Conference held in May 2024, ultimately to create the London Black Child Safeguarding Board.

It was explained the Board is dedicated to addressing systemic harm caused to Black children by examining violent child arrests and the trauma inflicted by systemic police racism through a public health lens. Additionally, the Board advocates for strategic recommendations, including the introduction of an automatic statutory safeguarding referral for all children subjected to violent arrest or strip search. Moreover, they also aim to create a Critical Incident Protocol for child arrests and explore how communities can reduce harm through the Public Health Tackling Serious Violence Charter.

It was highlighted the Met Police counts of mistreatment of Black children are possibly significantly underestimated, and one of the goals of the group is to work with the families affected by trauma along with wider community-based services.

The call for needing wider creativity to bring Met Police to account was emphasised due to internal/usual structures seeming to be failing. Significant concerns were discussed around increasing levels of police presence in schools with higher ethnic minority numbers. Specific attention needing to be given to Black LGBTQ+ young people was also discussed.

Wider conversation around having innovation and good practice roundtables was discussed.

To find out more information, please visit: [Action for Race Equality](#)

Inner Strength Network: Girls Empowered to Lead and Black Girls Included

Maureen Bailey, CEO of Inner Strength Network (ISN), has confirmed Girls Empowered to Lead groups will start back on 4th November 2024, and the ISN are still taking registrations for 10–12-year-olds and 13–16-year-olds. These sessions are usually held at Vestry Hall but older students sessions may be held online depending on the need.

The ISN plans to launch Black Girls Included (BGI) in January 2025.

Black Girls Included sessions have been designed for girls who identify as black and are looking for a safe space to share and receive support whilst also being educated. Sessions will have elements of fun where girls will be encouraged to take their rightful SEAT in society:

S

Empower

A

Thrive in spite of

Outcomes of the sessions measurable include:

- Increased engagement in education, and evidence of that is increased attendance and attainment
- Reduction of risk in relationship to exclusion
- Increase in self-esteem and motivation
- Equip a child with educational tools to help them with their life skills

To log your interest in joining or registering, please access the QR codes by clicking on the icons to the posters below:



BGI poster 24.jpg



GEL Poster 24 .jpg

Key definitions explained and upcoming training

Adultification is when notions of innocence and vulnerability are not afforded to certain children; this is determined by people and institutions who hold power over them. When adultification occurs outside of the home it is always founded within discrimination and bias. (Jahnine Davis, 2022)

Intersectionality is a metaphor for understanding the ways that multiple forms of inequality or disadvantage sometimes compound themselves and create obstacles that often are not understood among conventional ways of thinking. (Kimberle Crenshaw, 1989)

Anti-racist practice actively identifies and opposes racism; it aims to challenge racist ideas and actions by changing policies, behaviours and beliefs that perpetuate racial inequalities and discrimination.

Work is taking place within the Adultification and Anti-Racism Task & Finish group in the MSCP, and they are now working to develop the MSCP Anti-Racist compact and will shortly be rolling out a short dip-sample audit.

The next Adultification training session provided by the MSCP is on **Tuesday 5th November 2024 (10.00 - 12.00)**; to book onto this **free virtual event** please visit:

[Event : Adultification-Workshop - 26986](#)

Race Equality Network (REN) Spotlights

The Race Equality Network (REN) provides staff with an opportunity to come together to support and celebrate each other in achievements as well as have a collective voice. REN aims to promote inclusivity and advance anti-discriminatory practices in the workplace by:

- Providing a safe space for sharing experiences and workplace concerns.
- Amplifying staff voices to drive positive organisational change.
- Contributing to a culture of respect in the workplace across all protected groups.
- Offering networking and development opportunities.
- Collaborating with staff networks to celebrate diversity and cultural events.
- Organising events that promote inclusion and diversity.
- Advising on policy to enhance HR and EDI strategies.
- Facilitating communication between staff and leaders on impactful decisions.

