



# Safeguarding Briefing

January 2026



Happy New Year and welcome back. We know that January can be tricky for all sorts of reasons - don't forget that the team is **always here to listen** and support if you need someone to talk to. As Hayley always says: ***remember, you are human first.***



## Updates from the Education Safeguarding Team

### Update the DSL Contact Sheet



Please update the DSL contact sheet if needed so that we have correct contact details for DSLs in your school. This is shared with social care so it is important that this is accurate. Please read the guidance below:



[How to update the DSL contact sheet](#)

## The Myth of Invisible Men

THE CHILD  
SAFEGUARDING  
PRACTICE REVIEW PANEL

This [national review](#) by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel investigates why fathers and male carers - despite being disproportionately responsible for serious harm or death of babies under one year - remain largely “invisible” within safeguarding systems.

### Key findings include:

**Disproportionate Risk:** Fathers are 2–15 times more likely than mothers to inflict non-accidental injuries on babies.

**Systemic Blind Spots:** Universal and specialist services often fail to engage fathers, leaving risks unassessed.

Although the report focuses on babies under one, the **key recommendations** are applicable to all:

Safeguarding systems must **make the invisible visible** by:

- Actively engaging fathers.
- Understanding their vulnerabilities and histories.
- Designing services that challenge/support men as parents.

### In light of this, CFCS requests that DSLs:

- Have professional curiosity around the men in the child and family’s life - ask, observe etc
- When completing referrals, include names and information about men in the child and family’s lives.

### DEADLINE

**S175 Audit - Extended Deadline - 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026** Thank you to everyone who has completed this so far. If you did not receive the original email about the audit (sent 29<sup>th</sup> September) please contact [suttonlscp@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:suttonlscp@sutton.gov.uk)



## Sutton Events and Training



### Bitesize Training - Spring CPD - Neglect



The next [Bitesize Training video](#) is now available for you to view. The training focuses on neglect: the signs of neglect, how to log concerns and how to use threshold documents for referrals.

## Sutton Virtual School - Trauma Training for Designated Teachers

 **Monday 12th January, 3:30pm–5:00pm - VIRTUAL**

 **Meeting Link:** <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/39508003876880?p=75HRhf5d23SuQaQrfM>

This training will be led by our COGNUS Education Psychologist and is designed to:

- Refresh your knowledge of trauma and its impact on learning and behaviour.
- Explore practical strategies to support Children Looked After (CLA) in school.
- Strengthen your confidence in recognising and responding to trauma-related needs.

We strongly encourage all designated teachers to attend, as this session will provide valuable insights and tools to support vulnerable pupils effectively. We will be recording attendance, and all participants will receive a certificate of completion following the session.

 **Please confirm your attendance by emailing: [georgia.doncaster@cognus.org.uk](mailto:georgia.doncaster@cognus.org.uk)**

## Training From the Education Safeguarding Team

<https://suttontraining.event-booking.org/>

Select 'Cognus Safeguarding' in the category section

## Sutton LSCP Child Protection Training Workshops

**Child Protection Refresher** - 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026

**Child Protection Awareness** - 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026

For details and to book, click [here](#)

## The CSA Centre - Free webinars

Between January and July 2026, the CSA is holding **six free online sessions** to support safeguarding partners to reflect, plan and lead the implementation of the recommendations for safeguarding partners in England, set out in the 2024 [National review into child sexual abuse within the family environment](#). Each workshop will take a closer look at the recommendations.

 **Book onto an individual session:**

**Wednesday 14th January** - [Workshop 1: Strategic planning](#)

**Tuesday 3rd February** - [Workshop 2: Professional knowledge, skills and confidence](#)

**Thursday 12th March** - [Workshop 3: Enquiries and investigations](#)

**Thursday 21st May** - [Workshop 4: Assessment of people presenting risk of sexual harm](#)

**Wednesday 17th June** - [Workshop 5: Talking to children](#)

**Monday 13th July** - [Workshop 6: Health](#)



## Group Supervision With Other Schools

View our latest group supervision testimonial from Jonathan Walters at Tweeddale here: [Supervision Testimonials – Cognus](#)

A huge thank you to Jonathan for taking the time to share this.

