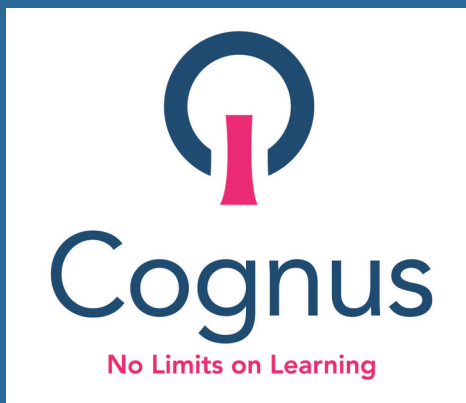




Safeguarding Briefing

July 2026



Dear colleagues,

As the summer approaches, we hope you take the time to switch off and rest. Try to have a rota of who will cover safeguarding over the holidays so that it doesn't all fall on the main DSL.

THANK YOU for everything you do. We are so lucky to have such amazing DSLs in Sutton and appreciate you all.



Updates from the Education Safeguarding Team



DSL Contact Sheet

Please check the DSL Contact sheet before the end of term and send Gill Bush any amendments as per the instructions [here](#)



Briefing Distribution List

This is separate to the Contact Sheet.

Hayley Cameron keeps a list of all staff who receive the monthly safeguarding briefing. If you would like to add or remove anyone, please email hayley.cameron@cognus.org.uk

AUGUST

August Briefing - Monday 24th August

Towards the end of the summer holidays, you will receive a briefing with links to resources to support you to prepare for the new term. It will include:

- Link to Bitesize slides (and recording) for your INSET Day safeguarding training for all staff, including KCSIE 2026 updates
- A Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy template - to use or adapt if you wish.
- Updated Sutton Contacts sheet
- DSL Refresher Certificate for 2025/26 if you have not already received

THE CHILD SAFEGUARDING
PRACTICE REVIEW PANEL

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel - Annual Report

Please find the annual report [here](#).

These themes will be incorporated into our training going forward. If you have any questions please contact a member of the Education Safeguarding Team.



Events and Training

DfE Thematic session – Islamist Extremism

 **Friday 10th July 11:00-13:00**



Following on from the success of our November session, we are happy to welcome back our guest speakers, Alamgir Sheriyar (DfE) and Richard Evans (Candour Intelligence) to deliver a webinar for education practitioners on Islamist Extremism. The session will include an introduction to Islamist Extremism (IE), followed by a deep dive into IE and radicalisation pathways on social media. To register your interest for the session, please utilise the below Forms link. A full invitation will be sent to attendees closer to the time, so please hold the time in your calendars.

The session will not be recorded. If you have any queries about the session, please contact evelina.gibson@education.gov.uk

[Register for DfE Islamist Extremism thematic session 10th July 2026 – Fill in form](#)

Using supervision and team meetings when responding to child sexual abuse - led by The Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse

 **Wednesday 12 August • 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM - Virtual - Free**



One way to build professional confidence in responding to concerns is by encouraging conversations around the latest research and evidence. Managers and supervisors can actively support this by making time for regular discussions, reflecting on, and sharing practice experiences and insights from victims and survivors in supervision and team meetings.

 Book [here](#)

Prevent Awareness Sessions - Sutton

As discussed in our recent DSL network meeting, the next Prevent training session will be:

 30th Sep at 10:00-11:30 - Virtual

This training is targeted at:

- Professionals in direct contact with children who undertake or contribute to risk assessments and multi-agency meetings including social workers, family support workers, health professionals, schools, police and others who work with children at risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation who work for the London Borough of Sutton.

Aims:

- The aims of this session are:
- To increase understanding and awareness of Prevent and Terrorism
- To spot the signs of radicalisation
- To understand the Prevent referral pathway in Sutton

 Book [here](#)

Training Dates 2026-27

For training delivered by the Education Safeguarding Team – Please go to:

<https://suttontraining.event-booking.org/> and select Cognus Safeguarding in the category section.

(Here you can sign up to the full day New to DSL training, DSL Refresher for Experienced DSLs, Governor Training Termly DSL Network Meetings, Sutton Group Supervision)



Guidance & Protocol Updates and Consultations

A new package of resources to help improve school attendance

Four resources and tools:

- **Explore your attendance patterns:** As part of the '[View your attendance data](#)', this new data tool - a visual heatmap across the year - helps to spot patterns in your own data at a glance
- **[An attendance research report](#):** setting out the national picture on some common predictable absence patterns
- **[An updated attendance toolkit for schools](#):** with a new chapter (8) to help you understand what practical yet proportionate actions you can take
- **[A guide on communicating with parents about attendance](#):** offering ready-made evidence-based resources, such as animations, an NHS poster on illness decisions and useful templates

 There will be a webinar on **Monday 7 July, 11am – 12pm**, to go through the support package announced, and how it can help improve attendance in your school. Register [here](#).