This Black History Month, Spotlight editions were published on the Hub from members sharing their journeys; voices of Simone Moore, Kay Dove, and Nathan Liburd reflecting on their experiences through interviews and pictures can be heard and shared through visiting the links to their articles below:

[Nathan Liburd: Race Equality Network \(REN\) Spotlights for BHM 2024](#)

[Simone Moore: Race Equality Network \(REN\) Spotlights for BHM 2024](#)

[Kay Dove: Race Equality Network \(REN\) Spotlights for BHM 2024](#)

To join the network or their mailing list, please contact: REN@merton.gov.uk

School Improvement - Black Lives Matter and Equalities Forum

The Black Lives Matter and Equalities Forum consists of representatives from schools across Merton including headteachers, governors, teachers, and support staff as well as LA officers from teams across Merton Council. The forum's purpose is to help drive work across Merton schools on the anti-racism agenda.

Over the last three years, Merton's Black Lives Matter and Equalities Forum have:

- ✓ Heard directly from young people in Merton about the work they are doing to promote inclusion.
- ✓ Provided a forum for teachers, school leaders, governors, and LA officers to explore issues around ethnicity.

- ✓ Had experts in the field sharing their latest research findings.
- ✓ Organised training for schools and governors.
- ✓ Provided conferences with national speakers and workshops to promote EDI.

The School Improvement's BLM Strategy to address racism and racial inequality across Merton schools aims to:

- Close the gaps seen in the data for pupils across different ethnicities in Merton.
- Ensure they listen to our young people about their lived experiences.
- Learn more about how the education system within Merton can address racism and the Black Lives Matter agenda.
- Address the under-representation of Black culture and history within the curriculum.
- Increase the proportion of Global Majority groups represented within the teaching and leadership population in Merton schools.
- Address the trauma experienced by our pupils as a result of overt and covert racism.

The next BLM Forum will be on Thursday 28th November 3:30-5pm in person. To sign up to this event, please visit:

[Event : Black-Lives-Matter--Race-Equality-in-Education-Forum - 27921](#)

Please contact alison.cramp@merton.gov.uk for further information, or if you require any assistance with booking your place, please contact cpd@merton.gov.uk

NSPCC Safeguarding Children training resources

The NSPCC have developed a training resource aimed at safeguarding facilitators and other adults working with families who come from Black, Asian and minoritised ethnic communities to help them learn about childcare practices which may be positive or harmful.

Designed to enable parents and other adults to reflect on issues affecting children, and relate these issues to their own experiences; the modules were developed in partnership with people who come from Black, Asian and minoritised ethnic communities, and can also be used by other communities. It was designed to start group discussions on issues such as: child abuse; parents' rights and responsibilities; the roles of statutory and voluntary agencies; and sources of support for families in the community for facilitators.

To access the modules and more information, please visit: [Keeping our children safe | NSPCC Learning](#)

Upcoming Events and Information:

Grand Union have a **free** inspiring talk about Black History Month, examining both its legacy and potential future directions in London on November 7th. Speaker, producer and presenter **Rosemary Layrea** and Black History Month UK **Founder Akyaaba Addai-Sebo** will be leading this talk and thought-provoking event. To register your interest and book a place, please visit: [Celebrate Black History Month at Grand Union Tickets, Thu, Nov 7, 2024 at 6:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

As part of their Reclaiming Narratives Lecture Series, UAL's Lynnette Goddard, Professor of Black Theatre and Performance, is holding their **free** talk on decolonising course content to support the intersectionality of students. In this lecture series, community changemakers address social and racial justice and its impacts on art and design pedagogy. This exciting event is open to all and is taking place at the **Wimbledon College of Arts Theatre** on Wednesday 4th December. To find out more and reserve your place, please visit: [UAL Black History Month: Reclaiming Narratives | Lynnette Goddard Tickets, Wed, Dec 4, 2024 at 2:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Faiths Women Community UK have a **free** in-person event in London on Sunday 24th November to celebrate Black History Month. Poetry readings, physical health exercise activities, sewing lessons and food sharing is to be included. To reserve a spot and find out more, please visit: [FWCUK BLACK HISTORY MONTH Tickets, Sun 24 Nov 2024 at 14:00 | Eventbrite](#)

For more information on solution-based approaches and education on Race Equality, please visit these helpful links below:

[Introducing Action for Race Equality | Trust for London](#)

[Race Equality Foundation – a national charity tackling racial inequality](#)

Local News

London Borough of Merton Council Staff Conference 2024

The Merton Staff Conference this year took place on the 17th September at AFC Wimbledon; the conference offered a chance for ideas and suggestions to be shared with senior leaders to explore the service LBM provides to residents and colleagues together.