[Event : COGNUS-VIRTUAL---Group-A-DSL-Supervision-20252026 - 31499](#)

[Event : COGNUS-VIRTUAL---Group-B-DSL-Supervision-20252026 - 31500](#)

Any issues with booking, please email [cpdadmin@cognus.org.uk](mailto:cpdadmin@cognus.org.uk) and we will get you booked on.



## CPD Opportunities - Shadowing Our Team

Interested in shadowing the Education Safeguarding Team when we carry out safeguarding reviews and training? If so, please get in touch.



## Guidance & Protocol Updates and Consultations



## VAWG strategy to better protect children from misogyny and abuse

The government's new Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy will focus on healthy relationships and consent, and tackle relationship abuse through a new helpline. Read more [here](#).

## New guidance - Restrictive interventions, including the use of reasonable force, in schools

This will replace the 'Use of reasonable force in schools' guidance **from 1 April 2026**.

### Key updates:

- new statutory guidance about recording and reporting the use of force
- advice about the new legal duty to record and report the use of seclusion
- additional clarification on the use of reasonable force to help school staff use this power safely and appropriately
- advice on the use of seclusion
- advice on how schools can minimise the need to use restrictive interventions
- specific support for staff who work with pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- clearer outlining of the responsibilities of school staff, governing bodies and proprietors

Read the full document [here](#)

## FE Providers - RSE & Health Education Statutory Guidance Update

Annex B: resources for Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education - now includes a link to an RSE toolkit for FE providers.  
[Relationship Sex Education Toolkit for the... | Association of Colleges](#)

## EYFS - Early Years Qualifications and Standards Update

The following requirements from the [Early Years Qualifications and Standards](#) document have now come into force:

*The qualifications that staff must hold to be included in the specified staff:child ratios at levels 2, 3 and 6 of the early years foundation stage (EYFS).*



## Updates from Partners

## New Video: How to make a good quality CFCS referral for a concern about a Sutton child

Available on Sutton Council's website: <https://www.sutton.gov.uk/w/report-a-concern-about-a-child> under the 'For professionals' section.

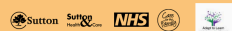
 [Watch on YouTube](#)



## Signposting for Parents - Parenting Support Courses & Groups

### Parenting Support Offer

London Borough of Sutton  
Family Hubs



Spring/Summer dates have been released for Sutton Family Hubs' parenting support programmes. Click [here](#) for full details of courses and support on offer.

A range of parent coffee mornings/evenings and men's groups are available at Sutton Family Hubs - 2026 dates and details can be found [here](#).



Signpost to parents on your website or newsletter



Share with your pastoral teams so they are up-to-date with what is on offer for families



## Women's Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop - New Location



This has now moved from Sutton Baptist Church to **Thomas Wall Community Hall**.



[New posters for signposting](#)

### Education Wellbeing Service

## EWS Spring Parent Workshops

Please find attached the Education Wellbeing Service Spring schedule for schools to distribute and circulate via your communication channels. You will see there is one QR code on the posters now which will take the parents/carers to the series of webinars planned for spring and the rest of the school year.



[Posters for...](#)

[EYFS](#) [EFYS Feeding](#) [Primary](#) [Secondary Schools](#)



[Text for newsletters or social media to promote to parents](#)

[EYFS & Primary](#) [Secondary Schools](#)


## Police Contacts - updated with mobile numbers

Please see the updated list: [Police Contacts Jan '26](#)



Please contribute to a short survey as part of a new research project examining how vulnerable children are supported through four early educational transitions: Early Years to Reception; Reception to Year One; KS1 to KS2; Primary to Secondary.

