



Message from Deborah Lightfoot, LSCB Chair

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to this month's newsletter. In preparation for our Conference about sexual abuse on 23rd January 2018, please find information about historic sexual abuse and the Government's independent enquiry, as well as our flyer for the Conference. CSA Conference flyer: <http://kingstonandrichmondscb.org.uk/news-resources/useful-information-and-latest-news-154.php>

Please share this newsletter widely with colleagues.

Concert pianist, James Rhodes, has brought the issue of historical child sexual abuse to the attention of the media after the publication of his book 'Instrumental', in which he writes of his experience of being raped by a teacher from the age of 5-10 years old. In the book he describes in detail the enormous impact of this sexual abuse on his physical health, emotional health and mental well-being, both throughout his childhood and as an adult, and how music has for him been a therapeutic release for dealing with the abuse. He asks professionals working with children to always be alert to the indicators of sexual abuse, to listen to children in a meaningful way, ask what might be behind the behaviours they are displaying and always be prepared to report concerns about adults.

Signs and indicators that a child may be being sexually abused can include the following:-

- Acting out in an inappropriate sexual way with toys or objects
- Nightmares, sleeping problems
- Becoming withdrawn or very clingy
- Becoming unusually secretive
- Sudden unexplained personality changes, mood swings and seeming insecure
- Regressing to younger behaviours, e.g. bedwetting
- Unaccountable fear of particular places or people
- Outburst of anger
- Changes in eating habits
- New adult words for body parts and no obvious source
- Talk of a new, older friend and unexplained money or gifts
- Self-harm (cutting, burning or other harmful activities)
- Physical signs, such as unexplained soreness or bruises around genitals or mouth, sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy
- Running away
- Not wanting to be alone with a particular child or young person

The Independent Inquiry into child sexual abuse (IICSA) is investigating whether public bodies and other non-state institutions in England and Wales have taken seriously their responsibility to protect children from sexual abuse, and are planning make meaningful recommendations for change in the future. The inquiry is keen to hear from survivors of CSA and have established the Truth Project, where survivors can tell their story without being questioned, judged, where they will be listened to and where no pressure or expectations are put on them regarding prosecution. For further information go to: www.iicsa.org.uk/victims-and-survivors

Deborah Lightfoot, our Kingston and Richmond LSCB Chair, is sadly retiring in December 2017 and so we are looking for a new Chair. Please find further information below:
https://jobs.richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk/tlive_webrecruitment/wrd/run/ETREC107GF.open?VA_CANCY_ID%3d7580917IWO&WVID=935881009A

The Richmond Quality Assurance Subgroup chaired by Sian Thomas, Designated Nurse Richmond CCG, will be testing Child in Need plans for children subject to Supervision orders using a multi agency audit in the autumn. AfC has created a Supervision Order Protocol here:
<http://kingstonandrichmondscb.org.uk/news-resources/achieving-for-children-strategies-and-protocols-162.php>

Supervision Orders are made by the Court. The threshold of risk of significant harm is agreed by the Court and the orders can continue for some months after proceedings end, usually up to a year with Children's Social Care supervising the situation. The parent retains Parental Responsibility and this is not shared with the Local Authority. The case can return to court if concerns arise again. Find out more here: www.frg.org.uk/faqs-on-court-orders

Free IT event for girls

CoderDojoHam will be hosting a free, volunteer-led, girls-only event on Saturday 16 September 2.00-4.30pm at Kingston University.



The event is in response to the huge gender inequality that currently exists in the IT world. Please advertise to girls aged 7-17. [More information here.](#)

CodeDojo is an open source, volunteer-led global movement running free coding clubs for young people. Dojos provide opportunities to learn how to develop websites, apps and games; or program robots and other electronic devices. CoderDojoHam has been running free Saturday coding sessions for the last three years. You can find out more [here.](#)

LSCB Neglect huddle

As a response to learning re Kaye in Kingston, we have created an area open to all on our website with resources for practitioners around neglect:



<http://kingstonandrichmondscb.org.uk/practitioners/what-is-child-abuse-and-neglect-113/neglect-128.php>



Pools in the Park

Time well spent at Pools in the Park in Richmond this month, talking to parents and pool users about all areas of child safety. Jo Pond, Centre Manager, demonstrates best practice sharing safeguarding messages with parents.



Many parents were very interested in keeping their children safe whilst on the internet, social networks, apps and games and the role they have to support their children in staying safe. Further information about water safety bulletin and on-line safety leaflets are available on our website:
<http://kingstonandrichmondscb.org.uk/media/upload/fck/file/LSCB%20Water%20Safety%20Bulletin%20June%202017.pdf>. Please promote to all.