 You will be able to watch a recording on [YouTube](#) shortly after.

Regulated activity: removal of the supervision exemption (comes into force 1st September 2026)

A change to regulated activity will come into force on 1 September 2026. This is due to changes made by the [Crime and Policing Act 2026](#).

The act changes the definition of regulated activity by **removing the supervision exemption**. Under that exemption, **unpaid activities** such as teaching, training, instructing, or caring for or supervising children were not classed as regulated activity if supervised by someone who was in regulated activity (for example, a class teacher).

This means that all such activity **is now considered to be regulated activity if it is carried out frequently**, or if it meets the period condition. **The period condition means:**

- on more than 3 days in a 30-day period
- overnight

All volunteers engaging in regulated activity will need to have an enhanced [Disclosure and Barring Service \(DBS\)](#) check with children's barred list information.

The main group affected by the change is **volunteers**. **Volunteers** may not previously have been in regulated activity if they were supervised by a member of staff. **From 1 September 2026, volunteers engaging in regulated activity will need to have an enhanced DBS check with children's barred list information.**

It is an offence for:

- a barred person to engage in regulated activity
- someone to permit a barred person to engage in regulated activity

Schools and colleges need to ensure that any volunteer who is now in regulated activity is not barred from working with children by carrying out an enhanced DBS check with children's barred list information.

 See [guidance](#) for full details

 Andrew Hall has created a [free checklist](#) to support.

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) Strategy - Actions for Education

As part of Sutton's CSA strategy, all education settings are expected to put in place and follow the actions and recommendations [here](#). These will also be included on the S175 audit for 2026-27.

We will continue to support with these over the year but as you will be updating policies and planning training for the next year, now is a good opportunity to incorporate the requirements.

Water Safety - Raising Awareness Among Pupil, Parents and Carers Across London

From September 2026, water safety education enters the curriculum for secondary schools in England, sitting within Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE). We welcome this important step in embedding water safety in schools and continuing its inclusion beyond primary school.

In the meantime, we are asking for your support in sharing key safety messages and have provided a list of resources that may be useful to share with pupils and with parents and carers in your next newsletter. A short conversation in the classroom could prevent a tragedy - see [letter](#) for how to raise awareness and resources.

South West London CYP Support Hub - Rape Crisis

The service supports children and young people across Croydon, Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth, who have experienced sexual abuse, with delivery taking place in partnership with specialist organisations to ensure the offer is trauma-informed, inclusive and responsive to different needs. The model includes stabilisation support, trauma-informed counselling, brief child ISVA support, family support along with targeted outreach for boys and young men, and training for education professionals.

During mobilisation, we are finalising pathway details, referral processes and communications so that referrals can be received safely and consistently.

Referrals will be accepted into the service for **wellbeing, therapeutic and advocacy support**, using our online referral forms:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/G1tbr5dcy1> (Self Referral)

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/ThgB2YuCGf> (Professional Referral)

The service is designed to provide accessible, relational and needs-led support. Depending on presentation and need, this may include:

- stabilisation counselling
- trauma-informed counselling
- brief intervention child ISVA support
- family support groups

This service will provide wellbeing, therapeutic and advocacy support to:

- Girls and young women aged 4-18
- Boys and young men aged 13+*
- Young people and young adults aged 12-25 who have a learning disability, autism or both.
- *Wellbeing Advocacy support is available for boys aged 5+

Please note that referral submission will not automatically mean acceptance into a particular service strand. Referrals will be reviewed through triage, and where further information is needed, the referrer may be contacted. While a referral is being considered, safeguarding responsibility remains with the referrer and/or the statutory services already involved. This aligns with the approach already embedded in the referral pathway and triage process.

Thank you for your support during this mobilisation period. We look forward to sharing the full pathway information shortly.

For more information, contact: cypsupporthub@rapecrisisouthlondon.org

Identifying Early Signs of Ketamine-Related Health Issues in Children and Young People

Sutton Health & Care have issued an urgent letter to school staff and parents/carers about the physical risks of ketamine: Ketamine-Induced Cystitis (commonly referred to as Ketamine Bladder Syndrome).

The letter below details signs and symptoms to look out for and support available. Please share with staff and parents:

[Urgent Identifying Early Signs of Ketamine-Related Health Issues in Children and Young People \(1\).docx](#)

Children and Young People's Disability Service - Bitesize Briefings

Please share the following with parents/carers of SEND children and young people in your setting:

[Icount Bitesize](#)

[Short Breaks Bitesize](#)

[Sleep bitesize Aug 24](#)

Allergies Policy & Staff Training

ALL schools must have a food allergies policy in place and ensure all staff have received training.