Living our values illustration by Sandra Howgate

The chance to connect with colleagues from across Merton, as well as receiving updates from Directors, provided insight into how we work together to achieve positive outcomes across the community. Hannah Doody, Merton's Executive Director, extended her appreciation to colleagues working tremendously hard to deliver the changes and values to nurture Merton as a collective.

MSCP Annual Report 2023-24

The MSCP Annual Report was published in September and provides an overview of the performance of the Merton Safeguarding Children Board during April 2023 to March 2024. The report consists of a collaborative approach from professionals and leaders across the Partnership to strengthen safeguarding practice as well as ensuring that the voices of children are well embedded, at both an individual and strategic level.

To access the full document, please visit: [Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report for 2023-24 \(mertonscp.org.uk\)](https://mertonscp.org.uk)

ICON Week 2024:

ICON Week 2024 took place from 23rd-27th September 2024 and was created in raising awareness about infant crying and how to manage it, supporting parents and carers, and preventing serious injuries, illnesses, and even fatalities caused by Abusive Head Trauma, often resulting from shaking a baby.

This year's ICON Week focussed on sharing ideas and best practices. Thank you to all who engaged with the MSCP; the e-learning is now available on our website: [eLearning : MSCP-ICON-Babies-cry-you-can-cope](#)

The date of the next ICON Lunch and Learn event is **Wednesday 20th November (13:00 - 14:00)** and is being led by Janet Edwards, Designated Nurse for Safeguarding

Children at the NHS SWL ICB. To sign up to this event, please click the link: [Event : ICON-Lunch-and-Learn-Session - 27069](#)

As always, please send any successes and good news stories to the MSCP at: MertonSCP@merton.gov.uk

VAWG Updates

The VAWG Strategy sets out how Merton will respond to support anyone experiencing VAWG, domestic abuse, forced marriage and honour-based violence, sexual violence, this also includes supporting men as victims.

Their priorities are:

Partnership Objective 1: Raise awareness and coordinated partnership working

Partnership Objective 2: Prevent VAWG through early intervention

Partnership Objective 3: Support victims, survivors and their children

Partnership Objective 4: Hold perpetrators to account

Partnership Objective 5: Improve the safety of women and girls

For more information, please visit <https://www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/crime-prevention-and-community-safety/vawg>

Please find the updates below:

- The strategy is being refreshed and a new version will be launched December 2025; the call to complete the professionals survey has commenced by visiting: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=MiTusDwn7UmHlhx_P597tgnzQP39ISVCmwfmlcwCM7pUOERSSjdFQVhVMVcyWU1IINlg1U0tPU0NHTC4u
- A Women's Running Club has been set up with the Borough of Sport & Community Safety; several women have volunteered to be run leaders and have set up running clubs in their community. The first run group now meets regularly at Cannons Leisure Centre; to find out more, visit: <https://groups.runtogether.co.uk/MertonWomenRun/Runs/Summary/f779b98e-f604-42cb-96cd-a8fe200f7f4a>
- Merton have secured funding to work with Voice Box working with boys, with Drama & Discussion Based Programs on Masculinity, VAWG & Healthy Relationships.
- Home Office funding with St Giles are providing mentee work in Ursuline and Melbury secondary schools with young girls until 31st March 2025. The mentees provide 1:1 support with empowerment, relationships to young girls in Ursuline and Melbury secondary schools. The Youth Detached Team will also have a young women's worker.

White Ribbon Day (25th November) offers men and women specific ways of making a difference in this important movement, with the aim to make this work part of everyone's everyday business to call out behaviours either with internal staff or our residents. If you want to be a champion or ambassador, please contact Dawn Helps - dawn.helps@merton.gov.uk.

The 16 days against violence and abuse campaign runs from 25th November, White Ribbon Day, to 10th December every year. Current plans consist of:

- Stalls at Merton College
- White Ribbon flag outside Merton Civic Centre
- Stalls in the libraries with information and relevant books
- Work with Wimbledon Football Club – 3rd December home game
- White Ribbon Walk on 9th December
- Discussions with GLL to work in the leisure centres and discuss female only gym & swimming sessions
- Social media articles and posts

If you have an event or would like to be involved, please contact: Dawn.helps@merton.gov.uk or W.Marcinkiewicz@merton.gov.uk

As part of the 16 days campaign this year, **Surviving Economic Abuse webinar** is being held on **27th November**. This training is being run across Merton, Kingston, Richmond and Wandsworth.

