

Safeguarding Bulletin – 24 June 2026

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**Safeguarding
bulletin**





Hello

from Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools Team

**Safeguarding
in Schools**

**Your invite:
Schools Safeguarding Forum**

 Thursday 2 July 2026

 9.00am to 12.30pm

 Southwark Council Office
160 Tooley Street SE1 2QH

*Light continental breakfast
will be available*

The next Schools Safeguarding Forum will take place on Thursday 2 July 2026, 9.00am to 12.30pm at Southwark Council's Tooley Street Office, Room G01ABC, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH.

The agenda will include:

9.00 to 9.30: Arrival / networking / refreshments

9.30 to 10.00: Update from Southwark MASH

10.00 to 10.20 Family First Partnership reforms

10.20 to 10.50: Update from the Police

10.50 to 11.15: Break

11.15 to 11.50: Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) by Bede House

11.50 to 12.30: Mental health / self-harm and suicide awareness and prevention by CAMHS

The Forum aims to keep schools/educational settings up to date with local and national changes and give access to best practice and resources. It is open to all designated and deputy designated safeguarding leads, senior leaders, chairs of governors and/or nominated lead governors for safeguarding in all types of Southwark schools and educational settings. It is also an opportunity to meet and network with other DSLs and DDSLs.

Please ensure that at least one member of your safeguarding team attends. You do not need to register or book in advance - just turn up on the day!

If you have any queries or require further information, please contact: Apo.Cagirici@southwark.gov.uk.

Southwark training opportunities

>> Latest Safeguarding in Schools webinar on Safeguarding Neurodivergent Children and Young People is now available to watch

The recording of our latest webinar that took place on 10 June 2026 is now available to watch if you have missed it. You can also [watch all previous recordings](#) in this series and [share feedback](#) for future sessions.

Southwark news

>> **Southwark's summer of Food and Fun holiday programme**

The upcoming summer programme is free for children aged 4 to 16 years who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals. The programme runs from Monday 20 July to Friday 28 August and will provide free, nutritious, and tasty food and fun physical activity sessions each day. Bookings go live on Tuesday 30 June.

Online safety

>> **Fact sheet: New rules to protect children online**

The UK government will ban social media for under 16s. Alongside this, certain harmful features on other online services like livestreaming and strangers contacting children will be restricted for under 18s.

>> **New tool launched to help online abuse victims**

The International Policing and Public Protection Research Institute (IPPPRI), part of Anglia Ruskin University (ARU), has launched a new support tool to help victims of online child abuse have their images removed from the internet. Developed in partnership with the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) and Protect Children, the tool allows people who have reported a case to police and had it investigated, to self-refer to the [ECHO Survivor Hub](#) for support. The ECHO Survivor Hub Consortium will actively search for and remove survivors' imagery from circulation; prompt technology companies to proactively remove the imagery; increase awareness of compensation options and support legal representatives to explore civil remedy; and listen to the needs of survivors and offer access to materials to enhance wellbeing and healing.

Other news

>> **Hot weather and heatwaves: guidance for schools and other education settings**

The DfE has published this guidance that contains some important points to support schools and settings during hot weather.

>> **DfE Guidance: Communicating with parents about school attendance**

Information and resources to help schools communicate well with parents and carers to support improved attendance.

>> **New resources to safeguard children not in school**

The [Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel](#) has published new resources to help safeguard children who are not in school, which may be of interest. Children who are persistently absent or not in a school setting can be harder for practitioners to see and may be at greater risk. Persistent absence should be treated as a potential safeguarding concern, prompting multi-agency action rather than being seen solely as an attendance issue.

>> [Change to the definition of regulated activity](#)

The [Crime and Policing Act 2026](#) removes the 'supervision exemption' from the definition of regulated activity, following a recommendation from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. From 1 September 2026 any person volunteering in a school or college who teaches, trains, instructs, cares for or supervises children frequently or on more than 3 days in a 30-day period, or overnight, will be in regulated activity, regardless of whether or not they are supervised. Schools and colleges must review volunteer roles before this date and ensure that any volunteer in regulated activity has an enhanced DBS check with children's barred list information. Arrangements should be put in place now to obtain any required checks. Updates will be included in the forthcoming publication of Keeping children safe in education 2026.

>> [Open consultation: Improving help and child protection: revised framework](#)

This consultation by DfE will inform updates to [Working together to safeguard children](#), [Children's social care national framework](#) and policy underpinning the development of [multi-agency child protection team regulations](#). DfE would like to hear views on whether the proposed updates are clear and easy to understand, practical to implement and likely to improve outcomes for children and their families. The consultation is aimed at parents and carers, and people who work in education, amongst others. This consultation closes on 4 September 2026.

>> [Health and safety concerns of play sand](#)

Early years and childcare providers need to be aware of an important emerging health and safety issue concerning play sand and toy products. The [Office for Product Safety and Standards \(OPSS\)](#) have published [guidance](#) for consumers and businesses on consumer products containing asbestos. The guidance provides information on disposal for both businesses and consumers, including early years settings, along with health information. Settings should review the linked list of contaminated products that are subject to recalls and where products are identified in the setting follow the guidance to ensure their safe removal.

>> [New Funding Opportunity: Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls \(VAWG\)](#)

[Youth Endowment Fund](#) has opened a new funding round to help build the evidence on **what works to prevent violence against women and girls** — with a focus on promoting healthy, respectful relationships in **secondary schools**. They are inviting applications from organisations working with young people aged 11–16 across two strands:

- **School capacity building** — training and supporting staff to deliver high-quality RSHE on healthy and respectful relationships, including sensitive topics such as online safety and intimate relationships.

- **Delivery by external specialists** — organisations providing healthy relationships education directly to pupils as part of RSHE.

Successful projects will receive funding **plus evaluation support** to strengthen the evidence base on preventing VAWG. **Deadline:** Monday 27 July 2026.

Other training opportunities

>> **Free Seeing the Child Beyond the Harm conference – exploring the shared drivers of violence, exploitation and abuse**

Children trapped in cycles of violence, exploitation and peer-to-peer harm are too often seen for what they do – not what has happened to them. This conference by [Safer London](#) brings together professionals across sectors, alongside young people, to explore the underlying factors that shape children’s experiences of harm and how to shift from behaviour-led responses to child-first, safeguarding-led approaches that recognise past trauma, abuse and unmet need.

>> **Free mandatory allergy and anaphylaxis training for schools**

From September, all staff working with children will be required to complete training on identifying the signs of anaphylaxis and administering adrenaline. This free hour-long CPD-certified online training will help staff recognise, prevent and respond to allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis.

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](#).