

Wandsworth  
**Safeguarding**  
Children  
Partnership



# WSCP NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO 6 | AUTUMN 2022



**METROPOLITAN  
POLICE**



**South West London**  
Integrated Care Board



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# Message from WSCP Executive Partners



Ana Popovici (DCS)



Andrew Wadey (Police)



Dr Gloria Rowland (ICB)

Together, we’re making sure that children and families in Wandsworth are safe and supported in every aspect of their lives. As half term has just ended, and children return back to school, we are reminded of the ongoing challenges for children who are missing education. Our focus will be on those with an attendance lower than 50%.

At this time of year too, as the **cost-of-living crisis** has really begun to take hold, we’re reminded that our collaborative working is more important than ever to make sure that there are

warm and safe spaces across the borough for children and families.

In this autumn edition of the WSCP newsletter, we are excited to share updates from the annual conference, examples of good practice from across our partnership, important dates for the diary and links to new guidance.

As ever, we want to hear from you. If you have a story that you’d like to share in this newsletter, please email **WSCP Business Team**.



The Training and Workforce Development subcommittee shares examples of good practice at the meeting. Below is an example from Matthew Pickard of Eveline Day School.

A young student joined the school mid-year after being uprooted from another part of the country to move to London with her mother and sister to support maintaining a meaningful relationship and close contact with her father. The young student was dealing with her parents no longer living together and integrating into their new family structures.

The young student felt a little insecure when mother did not arrive at the time agreed to collect her. Matthew noticed that the young student looked a little bit withdrawn as she is normally a lively, gregarious child. The next day on arrival, she sat in a corner of the classroom on her own, refusing to talk to anyone or join in activities. Matthew decided to take a temperature check to find out what was going on.

The young student shared that she was missing her old school and friends a lot and this was affecting her badly and she felt very sad a lot of the time.

He later fed this back to mother, who confirmed

that she had also seen some elements of this behaviour and had some difficult conversations with her at home over the last couple of months.

Matthew suggested some counselling for the young student and mum consequently approached dad to seek his view and obtain his consent for the intervention. The school councillor worked with the young person over a number of weeks to offer support regarding family breakdowns.

**Outcome: young student felt more secure emotionally and was able to better focus on learning. Her natural personality re-emerged.**

The positives from this:

- School being observant (ie; seeing slight change in presentation) - being curious and intervening early
- Speaking to parent
- Parents working together
- School offering right level of support

**WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR OF YOUR EXAMPLES OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE SO PLEASE CONTACT US TO SHARE**

## Multi-Agency Training

We are pleased to share that the new **TPD** (Training and Professional Development) site is now live. Please go to the site and enter your email address - it will act as your username. Any problems please contact the **TPD admin team** who can assist you by resetting your password manually for your first log in.

# WSCP Annual Conference

25 November 2022:

Domestic Abuse and Child Safeguarding



We are pleased to invite you to our Annual Safeguarding Partnership conference on Friday 25th November from 9.30am to 4.00pm.

The theme of the conference is Domestic Abuse and Child Safeguarding and we have chosen to hold this on White Ribbon Day 2022.

The White Ribbon Campaign is a global movement to end violence against women and girls.

We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to share good practice and join in the learning event

For more information and to book a place [click here](#)

## Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Partnership Priorities 2022 - 2023

Each year the executive reviews previous priorities, findings from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, performance information and national directives. The executive signed off the priorities for 2022/2023 on 20 September 2022 which champions children and families, putting their wellbeing and education first.

### Overarching Priorities

- Listening to children, hearing their voices, and lived experience
- ACTIVE - Anti-racist/anti-discriminatory practice. Diversity and looking at disproportionality
- Family Safeguarding Approach (FSA) to practice

### Specific Priorities

- Vulnerable Adolescent/Contextual Risk
- Emotional, Physical and Mental Wellbeing
- Domestic Abuse
- Workforce Development
- Children and Young People Missing Education
- Children with SEND

# New Guidance

As a partnership it is important to refresh and update documents to support best practice and improve outcomes for children and families. The following documents are now available on the WSCP website.