This webinar will enable staff to understand what economic abuse is, how to spot the signs and know the difference that professionals can make to victim-survivors. An opportunity for a Q&A will be included within the session to share experiences and provide an opportunity to direct questions to one of the economic abuse specialist trainers from SEA.

This training is for all professionals within the 4 boroughs. Please share with your teams and see the poster below for more details:



SEA webinar -
27.11.24.docx

The link to sign up to training: [Training Registration Form - Surviving Economic Abuse](#)

Professionals are urged to ensure they add what borough they're from on the registration so how many Merton professionals attend can be seen.

PAC – Prevent and Change, perpetrator programme

There has been Home Office grant funding for delivery of the PAC – Prevent and Change, perpetrator programme across 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2025 (two year project). Grant funding is managed by Lambeth, as lead borough, and goes to Richmond Fellowship, NOW Waythrough (perpetrator intervention), Refuge (victim/survivor support), and Cambridge Centre for Evidence Based Policing (Evaluation).

The project aims to (1) increase the safety and wellbeing of victims and survivors and associated children, (2) to prevent new and / or further victimisation and harm.

Outcomes are achieved by delivering multi-agency panels, system change and targeted partnership intervention, as well as direct and integrated support.

Q2 2024 – 2025 Key Activities & Achievements for Merton data includes: 5 referrals, 1 suitable for direct work, 0 engagement. The PAC worker now based in the Children's Hub – formally MASH team.

It is currently unknown what funding will be available past March 2025, therefore the 7 boroughs have started planning the projects closure; last referrals must be made 31st December.

Chaucer Centre Closure

Following the Merton Staff Conference, it was confirmed the Chaucer Centre will be closing for those who use it as an office and as a training centre at the end of February 2025. Work to convert the Chaucer Centre building into a temporary free SEND school site will start in April 2025, and the building will open in September.

It was reported by Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, those with office space at the Chaucer Centre will begin their move prior to February; Education and Early Help SLT are considering how the team can welcome those teams to the Civic Centre as well as accommodate colleagues.

A list of alternative venues for training post-February 2025 is currently being devised and is set to be shared once in its final form.

Training and Events:

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

Training	Date and Time
Adultification Workshop	Tuesday 5TH November 2024 (10.00 - 12.00)
Introduction to CAPHB Assessments *SEE DETAILS*	TUESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2024 (10:00 - 16:00)
Evidence Based Interventions to support Parents experiencing conflict in their relationships training	MONDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2024 (14:00 - 17:00)
Multi Agency Safeguarding Training	THURSDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2024 (09.30 - 12.30)
Children Adolescent to Parent Harmful Behaviour CAPHB Awareness Training	FRIDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2024 (13.30 - 16.30)
Effective Support for Families In Merton training	TUESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2024 (10:00 - 12:00)
ICON Lunch and Learn Session	WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2024 (13:00 - 14:00)

SEEN Training

SEEN is a Banardo's initiative that aims to offer systemic change by challenging structural inequalities that hinder opportunities for children and young people of African, Asian, and Caribbean heritage to have a fair and equitable future. SEEN offer half-day and full-day sessions for practioners; to find out more information, please follow this link: [Training - Seen \(weareseen.org.uk\)](https://weareseen.org.uk)

Mencap Kids First Events

Mencap have announced their upcoming events for this Autumn/Winter:

Merton Short Breaks Consultation proposals talk – TBA November 10am-12pm – Chaucer Centre

SEND Update with Elizabeth Fitzpatrick and Karla Finikin – Zoom meeting Friday 15th November 10am-12pm

Police and Youth Engagement – PC Sophie Lawrence SEND Youth Engagement and Diversion Officer – Thursday 5th December 10am-12pm

To find out more about the upcoming events or to enquire about securing your place please email: kf.admin@mertonmencap.org.uk and visit: [Support for people with a learning disability in the London Borough of Merton - Merton Mencap](#)

Additionally, to find out more information about the events please click the icon below:



Kids First
events_September -

CSA Network Events - Enhancing the Sexual Abuse Pathway for CYP in South London – 2024/25

After a full programme in 2023/24, the Lunch and Learn events are back as part of year 2 of the Enhancing the Sexual Abuse Pathway for CYP. The Lunch and Learn sessions are hosted by local services across South London and provide an opportunity for professionals to find out about the development of services and new resources.

