



Safeguarding Bulletin – 15 April 2026

Southwark Council sent this bulletin at 15-04-2026 03:59 PM BST

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**Safeguarding
bulletin**



Welcome back

from Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools Team

This week's bulletin is packed with important updates and information about upcoming events. Please do read and share with your school community as required.

If you have any colleagues who would like to receive this weekly safeguarding bulletin, they can [sign up to Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools bulletin.](#)



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>> Training offer from our Safeguarding in Schools Team

DSL / DDSL refresher and induction training is now delivered by the Safeguarding in Schools Lead, with input from other key Southwark services. **Bespoke, topic-based training** is also available which can be tailored to the context of your setting and needs of your staff group.

[Take a look at our website to find out more about our training offer.](#)

>> Next Safeguarding in Schools Webinar

The next **Safeguarding in Schools Webinar** will be delivered by CAMHS on Wednesday 10 June 2026 12.30pm to 1.30pm on the topic of **Safeguarding Neurodivergent Children and Young People**.

Masking, shutdowns and meltdowns are common experiences in neurodivergent young people and are frequently misunderstood or confusing to the adults around them. This webinar will explore the invisible stressors that can lead to these bodily responses and shares tools to provide students with the

neuroaffirming support they need to prevent burnout and thrive at school and beyond.

Staff from all Southwark schools are welcome to attend. Please [sign up to attend the next Safeguarding in Schools Webinar](#).


>> **Safeguarding review offer from our Safeguarding in Schools Team**

In addition to regular training, a good safeguarding culture is also underpinned by reflection and effective governance. To support with this, the Schools Safeguarding Coordinator is available to undertake a review of your schools safeguarding policies and procedures. This provides opportunity for reflection on practice, ensuring compliance and identifying strengths and possible areas for improvement.

[Find out more about Safeguarding Policies and Procedures Reviews](#) and contact apo.cagirici@southwark.gov.uk to book.

Your invite:

Schools Safeguarding Forum

 Thursday 2 July 2026

 9am to 12:30pm

 Southwark Council Office
160 Tooley Street SE1 2QH

*Light continental breakfast
will be available*

DSLs, DDSLs, senior leaders and governors from all Southwark schools and educational settings, regardless of designation, are invited to attend the next **Schools Safeguarding Forum** to hear updates from Social Care, the Police and other Southwark services.

There's no need to sign up - just come along.

To ensure the information delivered on the day is directly relevant to your experiences and needs, we are asking [all schools to please complete this short survey sharing your feedback about what's working well and the challenges of partnership working](#) - by 12 June.

Southwark Updates

>> [Southwark key contacts and services for schools](#)

Teams and services across Southwark are available to support schools in their work to safeguard children and families. We have gathered some of these key contacts into a handy list which you may wish to save or print for ease.

Please note this is not an entirely comprehensive list of the services available in Southwark.

>> [Letter of assurance for schools - updated March 2026](#)

Staff from Southwark Council's Children's Services are regularly required to visit schools and meet with children. Please see the updated letter which we hope provides clarity on the arrangements for this, including that staff shouldn't be required to show a physical copy of their DBS. Please ensure your safeguarding and office staff (and any other relevant colleagues) are aware of these arrangements.

>> **Campaign to address use of cannabis edibles**

Earlier this week, all Southwark schools will have received an email from Change Grow Live (CGL) substance use service with information and resources to support your ongoing safeguarding and prevention work around young people's use of cannabis edibles. [Copies of the flyers for young people, parents / carers and professionals are available online.](#)

For more resources, support or training on this topic, please contact CGL on Southwark.YoungPeople@cgl.org.uk

Southwark news

>> **'Catch Your Breath' vaping programme**

Southwark has high levels of youth vaping. The Catch Your Breath programme works to prevent vaping in young people, with workshops and assemblies for Year 6 to Year 9, delivered by stop smoking advisers. There are limited spaces for primary and secondary schools, so if you're interested or would like to know more, please email: shaileedhuvad@everyonehealth.co.uk

Other news

>> **[Working together to safeguard children 2026: summary of changes](#)**

NSPCC Learning has published a briefing summarising the changes to the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory guidance for England, Working together to safeguard children 2026. Key additions to the guidance include understanding and challenging racism and discrimination; recognising the specific needs and experiences of babies; understanding the impact of domestic abuse; awareness of children experiencing simultaneous harms or multiple harms; strengthened inclusion of children in care; and the link between online harm and harm experienced in person.