## Level of Need Framework to Multi-Agency Partners

The new Levels of Need Framework replaces the previous Threshold Guidance which is no longer in use. The framework is intended to support the partnership in discussion about the levels of need and the most appropriate and helpful response across services within the partnership. We would like you to disseminate across your service areas so that all staff can use the framework when thinking about how best to support and safeguard children. It can support discussion, decision making, supervision and reflection. The new guidance includes needs of children and young people at risk outside of the home (Contextual Risk).

## WSCP Multi Agency Pre-Birth Guidance 2022-2024

This guidance has been updated in response to learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs) and changes to the London Safeguarding Children Procedures.

## Children Missing from Home and Care Protocol

The protocol is designed to support an effective collaborative safeguarding response from all agencies involved when a child goes missing from home or care, which is usually symptomatic of wider problems in their lives.

## Inter-Agency Escalation Policy

As partners by building relationships, we generally resolve issues at a personal / local level, however there are times when we need to escalate.

The **WSCP Inter-Agency Escalation Policy** is available on the WSCP Website. This Policy aims to resolve professionals' differences in line with the **London Safeguarding Children Procedures**.



# CLCH Safeguarding Conference 2022

## June 2022

In June CLCH put on their Annual Safeguarding Children Week Lunch and Learn Webinars. This was held over five days between 20-24 June and was very well attended on all days. Each day covered different topics on safeguarding and was stimulating and thought provoking for attendees.

**Day 1 - Courage & Compassion in Safeguarding**

**Day 2 - Child Q – what does this mean for partnership working?**

**Day 3 - Let's talk about children**

**Day 4 - Out of sight/out of mind?**

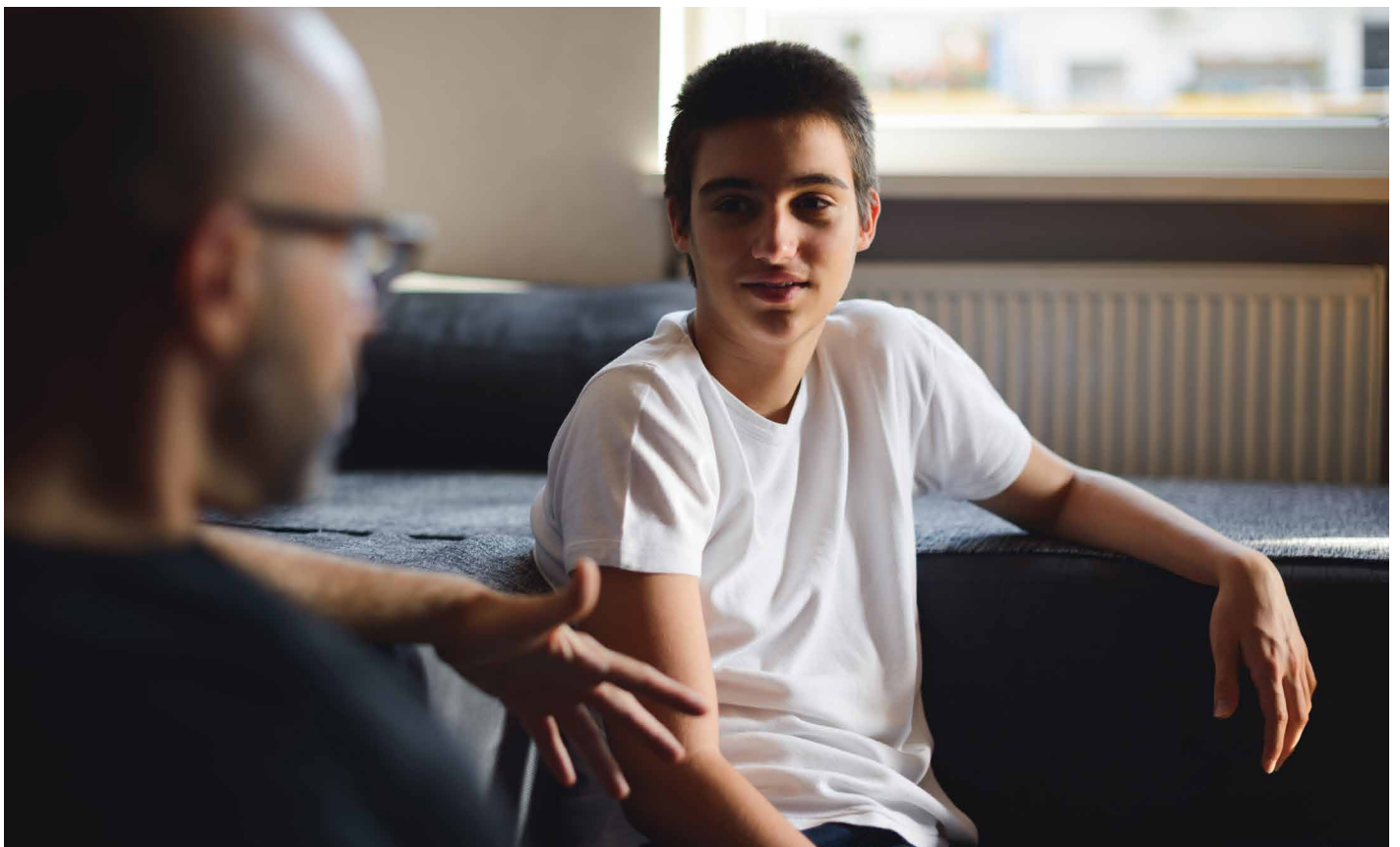
**Day 5 - Compassion fatigue in Safeguarding**

