

## Safeguarding Bulletin – 13 May 2026

Southwark Council sent this bulletin at 13-05-2026 03:55 PM BST

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# Safeguarding bulletin



Hello

from Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools Team

A green circular logo with the text "Safeguarding in Schools" in white, sans-serif font. The logo is partially obscured by the "Hello" text to its left.

Safeguarding  
in Schools

>> [Share your views ahead of the next schools safeguarding forum on Thursday 2 July 2026](#)

The next **Schools Safeguarding Forum** will take place on **Thursday 2 July 2026, 9.30am to 12.30pm at Southwark Council's Tooley Street office**. DSLs, DDSLs, senior leaders and governors from all Southwark schools and educational settings, regardless of designation, are invited to attend the next 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 the short survey](#) sharing your feedback about what's working well and the challenges of partnership working by 12 June.

## Southwark training opportunities

## >> Southwark Virtual School's Designated Teachers for Looked after Children Conference – 3 June 2026

The agenda for Southwark Virtual School's summer **Designated Teacher Conference on 3 June 2026** is now confirmed. This conference focuses on Inclusion and the voice of the child so designated teachers for looked after children are invited to bring other senior staff who would benefit. Please RSVP by completing [the short form to confirm your attendance at conference on 3 June](#), as there are 40 places.

**Southwark Virtual School Designated Teacher Conference – 3 June 2026, 12.30pm to 5.00pm, Canada Water Library.**

### Agenda

**12.30 to 13.00 Arrival and light lunch**

**13.00 to 13.30 Welcome: Ofsted update and Virtual School highlights** - Usha Singh

**13.30 to 14.00 Speakerbox - Introduction to Southwark Children in Care Council** - Ekta Gupta and Young People

**14.00 to 14.15 ARC and Trauma-Informed Schools Update** - Kate Bainbridge

**14.15 to 14.45 End of Year Transition Support for children looked after** - Gemma Simcock, Alice Beresford and Jessica Penketh

**14.45 to 15.00 BREAK**

**15.00 to 16.00 Bright Spots Survey Feedback from Listening to the Voices of Southwark's Children in Care** - Poppy Laurens and Josie Griffin

**16.00 Q&A and Feedback**

This will provide an important opportunity to hear the voice and lived experience of children in care. **SpeakerBox** - Southwark's Children in Care Council will share their experiences of education. Also, representatives from **Coram Voice's Bright Spots Programme** will present findings from their surveys of children in care and care leavers, highlighting barriers they face and what helps them feel included and supported in school.

Southwark Virtual School hope that hearing directly from children and young people will support schools to reflect on inclusion within school policies and daily practice.

## Online safety

### >> **NEW Guidance about publishing photographs of children online: protecting your setting's images from AI manipulation and abuse**

[UK Safer Internet Centre](#) has published a new guidance, which has been developed by the UK Online Harms Early Warning Working Group. This guidance shares best practice and considerations for education settings and organisations working with children and young people on the use of photos and videos across their online platforms such as their websites, social media platforms and other digital spaces, to address the risk of AI image manipulation.

## >> [The DfE's new cyber security hub for schools](#)

The Department for Education has launched a new Cyber Security Hub for schools, offering practical guidance on improving IT security, a template for creating a cyber support plan, and specific advice for schools responding to an active cyber incident.

## Other news

### >> [Martyn's Law statutory guidance published by the Home Office](#)

The Home Office has now published the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 section 27 statutory guidance. It enables those responsible for premises and events to determine whether they fall within the scope of the legislation (known as 'Martyn's Law') and how to comply with legal duties.

### >> [New series of Talk PANTS videos from NSPCC Learning](#)

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 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.

### >> [Free downloadable resources for professionals working with young people](#)

[The Crimestoppers' dedicated youth service Fearless](#) offers a range of free downloadable resources for professionals working with young people. These cover topics including county lines, knife crime, child sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviour, child financial exploitation, FGM, and drugs and alcohol. The resources are practical and school-friendly, and include downloadable booklets, posters, and a set of scenario-based playing cards designed to prompt discussion with young people about reporting crime. Fearless also offers free outreach sessions for schools.

## Other training opportunities

## >> **Free prevent in education virtual sessions 2026 to 2027 from the DfE**

DfE's regional counter-terrorism strategy (CONTEST) co-ordinators can help education providers with the Prevent duty and provide training sessions aimed at designated safeguarding leads and school governors to support them in understanding the Prevent duty and their safeguarding responsibilities in protecting young people from radicalisation and extremism. They offer large, virtual training sessions that are available to anyone working within an education setting in England. They focus on the implementation of Prevent and are designed primarily for those in dedicated safeguarding or Prevent roles including early years foundation stage staff, independent schools, governors and trustees in schools, staff working in SEND and staff working in the FE sector.

## >> **Free online mental health first aid course for teachers**

This free online mental health first aid course for teachers, which is funded by the Government, equips learners with the confidence, skills, and qualification to support others with mental ill health. Learners will explore mentally healthy environments, develop wellness action plans and discover how to protect your own mental health. The course takes on average 6 weeks to complete. This is based on 4 to 5 hours of weekly study.

## >> **More mental health training opportunities**

There is information on Southwark Council website about a range of free and paid mental health training courses available from well-recognised organisations. These courses can help build the skills and confidence to support experiencing mental health challenges, including suicidal thoughts.

## >> **Free London mentoring and mental health support programme**

[Fitzrovia Youth in Action \(FYA\)](#) has just been awarded a contract to deliver the Mayor of London's *Mentoring and Mental Health Support Programme*. This means they will be able to expand their existing youth co-facilitated training offer and support organisations and professionals delivering mentoring, as well as help professionals better support young people's emotional resilience, mental health, and wellbeing. As part of this, they will be offering masterclasses, youth-led mentoring train-the-trainer courses, Youth Mental Health First Aid training, as well as peer support workshops for professionals, **all fully funded for organisations based in London**. If anyone in your school/setting is interested in free Youth Mental Health First Aid training or Peer Mentoring Train the Trainer programme, send an email to [abbie.mitchell@fya.org.uk](mailto:abbie.mitchell@fya.org.uk) to set up a meeting.

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

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](#).

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

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