>> **[DfE's new 'Restrictive interventions, including the use of reasonable force, in schools' guidance](#)**

The DfE's new guidance about the use of physical restraint in schools for governing bodies, headteachers and school staff came into effect on 1 April 2026. It replaced the previous 'Use of reasonable force in schools' guidance.

>> **[Updated PANTS resources for schools and teachers](#)**

NSPCC Learning has published a new series of Talk PANTS videos. Talk PANTS is an NSPCC campaign to keep children safe from sexual abuse and includes a range of resources to help teachers, schools and early years settings deliver age-appropriate sessions with children. The new videos are funded by The Executive Office in Northern Ireland and include an introduction to what Talk PANTS is. They also feature videos for use with children aged between 3 to 5 years-old, 5 to 7 years-old, and 7 to 11 years-old, as well as children who have

special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and additional support needs (ASN) aged 4 to 11 years-old to help them understand Talk PANTS.

>> **[NEW: Hub of helpful resources for adult survivors of child sexual abuse](#)**

The [Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse \(CSA Centre\)](#) recently launched a new hub of helpful resources for adult survivors of child sexual abuse, which brings together vetted and reliable resources in one freely accessible place. The new hub acts as a directory to help users find a variety of externally hosted resources by trusted sources in a range of formats. This hub of helpful resources aims to make it easier for adult survivors to find information that meets their specific needs.

>> **[New report unearths full scale of AI-generated child sexual abuse](#)**

The [Internet Watch Foundation \(IWF\)](#) recently published their third report into AI-generated child sexual abuse, titled [Harm without limits: AI child sexual abuse material through the eyes of our Analysts](#). The report reveals the full scale of AI-generated child sexual abuse imagery discovered online by the IWF, documenting the identification of 8,029 AI-generated images and videos of realistic child sexual abuse in 2025 alone - a 14% increase in criminal AI content on the previous year. It provides “unsettling” insight on the kind of offender conversations their analysts are witnessing as criminals vie with each other to create more and more lifelike and extreme child sexual abuse scenarios. Chillingly, offenders even discuss setting up and using hidden cameras to source still footage of real children, which they can then transform into AI sexual abuse video content.

>> **[Screen time soars as real-world connection declines for UK children](#)**

An independent, not-for-profit organisation [Internet Matters](#) published their annual [Digital Wellbeing Index](#), running for its fifth consecutive year. The annual survey of UK children aged 9 to 16 and their families tracks the impact of digital technology on children’s physical, social, emotional, and developmental wellbeing. The Index highlights both the positive impacts of the internet and tech devices on children and families as well as areas of concern.

>> **[Spring safety guide: Top tips for keeping children safe](#)**

As the days get longer and the weather starts to improve, new hazards for children emerge. [The Child Accident Prevention Trust](#) has some top tips for keeping children safe from serious accidents this spring.

Other training opportunities

>> [Upcoming free CSA Centre webinars](#)

[The Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse \(CSA Centre\)](#) provides free webinars for professionals that want to build confidence working with children and families where there are concerns about sexual abuse. Each free, one-hour session is designed to help build confidence in working with children and families where there are concerns about sexual abuse using [CSA helpful practice resources](#).

>> [Webinar – Changing Conversations: The impact of domestic abuse on babies and children, Thursday 7 May 6.30pm](#)

[The London Adverse Childhood Experiences \(ACEs\) Hub \(LAH\)](#) in partnership with the [For Baby's Sake](#) is offering a webinar that aims to raise awareness about the impact of the adverse childhood experience (ACE) of domestic abuse on unborn babies and children. It is possible to join the webinar free. There are also options of donation.

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](#)