

Safeguarding Bulletin – 10 December 2025

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Safeguarding bulletin



Hello

from Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools Team

Safeguarding in Schools

[>> Presentations from Schools Safeguarding Forum on 4 December](#)

Thank you all who were able to join the session on 4 December. We hope you found it useful. Thanks also once again to everyone who contributed on the day. [Presentations from the session are now available](#) where you will also find the feedback from the interactive activity: Creating solutions together - sharing best practice around the challenges of the DSL role.

We would appreciate if those who attended the session could complete the [Schools Safeguarding Forum Feedback](#). Those who were unable to attend the session can also access the feedback form and answer some other relevant questions about future sessions of the Forum, which would help us plan the future ones.

The next Forum will take place on Thursday 2 July 2026, 9.30am to 12.30pm. Please put it in your diaries and, as always, let us know if there are any urgent issues or topics that you would like to be covered in the July session.

Southwark news

[>> Support for Young Carers in Southwark](#)

Schools are required to identify children that are Young Carers in their [school census submission](#). The national estimate of Young Carers within each school is 1.4% but our latest Schools and Students Health Education Unit (SHEU) survey highlighted between 11% and 8% of children in our Primary and Secondary schools respectively identified as Young Carers. The latest school census identified only 111 children as young carers in Southwark Schools – meaning at least 80% of young carers in our schools are not being acknowledged.

27% of young carers aged 11 to 15 miss out on school due to their caring role and it is estimated that there could be up to **three Young Carers per classroom**, so however big or small your school, you will have Young Carers and they may need additional support!

[Southwark Young Carers](#) is run by [Imago Community](#), who are commissioned to provide emotional or practical help for a family member who has a long-term illness, disability, mental health problem, or an alcohol / drug / substance problem. Working with school staff and other professionals, they aim to ensure Young Carers have access to the support they need and know they are not alone.

In your school, Imago can offer:

- Young Carers Awareness Training to staff,
- Assemblies to raise awareness amongst pupils and signpost to support,
- Establish school support groups to improve the social, emotional and mental health of Young Carers,
- Resources, tools and guidance for school staff to raise awareness and support Young Carers
- Lesson plans to help reduce stigmas

For further information, please contact their Hub: youngcarers@imago.community, 0300 111 1110. You can refer via their website [Imago Community](#).

>> [Southwark's food and fun holiday programme for 4 to 16s](#)

Southwark's school holiday activity and food programme is for children aged 4 to 16 on benefits-related free school meals. It runs during the Easter, summer and winter school holidays. The next scheme will run on week days from 22 December 2025 to 2 January 2026 (excluding bank holidays). You may want to share the information with your families.

>> [A confidential text messaging advice line for parents and a text messaging advice line for young people aged 11 to 19 to improve everyday healthcare for local children and young people](#)

The Evelina London Children's Healthcare's [School Nursing Service](#) provide a health service to children and young people aged 5 to 19 years old across mainstream schools in Lambeth and Southwark, as well as children and young people educated other than at school (EOTAS). Their text messaging advice lines

for parents and for young people aged 11 to 19 offer advice and support about a range of healthcare topics.

>> Daddyless Daughters Project: Support for women and girls

This organisation provides safe spaces and trauma-informed support to girls and women aged 11 to 25 that are affected by abuse and adversity. They are currently accepting referrals or self-registration for their new **Concrete Rose Youth Club** for girls aged 11 to 16, starting 6 January in Elephant and Castle. The club will run twice a week with sessions around education, expression and empowerment to help girls navigate the challenges of adolescence. For more information or to make a referral please contact Sinem: concreteroseclub@daddylessdaughters.co.uk.

For girls aged 14 to 25 identified as needing more intensive support and 1 to 1 intervention, they also run the **Sister Squad Outreach Service**. Professionals can refer online or you can contact admin@daddylessdaughters.co.uk.

Other news

>> Nearly four million children affected by economic abuse in UK homes

The UK charity [Surviving Economic Abuse \(SEA\)](#), dedicated to raising awareness of economic abuse and transforming responses to it, has published new data on the number of children affected by economic abuse in the UK. Economic abuse is a form of domestic abuse involving coercive control. Research conducted by Ipsos UK reveals that over a quarter of women with children under 18-years-old have experienced economic abuse in the past year, with SEA estimating that this impacts 3.9 million children. Of mothers who experienced economic abuse last year: a third reported that their ex-partner refused to pay child support or paid it unreliable despite being able to afford it; one in six reported that a current or ex-partner stole money from their child; one in six were unable to provide food, clothes or other essential items for their children; and one in five reported feeling afraid for their child's safety or wellbeing because of their current or ex-partner's economically abusive behaviour.

Training opportunities

>> New free webinar series: Strengthening multi-agency leadership in responding to intra-familial child sexual abuse

Between January and July 2026, The Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse ([CSA Centre](#)) is holding six free online sessions to support safeguarding partners to reflect, plan and lead the implementation of the recommendations for safeguarding partners in England, set out in the 2024 [National review into child sexual abuse within the family environment](#), which may be of interest. The final report made six recommendations for local safeguarding partnerships which they can implement immediately without waiting for changes at a national level. Each workshop will take a closer look at the recommendations, covering topics from improving professional knowledge, skills and practice, to how to talk to children about sexual abuse.

Organisations referenced in this bulletin are not necessarily commissioned or endorsed by Southwark council. Please apply your own due diligence.

Find out more about support from [Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools Team](#)

For safeguarding resources and training information visit [Safeguarding in Education](#)