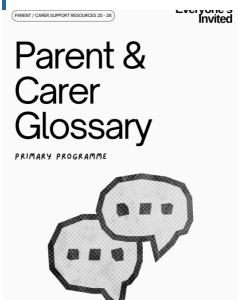
We are particularly focused on **children who are Black and minoritised, SEND, SEMH, care experienced or from low socioeconomic backgrounds**, as these groups remain overrepresented in exclusion, low attainment and youth justice data. We are developing a prototype *Transitional Safeguarding Framework* and your insights will play a crucial role in shaping its design.

London Councils (the collective of local government in London).  **Survey link:**  
<https://form.typeform.com/to/U0j0LerG>



## Resources

### Glossary of CYP terminology



A collection of words and phrases commonly used by children and young people at home, at school and online. There are three sections:

1. **General slang terminology**
2. **Incel related terminology**
3. **Gang related terminology**

It is important to update yourselves and your staff as some words and phrases are harmful and therefore must be recognised and challenged. They may also signal involvement with harmful interests or groups. Please also share with parents.


 [Glossary](#)

### New resource for parents



The Children's Commissioner for England has published a guide which:


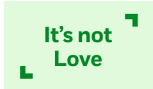

- Explains common online challenges
- Helps families start and sustain open conversations
  - Provides support with setting boundaries
- Includes a checklist of actions and an additional activity pack for children



 ['What I wish my parents or carers knew...': A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives | Children's Commissioner for England](#)



### The Politics Project: At the Table Toolkit (ages 16+)

This [toolkit](#) supports youth workers to encourage young people to consider their role in politics, particularly in light of the change allowing young people 16+ to vote in future elections. It also helps capture young people's views about local issues.



 	<h3>NSPCC 'It's Not Love' lessons (11-14yrs)</h3> <p>Resources include three films and accompanying lesson plans that follow four characters experiencing domestic abuse in families, in friendships and in intimate partner relationships. A curriculum mapping document is also provided. The resources seek to prevent harmful sexual behaviours and coercive control that may lead to adult domestic violence and abuse in intimate partner relationships.</p> <p> <a href="#">It's Not Love</a></p>	
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<h3>NEW - Safeguarding Adolescents in London (SAIL) Guidance</h3> <p>SAIL seeks to bring together theory, practice and policy to equip practitioners, managers and service leaders with the information and tools they need to develop their practice.</p> <p> <a href="#">SAIL Guidance</a></p> <p>There is also the <b>SAIL Community of Practice</b> - a collaborative network where professionals from different organisations and sectors can come together to share knowledge, learn from each other and improve practice around common areas of priority and challenge. Click <a href="#">here</a> to book your place for 13<sup>th</sup> January.</p>		
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	<h3>Staff Wellbeing - Mind Time to Talk Day</h3> <p>The perfect opportunity to support each other, Time to Talk Day, by the mental health charity Mind, is a time for friends, families, communities, workplaces and schools to come together to talk, listen and change lives. See <a href="#">Schools Pack</a> for ideas.</p> <p> <a href="#">Time to Talk Day - Mind</a></p>	
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## Inspiration



## Question of the Month

*What should you do if a child discloses physical chastisement?*

 [Check your answer here](#)





## Sharing Good Practice

During our safeguarding reviews, the team saw some excellent examples of:

**Safeguarding CPD at Nonsuch Primary School** - Safeguarding updates are included in every weekly staff meeting and there is a title page with a list that shows all the topics previously covered. Staff often complete questionnaires to check their understanding which is then used to inform any future updates or training.

**Wellbeing check-ins with pupils following holidays** - Thank you to Debbie Nichol and Aimee Bennett at Muschamp Primary School for sharing the following resources they use: [Safe and Happy Holidays](#) and [Wellbeing Questionnaire](#)

“

**“Yes it’s helped my job, but it’s actually really helped me as a person - helped my mindfulness, my mental health, my relationships...and I will be eternally grateful to Hayley for that.**

Secondary DSL, feedback on reflective safeguarding supervision

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## Thank you!

Don't forget to reach out to the Education Safeguarding Team if you have any questions:

[Education Safeguarding Team Contacts](#)



**Next briefing:** Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026