

Safeguarding Bulletin – 5 November 2025

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Safeguarding in Schools



>> Private Fostering Awareness Day – 5 November



Private Fostering Awareness Day is a national campaign hosted by [Coram British Association for Adoption and Fostering](#). Private fostering occurs when a child is cared for by someone who is not a close relative for 28 days or more. These arrangements are often informal and hidden, which can leave children vulnerable. Raising awareness helps ensure these children are seen, supported, and safeguarded. This is especially important for **school safeguarding staff**, who are often best placed to notice when a child may be living in an unreported private fostering arrangement. [Learn more about private fostering and your role in identifying and reporting it](#) on the Council's website. If you have any questions, contact our private fostering lead Joab.Keatley-whyte@southwark.gov.uk.

Southwark training opportunities

>> Next Safeguarding in Schools FREE webinar: 'Supporting You to Support Young People'

The next session in the Safeguarding in Schools webinar series will be taking place on Tuesday 25 November 12.30pm to 1.30pm on the topic of 'Supporting You to Support Young People: A Trauma Informed Approach' by The Nest, Groundwork. Join this webinar to learn more about understanding and responding to young people's mental health needs, while caring for yourself/your school staff.

>> Next Schools Safeguarding Forum – Thursday 4 December, 9.30am to 12.30pm

Next Schools Safeguarding Forum will take place on 4 December 2025, 9.30am to 12.30pm at Southwark Council's Tooley Street office. Please put this date in your diary. Further details to follow.

>> **Southwark Virtual School Training Programme**

Please see the remaining training for this term delivered by the Virtual School. The ePEP sessions are repeated for designated teachers who missed the sessions last half term. DSLs and any members of staff interested in developing a trauma-informed approach are invited to James Hanley's session on 25 November.

Southwark news

>> **Planned changes to Southwark's DSL/DDSL safeguarding training**

You may be aware that Southwark's DSL/DDSL training is currently delivered by external trainers. From the Summer Term, we will be changing this to be delivered in-house by the Safeguarding in Schools team, with input from other Southwark teams and services as well as from partner agencies. We want to ensure the new training works for schools and provides the right foundation for the DSL/DDSL roles. [Share your views](#) about what the new training should look like or contact Emma to discuss further: emma.geiringer@southwark.gov.uk.

Information about training currently available to schools can be found on [Southwark's Education website](#).

>> **Substance use support for young people and schools**

- [The latest recording of our Safeguarding in Schools webinar is now available to watch](#). The session was delivered by CGL (Southwark's Drug and Alcohol Service) and explored current drug/substance trends among young people, plus tools for having open conversations, providing effective support, harm reduction, and implementing support and early intervention for young people.
- [The government has launched a new campaign alerting young people to the dangers of ketamine, synthetic opioids in counterfeit medicines and adulterated THC vapes](#). Resources are available for schools and educational settings with content available on FRANK, the drug information website.

Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) Factsheets:

[OHID awareness factsheet Fake Meds](#)

[OHID awareness factsheet Ketamine](#)

[OHID awareness factsheet THC vapes](#)

FRANK pages:

Page to request factsheets: [New frank campaign launches today to raise awareness of the risks of prolonged use of Ketamine. | FRANK](#)

[Link to harms on synthetic opioids: Drugs cut with dangerous substances | FRANK](#)
[Ketamine | Effects of Ketamine | FRANK](#)
[Synthetic cannabinoids | Effects and Risks | FRANK](#)

Links to film content:

[Ket: While each high lasts minutes. For some the damage to their bladder could last forever](#)

[Synthetic Opioids: What are they and why are they so dangerous?](#)

Links to local support:

[Southwark Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service: Change Grow Live](#)

[Southwark Council's Drug and Alcohol Action](#)

Team: AdminDAAT@southwark.gov.uk

>> New Awaab's Law will require repairs within 24 hours for health and safety emergencies in Social Housing in England

Schools are aware that emergency housing health and safety issues such as serious damp and mould are prevalent for many of their families. [The first phase of Awaab's Law came into effect in England on 27 October](#), requiring social landlords to fix emergency health and safety issues within 24 hours, investigate serious damp and mould within 10 working days, and make homes safe within five days of inspection. The law, introduced after the 2020 death of two-year-old Awaab Ishak from mould exposure in his Rochdale home, aims to improve living conditions for tenants in England's four million social rented homes. The introduction of Awaab's Law aligns with [Southwark Council's ongoing work to keep tenants' homes safe and healthy](#). The introduction of Awaab's Law aligns with [Southwark Council's ongoing work to keep tenants' homes safe and healthy](#). The council has introduced a dedicated Damp and Mould team that responds the next working day and prioritises vulnerable residents. [Damp and mould can be reported online](#). Please share this information with families that may need it.

Other news

>> New insights and tools to strengthen violence prevention

According to Youth Endowment Fund, more than half of headteachers (51%) say they don't feel confident identifying and delivering interventions to prevent children's involvement in violence. They have developed free digital tools to help leaders in Education assess how effectively they're preventing children from becoming involved in violence. **Education Practice Insight Creator (EPIC)** helps education leaders reflect on their current approach to preventing violence and improve it using the best available evidence.

>> Anti-Bullying Week 2025 – tips and resources for your whole school approach

Anti-Bullying Week 2025 will take place from **10 to 14 November**, with the theme: Power for Good. The following from [London Grid for Learning \(LGfL\)](#) may be of help to prepare for the week:

- Some [top tips and resources to empower pupils, staff and parents to speak out](#), support others and counter the harm caused by bullying.
- The [5-minute Spotlight CPD on Bullying](#) can be used at the start of a staff briefing or INSET to talk about sharing images without consent and taking things seriously before they escalate.
- [Empower parents by running a parent awareness session](#) using the ready-to-use Parent Online Safety Presentation at [lgfl.net](#). Or [share some tips in your next parent newsletter from Parentsafe](#), the dedicated parent portal.
- Stay up to date with the latest **developments and guidance** by attending the [free Online Sexual Abuse and Harms training](#).
- Visit the [Anti-Bullying Alliance](#) for further information and ideas.

>> Kinship advice, support and webinars

Please encourage kinship families to access the full range of [kinship advice, support and webinars](#) and display the [Kinship flyer](#) in your school.

>> Dangerous gifts that could be a nightmare this Christmas

The Child Accident Prevention Trust has some useful advice on which products could be dangerous and how to shop safely that you may want to share with parents/cares where relevant.

Other training opportunities

>> Upcoming free webinars on child sexual abuse

The Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse ([CSA Centre](#)) provides series of free one-hour webinars designed to help build confidence in working with children and families where there are concerns about sexual abuse.