This series will be focusing on the launch of the new Shared Resources created by project managers from Women and Girls Network, RASASC, The Havens, We Stand, LB Bromley, independent local experts, and lived experience consultants.

All Lunch and Learn sessions are online on Microsoft Teams from 12:30 – 1:30pm. **Please sign up for the survey links below.**

Date	Topic	Presenters	Sign up links
5th Nov 2024	Launch of “Guide to working with/employing people with lived experience.”	Lived Experience Project team – Abi, Isa, and Beth	https://forms.gle/zTpczbPMbCq6pPwy5
3rd Dec 2024	Launch of “Guide to Running Groups”	Groups guide project team – Chris and Jan	https://forms.gle/8rPyopr2QdkHU9CG9

LSCP Gaming and Gambling Awareness Training

The LSCP is pleased to inform that they are continuing to collaborate with YGAM www.ygam.org. YGAM deliver training on Safeguarding Children in relation to Gaming and Gambling. Unlike the other sessions that LSCP offers, these are designed specifically for different areas of work.

Several sessions are available on Tuesday 12th November, and there will be more dates in the new year - please use these links to book on:

Workshop Day 1 – Tuesday 12th November 2024

<u>Time of Session</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Session Type</u>	<u>Booking Link</u>
<u>9:30am-12:30pm</u>	<u>3 Hours</u>	<u>Supporting Children in Care</u>	<u>Book Here</u>
<u>9:30am-11:30am</u>	<u>2 Hours</u>	<u>Youth Workers</u>	<u>Book Here</u>
<u>9:30am-12:00pm</u>	<u>2.5 Hours</u>	<u>Early Help</u>	<u>Book Here</u>
<u>13:30pm-15:30pm</u>	<u>2 Hours</u>	<u>Health and Social Care</u>	<u>Book Here</u>
<u>13:30pm-15:30pm</u>	<u>2 Hours</u>	<u>Community and Faith Leaders</u>	<u>Book Here</u>
<u>15:45pm-17:45pm</u>	<u>2 Hours</u>	<u>Education and Teachers</u>	<u>Book Here</u>

Technology-facilitated abuse training

In recent years, the use of technology has become an integral part of daily life as well as a key feature in the perpetuation of abuse. In cooperation with Merton Safer Neighbourhood board, Refuge is holding free sessions on Technology-Facilitated abuse this autumn for professionals working in Merton, to help make sure survivors get the best support possible; they are offering the following courses:

Introduction to Tech Abuse

(3.5 hours, CPD accredited)

This course is an introductory training session that is suitable for **all professionals working with survivors** that are experiencing or might be at risk of technology-facilitated abuse in online spaces. This course is **essential for support services** and is highly recommended for companies or organisations that have online services and/or platforms. We'll ensure you can recognise, risk assess and respond to a range of the most common forms of Technology-Facilitated abuse.

Dates available:

Tuesday, 15th October (AM), 9:30 – 13:00
Monday, 28th October (PM), 13:30 – 17:00
Thursday, 14th November (AM), 9:30 – 13:00

Evidence Gathering and the Criminal Justice System

(3.5 hours, CPD accredited)

Technology-facilitated abuse is a particularly complex form of abuse and gathering enough evidence to **secure investigation** and prosecution can be very difficult for a survivor to do alone.

The aim of this training is to **equip law enforcement agencies**, legal professionals and statutory agencies with the **knowledge to recognise and respond to technology-facilitated abuse**, support survivors with gathering evidence and understand the legal framework in which these crimes can be prosecuted.

Dates available:

Wednesday, 27th November (AM), 9:30 – 13:00
Tuesday, 10th December (AM), 9:30 – 13:00

To book, please email your preferred date and training session to: techabusetraining@refuge.org.uk with the subject line 'MERTON'.

The **Met Cyber Crime Unit** has also offered Tech-Abuse training dates in January and February 2025.

