



October 2018

Message from Chris Robson, LSCB Chair

This is the time of year when we put together our LSCB Annual Report. Following national trends, we can see more demand for our services, from A&E in our Hospitals onwards. This data reminds me again and again of how hard you work on our frontlines in our boroughs. Thank you! At the same time, I am supporting our three statutory partners, the Councils, CCGs and Police in determining our safeguarding partnership in the future. Above all, I want to preserve the great shared working we have developed locally and our focus on children, despite the changes going on around us all. I would like to welcome Lucy MacArthur as our LSCB education co-ordinator.

Online Safety

Local children and young people have told us many times that one of their chief concerns is online safety and bullying online. We have more guidance on our website

here: <http://kingstonandrichmondscb.org.uk/children-young-people/staying-safe-online-10.php>

The UK Safer Internet Centre has published a blog looking at online safety films parents and carers can use with their children to engage them in online safety education. Resources include the winning films from the Childnet film competition and the BBC Own It website which offers advice for young people about issues they may encounter online.

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/film-competition/2018>

<https://www.bbc.com/ownit/its-personal/perfect-posts?collection=phone-fomo>

The BBC Children in Need Emergency Essentials Programme is delivered by Family Fund Business Services (FFBS). It aims to provide grant items that meet children and young peoples' most basic needs or are critical to their wellbeing. It supports children and young people who are facing exceptionally difficult circumstances.

Becoming a referrer & supporting the families you work with: The grant is a referrer only programme and we want to work with as many organisations as possible in order to reach the families who are eligible for the grant.

You can find more information & **register as a referrer** on our website: <https://www.familyfundsolutions.co.uk/emergency-essentials/>

All applications are done through the referrer's online portal. All staff need to register individually as separate referrers so that they can access their portal & track their applications.

You can find out more information about our eligibility criteria & what being a referrer for the grant means in these guidelines:

https://www.familyfundsolutions.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/CiN_FFBS_Guidance_for_Referrers.pdf

We can deliver or fund critical items such as:

- Gas or electric cookers
- Essential household items
- Furniture and kitchen equipment
- Children's beds and bedding
- Washing machines
- Fridges and freezers
- Baby equipment
- Clothing in exceptional or emergency situations

LSCB safeguarding assessment

This is the time of year when we put together our LSCB Annual Report for Kingston and Richmond. Along with national trends, we can see more demand for our services, from A&E and maternity teams in our Hospitals onwards to more children subject to Child Protection Plans in Richmond, and more children taken into care in Kingston. We are also seeing slightly more first time entrants to the criminal justice system.

At the same time, we can see very strong multi-agency performance from our colleagues in all agencies; a keen interest in training whether online or face to face, including at our Conferences, and improving communication. We have very few escalations where professional differences cant' be resolved.

The safeguarding partnership is well established in our boroughs and we enjoy working together in every sector to keep our children and young people safe. Whether you are a volunteer, or a salaried worker in any sector - Police, independent schools, Kingston Hospital. Teddington Memorial Hospital - working together is our key objective.

As LSCB Chair, I have been tasked by local senior leaders to bring all agencies together. We have a quarterly Board of Senior Managers who set our direction and review the work in both boroughs. We look at tricky issues, serious incidents and help each other where we need support.

In April 2018 as a foretaste of the future, the LSCBs met as a Joint Board for the first time. We are working with local partners to implement the safeguarding partnership arrangements according to Working Together 2018, published in July 2018. They outline that new partnership arrangements will need to be in place by the end of September 2019.

There is much change around us in safeguarding arenas – AfC cluster models are being embedded in the three localities here; the CCGs are merging into 5 boroughs, Police merged into 4 boroughs in May 2018, and during this financial year, the Signs of Safety approach to partnership safeguarding has been introduced.

For 2018-19, our key priorities are hearing the voices of our children and young people; driving forward improvements in our work around neglect; building the new partnership; working with issues of risky behaviour for adolescents and exploitation; and improving our support around emotional wellbeing and mental health concerns.

From our local learning reviews, quality assurance and multi-agency audit work our principles are:

- **Promoting good Communication** and information sharing whether between professionals or remembering that children's and adults' behaviour is communication;
- **Strengthening our skill base by:** Considering issues of ethnicity and diversity in all our work; remembering siblings in families; We offer safeguarding training and conferences to all agencies-mostly it's free. We also have eLearning resources and guidance around many issues on our website.

We know that practitioners will not always agree on important issues, when time is tight and resources few, and we encourage **Professional Challenge** - you will find our resolution protocol to help resolve any issue on our LSCB website here: <http://kingstonandrichmondlsqb.org.uk/news-resources/policies-and-procedures-87/resolution-and-escalation-protocol-151.php>
Follow up tenaciously when you make referrals or need to engage with a family.

Look on our website to get in touch and ask me a question.

I look forward to working with you.

your LSCB Chair Chris Robson