Kingston and Sutton Health and Safety Team have produced a [Model School Food Allergies Policy Template](#) and guidance for schools. If you have any questions, please contact David Charles, Senior Health and Safety Advisor david.charles@sutton.gov.uk

Training: The School Nursing team do not provide individual training sessions, however training videos can be accessed below:

<https://www.suttonhealthandcare.nhs.uk/complexneeds>

These videos are for use solely by school staff and this is a reminder that **it remains schools' responsibility to ensure they keep a record of staff accessing this training.**



Resources

Ignore the Noise. Trust Your Own Voice.

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Mayor of London and Beyond Equality are changing the conversation about what it means to be a man. Find tools to help you ignore the noise of the manosphere:

[Ignore the noise. Trust your own voice. | London City Hall](#)



CEOP resource for 4-7-year-old gets PSHE Association Quality Mark - FREE resource

'Jesse & Friends' online safety education pack aims to equip 4-7 year olds with the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to **help them stay safe from sexual abuse** and other risks they may encounter online. *The latest 2026 version of Jessie & Friends has been updated to align with relevant areas from the new 2025 statutory RSHE requirements (in force from September).*

✚ EYFS/KS1: add to your sensitive issues and **preventative safeguarding curriculum**.

[!\[\]\(8b57f0e15e7dda24cf9977561475f640_img.jpg\) Jessie & Friends: online safety education for 4-7s](#)



Wellbeing of Women: Menstruation Matters lesson plans get PSHE Association Quality Mark - FREE resource for KS3-4

Wellbeing of Women's new KS3-4 'Menstruation Matters' lesson pack has been awarded the PSHE Association Quality Mark. It aims to help students understand when and how to seek help for concerns about menstrual health.

Menstruation Matters is fully aligned with the Department for Education's statutory Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) guidance, including new content on menstrual and gynaecological health that schools will need to follow from September 2026.

[!\[\]\(8a8ea273bba45b658cf4779d37ab61e8_img.jpg\) Wellbeing of Women: Menstruation Matters](#)



Free KS3-4 Lesson Pack - Challenging the Narrative: Thinking Critically About Misogyny

This pack is designed to help students recognise misogyny and challenge harmful beliefs and attitudes, while understanding that most boys and young men are respectful to girls and young women.

The lessons include practical, evidence-informed approaches to help students think critically, question harmful ideas, and create more respectful communities.

At each key stage, students learn about the impact of misogyny, why misogynistic ideas are inaccurate, and ways to safely challenge and limit the spread of misogynistic misconceptions, beliefs and attitudes.

These materials fully align with new statutory RSHE guidance in force from September (which places much stronger emphasis on misogyny) and form part of our support package to get schools ready.

[!\[\]\(eb1074bfd91059c9cff57cf6b5c22a5b_img.jpg\) Download here: Challenging the narrative: Thinking critically about misogyny](#)



Secondary Schools: Boys & 'Looksmaxxing'

A new report from the Centre for Young Lives thinktank warns that the fast-growing online trend known as “**looksmaxxing**” is driving some boys and young men towards dangerous body image pressures, extreme behaviours, and misogynistic worldviews. Looksmaxxing is an online phenomenon around physical appearance ‘optimisation’ driven by a belief that appearance is the primary factor of a man’s social or romantic worth. The ideology emerged from the ‘incel’ and male-dominated forums which dictate appearance determines one’s place in a rigidly hierarchical ‘looks based’ world.

[Toxic “looksmaxxing” social media trend is pushing boys towards extreme body obsession, misogyny, and self-harm, Centre for Young Lives report warns | Centre for Young Lives | Press Release](#)

Think about...

- Updating your staff on the term ‘looksmaxxing’ and the findings from the report
- How can you include this in your curriculum and wider pastoral support?
- How can you support boys and parents/carers to identify the risks and seek support?



Question of the Month

What are three signs that might indicate a child is experiencing neglect, and what should you do if you notice them?

[Example answer](#)



Sharing Good Practice

During our safeguarding reviews, the team saw some excellent things:

- **Westbourne Primary School:** A poster of the mnemonic ‘TED’ - Tell - Explain - Describe - is displayed in the ELSA room and intervention spaces. This supports staff to handle disclosures and ask open questions.



*It was incredibly useful, thoughtful and a **genuinely thought-provoking process for us as a leadership team. We really appreciated both the professional challenge and the supportive way in which feedback was delivered.*** (Wandsworth Secondary School DSL, feedback from a recent Safeguarding Review)



Thank you!

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

[Education Safeguarding Team Contacts](#)



The next briefing will be: Monday 24th August