

## Safeguarding Bulletin – 28 January 2026

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# Safeguarding bulletin

A large, stylized, handwritten-style word "Hello" in a light green color.

from Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools Team

A green circular graphic containing the text "Safeguarding in Schools" in white.

### >> [Children's Mental Health Week 2026 – 9 to 15 February 2026](#)

The Children's Mental Health Week 2026 with the theme 'This is My Place' will take place from 9 to 15 February 2026. Children's Mental Health Week is an annual mental health awareness week launched by children's mental health charity [Place2Be](#). The week exists to empower, equip and give a voice to all children and young people in the UK. [Free resources for Children's Mental Health Week 2026](#) are available.

## Southwark training opportunities

### >> **Few places still available on our DSL/DDSL training courses this term**

Few places are still available on the following DSL/DDSL training courses this term. All courses will take place at Southwark Council's Tooley Street office.

- **Two-day induction training: Thursday 5 & Friday 6 March 2026, 9.30am to 4.00pm:** for DSLs and DDSLs who are new to the role or for those who may have had this role in another LA but are new to Southwark.

- **Half-day update training: Tuesday 17 March 2026, 9.00am to 12.30pm.** for DSLs and DDSLs who attended the one-day refresher or the half-day update training two years ago. It will be an opportunity to update on national and local changes in safeguarding children legislation, policies and procedures.
- **One-day refresher training: Friday 20 March 2026, 9.30am to 4.00pm.** for DSLs and DDSLs who attended the two-day induction training two years ago. It is a reflective course and will be an opportunity to reflect on your practice since your induction training.

Please note that a nominal fee is now being applied to our safeguarding training courses to cover the costs of arranging training with our experienced trainers. The charges are:

- **Two-day induction course:** £100 for LA maintained schools; £150 for non-maintained schools
- **One-day refresher course:** £75 for LA maintained schools; £100 for non-maintained schools
- **Half-day update course:** £50 for LA maintained schools; £80 for non-maintained schools.

Please contact the Schools Safeguarding Coordinator Apo Çağırıcı ([apo.cagirici@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:apo.cagirici@southwark.gov.uk), 020 7525 2715 / 07946 453527) if you or anyone in your school or setting would like to attend any of the above courses or to discuss any other training needs.

[Find out more about safeguarding training in Southwark.](#)

## Southwark news

### [\*\*>> Amplified Choices Youth Drug Diversion and Education Workshops - Thursday 26 February for 5 weeks\*\*](#)

MSL (Mindset, Strength and Leadership) is an organisation created by 2 friends from Southwark that want to make a difference for the community and giving young people a chance to express themselves and heal through creativity and physical activity, After a successful first round, they have been commissioned to host the second amplified choices programme with Project Adder funds - A division of the Metropolitan Police. In collaboration with CGL, they will be delivering a 6 week project where they will educate **young people aged 12 to 15 (however they are accepting applicants up to 17)** the important information needed to know regarding substances and its effects within the workshops that include content creation and music production. **There are only very limited places available.** [Youth Engagement Referrals Practitioner/Officer/Teacher form](#) and [MSL Community Referral form for Parents and Guardians](#) are available.

## Other news

### **>> [What the government's updated guidance on mobile phones means for school inspections](#)**

The Department for Education (DfE) is tightening its [guidance on mobile phones in schools](#) from April 2026. A new post on the Ofsted: education blog explains briefly how Ofsted will be supporting the guidance through their inspections.

### **>> [Free lesson materials and on-demand CPD for teachers on online financial harms](#)**

We are familiar with parents discovering unauthorised in-game purchases, drained gift cards, subscriptions they never approved. These are symptoms of children navigating online financial risks in digital spaces designed to exploit them. These resources for teachers have been developed by [The PSHE Association](#) to help protect pupils from a range of online financial harms that pose safeguarding as well as financial risks.

### **>> [Help young people navigate the mental health challenges of being online](#)**

NSPCC's Childline has launched a campaign to help children and young people look after their mental health when using social media. The 'Race to a Milli' campaign video shows TikTok stars compete to achieve one million 'likes' whilst tackling issues such as peer pressure, hateful comments and rage bait. The campaign provides talking points for professionals to use with young people in their schools, clubs and organisations.

### **>> [Free online counselling for young people](#)**

NHS-commissioned and British Association for Counselling & Psychotherapy (BACP) accredited [Kooth](#) offers chat-based support with a trained professional for young people aged 10 to 25, 365 days a year.

### **>> [A safeguarding workbook for schools on body safety](#)**

An independent social worker has developed the Body Safety Workbook that can be purchased, which may be of interest. The workbook is said to be designed for schools who want to teach body safety confidently and safely and to support schools with age-appropriate, guided conversations about body boundaries, consent and speaking up.

## Contextual safeguarding support

## >> Parent webinars – county lines and criminal exploitation

The [Ivison Trust](#) (formerly Pace) is a national charity working to keep children safe from exploitation by supporting parents, disrupting exploiters, and working in partnership with police and family services. During March 2026, the Ivison Trust is delivering a series of live webinars for parents and carers focused on county lines and criminal exploitation. The sessions help parents understand how exploitation happens, how children are groomed, what warning signs to look out for, and where to access advice and support. Each webinar includes local context, time for questions, and input from a parent with lived experience. You may want to share the information with your parents and carers.

## >> Training on contextual safeguarding available from our Safeguarding in Schools team

Our Safeguarding in Schools Lead also delivers bespoke training on contextual safeguarding / Extra Familial harm for secondary schools. Further information is available via [safeguarding training for schools and educational settings](#) and in [our flyer on training offer](#).

# Other training opportunities

## >> Free E-learning course: Addressing violence and abuse in schools

This training that was developed from research undertaken by the [Global Centre for Contextual Safeguarding \(GCCS\)](#) at Durham University is for professionals working within and alongside educational settings who are responsible for the safety and well-being of young people. The course is designed for those working in schools to **think, feel and do** safeguarding differently when addressing violence and abuse between students.

## >> [Free suicide awareness training \(online\)](#)

Online training session for Londoners to learn suicide awareness skills as part of Great Mental Health Day in London 2026 on Friday 30 January, hosted by [Thrive LDN](#).

**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](#)