The training, which was co-developed with the National Cyber Security Centre, is designed to educate practitioners in the risks that technology poses in domestic abuse, stalking and harassment cases. The workshop helps to identify how different technologies and devices can be used to further abuse victims and what can be done to help safeguard them from cyber-enabled abuse.

There are 2 sessions:

1 hour session on 22nd January 2025 at 1.30pm – 2.30pm

4 hours session on 20th February 2025 at 10am – 2pm

If you would like to attend the sessions in 2025, please email zoe.gallen@merton.gov.uk to receive the calendar invite.

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 or alternatively visit our website for more information at 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) 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)</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

Family Hub Training

The Family Hub have developed a series of bitesize overview modules focused on meeting the needs of our local communities for each of the 24 'core' services to support all family hub partners to:

- Develop an **understanding of each service area**.
- Have **knowledge of the tools and services** available in Merton (including referral pathways).
- Understand the **resources available locally and nationally** when supporting families.

To access these bitesize modules and find out more information, please click the following link: [Family Hub - Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership \(mertonscp.org.uk\)](http://mertonscp.org.uk)

ESOL Services

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, or visit 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. Please call 020 8545 4146.

Upcoming surgeries meetings are as follows:

Wednesday 13th November 2024 - 12.00pm - 1.00pm - Civic Centre

Wednesday 11th December 2024 - 12.00pm - 1.00pm - Civic Centre

Regional/National News

JTAI Updates

It was reported JTAI documents have been fully reviewed and updated ahead of inspections starting in Autumn 2024. Updated guidance on joint inspections of the response to children who are victims of domestic abuse are included in these new editions. To access the updated JTAI documents please visit:

[Joint inspections of the response to children who are victims of domestic abuse - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118212/jtai-guidance-2024.pdf)

[Joint targeted area inspections to focus on domestic abuse - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118212/jtai-guidance-2024.pdf)

Schools Management Information: Release Schedule

The release schedule for monthly management information for state-funded-schools inspections and outcomes has been announced. To find out more please visit:

[State-funded school inspections and outcomes: management information - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118212/jtai-guidance-2024.pdf)

Preparing For Healthy Relationships – Primary Teacher Toolkit

The charity Tender are pleased to announce the development of a 'Preparing for Healthy Relationships' toolkit. This free resource, developed with MOPAC, for schools teaching primary-age children, contains information to increase understanding and confidence around Gender-Based Abuse and support services; activities to facilitate conversations with children around healthy relationships, consent and keeping safe; guidance on facilitating these important conversations in an engaging, age-appropriate and trauma-informed way, and resources developed with RSE guidance to help meet key elements of the RSE/PSHE curriculum.

To access this toolkit as well as more information on Tender's projects, please visit: <https://tender.org.uk/our-services/training/toolkit-training>

Safer Homes Carbon Monoxide alarm scheme

Southern Gas Networks and NSPCC have partnered up to keep vulnerable families safer and warmer as winter approaches; they are offering families a **free** Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarm if they don't already have one, alongside a Safer Homes leaflet which provides tips and links to sources of help with fuel costs.

Safer Homes recommend the leaflet is shared with parents by:

- Adding it to your Local Safeguarding Partnership/Board website – in the parents area.
- Circulating it via school's parent mail
- Sending it your practitioners who directly work with families, along with this short (2min 41secs) [video to increase their knowledge on CO safety and the Safer Homes offer.](#)

For access to the Safer Homes leaflet, please click the document below:



Safer Homes Leaflet
v3 2024 OCT.pdf

This offer ends on **30th May 2025**, or while stocks last.

Important Contacts

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

Please find upcoming MSCP meeting dates below:

November

Executive Group Meeting – Thursday 7th November 12:30-13:30

Effective Safeguarding and Support Subgroup – Thursday 21st November 10:00-12:00
Subgroup Chairs Meeting – Monday 25th November 10:30-12:00
Quality Assurance & Practice Review Subgroup – Monday 25th November 13:00-15:00

December

Executive Group Meeting – Thursday 5th December 12:30-13:30

January

Executive Group Meeting – Thursday 2nd January 12:30-13:30
Prevention & Early Intervention Subgroup – Monday 13th January 14:00-16:00
Promote and Protect Young People Subgroup – Tuesday 21st January 14:00-16:00
Subgroup Chairs Meeting – Monday 27th January 10:30-12:00