## October 2022

The CLCH Safeguarding Adult and Children Annual Conference took place virtually on the 6 October 2022 and attended by over 600 delegates.

The theme of the conference focused on Human Stories in Safeguarding hearing from 'experts by experience' to understand their stories and how services can respond better to need and prevent harm.

Delegates also had the opportunity to hear about a range of topics from leading experts, including supporting young people transitioning into adult services, research into children's mental health issues, neurodevelopment and vulnerability, health contribution in the youth justice service, radicalisation, an NHS England safeguarding update, consent and Liberty Protection Safeguards.





## Learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

On the 15 September the WSCP published a LCSPR on a 14-year-old Wandsworth boy who died by suicide in June 2021, for those who worked with the family this will be difficult reading, however, the review gives the opportunity to reflect on the learning to improve practice.

The **LCSPR Report** and **7 Minute Brief** can be found on the **WSCP Website**. Seven key areas were identified in the report for learning.

To share the learning and allow the opportunity to reflect the WSCP will be holding a **Learning from Experience** on 8 December 2022. We will also be launching at the same event the new **Suicide and Self harm Pathway** and supporting tool kits that has been developed across Wandsworth, Kingston and Richmond; practitioners will have an opportunity to practice the use of the tool and provide feedback. This will be a face-to-face event.

**To confirm your attendance and reserve your place, please book [HERE](#)**

The writing of this report reflects the ongoing concerns amongst practitioners and parents about the mental health of young people.

Suicide rates among young people aged 15-19 in England rose by 35% from 2020 to 2021, according to data from the Office for National Statistics analysed by Charity YoungMinds (See below for full report). NHS data also reveals 2022 is set to see the highest ever number of referrals to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services [CAMHS].

Mental Health in all aspects on a professional and personal level is very important and following challenges that families are facing staff need to be aware and be supportive.

Every mental health trust in London has put in place a **24/7 crisis line** for people of all ages: children, young people and adults.

The two publications below from the NSPCC/ CASPAR provide recent research/guidance and reports linking to mental health that is useful reading:

## Adolescent suicide

Source: YoungMinds

Date: 9 September 2022

YoungMinds has published an analysis of data on suicides in England from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Findings reveal a 35% rise in suicide rates among young people aged 15-19 in England as in 2021, 198 young people aged 15-19 in England took their own lives compared with 147 young people in 2020.

Read the press release: **Charity calls for urgent government support as teenage suicide rate jumps by over a third.**

View the data: **Suicides in England and Wales**

## Self-harm guidance

Source: NICE

Date: 7 September 2022

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has published guidance on assessing, managing, and preventing recurrence of self-harm in children, young people and adults. The guidance is aimed at professionals working with people who have self-harmed and people who use self-harm services. It includes information around: carrying out assessments appropriately; and ensuring continuity of care after self-harm.

Read the news story: **Self-harm: assessment, management and preventing recurrence**

Thank you to all who contributed to this edition of the newsletter. We want you to share the good things happening in Wandsworth, so get in touch if you have something to share.

## Contacts

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### Concerned about a Child or Young Person

Contact: MASH 020 8871 6622  
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### Concerned about a Vulnerable Adult

Safeguarding Adults Board Co-ordinator: Ally Smith  
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