

Safeguarding Bulletin - 30 September 2026

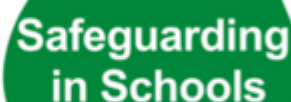
Southwark Council sent this bulletin at 30-09-2026 04:05 PM BST

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

Safeguarding bulletin

The word "Hello" written in a green, handwritten-style font.

from Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools Team

A green circular logo with the text "Safeguarding in Schools" in white, sans-serif font.

The new [Information Sharing Duty statutory guidance](#) comes into force today (30 September 2026). It changes the way all agencies should approach information sharing, in that they **must** share information where it is relevant to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of a child, not only in Child Protection instances. [The Safeguarding Network has shared more details about what the new duty means for schools.](#)

While it means parental consent is not required for information to be shared, including for purposes of Early Help referrals, it remains good practice to ensure families are informed of all safeguarding actions and supported to understand the reason and legal basis for these. Transparency is still a cornerstone of effective safeguarding.

Alongside this, the [London Safeguarding Children Board Threshold Document](#) should be used to determine the right course of action, including whether a referral is required to Social Care or whether alternative support could be more appropriate.

For lower level concerns, this may include sign posting to a [Best Start Family Hub](#) - one-stop shops for face-to-face support, information and advice for families with

children age 0-19 (or 25 with SEND), or to [Southwark's newly launched SEND Local Offer](#).

Southwark news

>> Southwark Best Start Family Hub Professionals Briefing

Wednesday 7 October 2026, 9.00am to 11.30am (arrive from 8.45am), **Columbo Centre**, 68 Columbo Street, SE1 8DP ([directions to the venue](#)). The Professionals Briefings, jointly organised by South Bermondsey Best Start Hub in partnership with Coin Street and 1st Place Best Start Hub, aim to strengthen collaboration between professionals supporting families across Southwark. This session will focus on Youth services, exploring how Best Start Family Hubs can adapt to support families right from the start of their parenting journey up until their children turn 19 (or 25 with SEND). The programme will include presentations from partner organisations, sharing key service updates and highlighting opportunities to connect families with the right support at the right time. There will also be dedicated time for networking, alongside the opportunity to share your own work, services, and achievements. You are warmly encouraged to bring promotional materials to share with the network. [Confirm your attendance via Eventbrite](#). A light breakfast will be provided.

Southwark training opportunities

>> Southwark Virtual School Designated Teacher for LAC Conference – 8 October 2026, Canda Water Library, 10.00am to 3.30pm

This is a reminder to [sign up for the DT training day on Thursday 8 October](#) as places are going quickly! **Dr James Hanley** will deliver a morning session on **understanding trauma and approaches that work in school** to support children in care and who are care-experienced. Many of you have requested training on practical trauma-informed practice so this will be invaluable. There will also be a focus on using pupil premium plus to maximise attainment and wellbeing for children in care and helping you navigate the implications of the recent changes impacting schools and social care.

Agenda:

10:00 to 10.20 - Meet and Greet

10:20 to 10:30 - Welcome - Usha Singh

10:30 to 12:30 - Delivering trauma-informed support in schools for children who are in care and care-experienced - Dr James Hanley (Carelink clinician and service manager). Activities;

- How trauma manifests in school

- What works in school for children who have experienced trauma

12:30 to 13:30 - Lunch

13:30 to 14:00 - The Virtual School – Reflections and learning from 25-26 – Usha Singh

14:00 to 14:30 - Children's Wellbeing Bill and Schools Bill and the Virtual School – Kate Bainbridge

14:30 to 15:00 - Using Pupil Premium Plus to improve outcomes: from funding to impact – Usha Singh & Virtual School

15.00 to 15.30 - Q&A and Feedback

>> Free training opportunity – Working Collaboratively with Fathers, 19 October

Upcoming **Working Collaboratively with Fathers: Applying Thinking to Practice** training session, co-produced by Healthy Minds Thrive, Southwark Council's Parenting Team and Future Men will take place on **Monday 19 October, 9.30am to 4.30pm at Southwark Council office, 160 Tooley Street, SE1 2QH**. The training is open to **new frontline staff working with children and families and anyone who has not previously attended**, with a particular focus on supporting fathers with children aged 0 to 2. The training aims to: explore the role of fathers in children's development, increase confidence in engaging fathers, build knowledge and confidence in supporting fathers' mental health needs, particularly within the first two years of their child's life and provide practical tips for working effectively and collaboratively with families. **Booking is essential.** [Book through My Learning Source if you have an account](#) or [book through Eventbrite if you do not have account](#). Please only book through **one platform**.

>> Safeguarding in Schools webinar: Tackling Misogyny in Schools, 22 October

Staff from all schools and education settings across Southwark are invited to join this webinar on Thursday 22 October 2026, 12.30pm to 1.30pm to learn practical tools, activities and approaches to explore male identities, social media, the manosphere and healthy relationships with young people.

You can [sign up](#) or [download this direct calendar invite](#).

The session will be recorded and available to watch online, along with all previous recordings.

>> DSL / DDSL Induction and Refresher training available

Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools team deliver induction and refresher training for DSL and DDSLs in education settings throughout the year. **The next refresher training is on 14 October 2026**. To find out more and sign up, please contact Apo.Cagirici@southwark.gov.uk

Our training offer also includes bespoke, topic-based sessions, with more information available online.

The Prevent duty

>> The Prevent duty: practical guidance for DSLs

New guidance is available for education settings around safeguarding learners susceptible to radicalisation. It explains the Prevent referral process and the statutory responsibilities to keep children, young people and adult learners safe from the risk of extremist ideology or radicalisation by preparing DSLs to respond effectively and get support for people who may be being exploited by radicalising influences. The practical advice and examples of best practice should supplement your setting's existing safeguarding policies. The use of the guidance is not mandatory, but it does refer to the statutory requirements of the [Prevent duty](#) and [Keeping children safe in education](#).

>> DfE's free online Prevent training sessions

The Department for Education offers a range of free online Prevent training sessions throughout the academic year, designed specifically for professionals working across the education sector. Whether you are a designated safeguarding lead, governor, early years practitioner, SEND professional, independent school staff member or further education provider, there are sessions tailored to your role. They also offer wider awareness sessions for all education staff, alongside specialist webinars covering topics such as incels and the manosphere, online platforms and extremist content, and gaming and extremism.

>> Home Office Prevent Programme Factsheet

Recently published statistics and information about the Prevent Programme.

>> Information on tackling hate crime and radicalisation on Southwark Council website

Further resources and guidance for how to respond to these risks.

>> Training offer from The Resilience in Unity Project

[Resilience in Unity](#) is a UK organisation working to counter youth radicalisation by amplifying the voices of those with lived experience; survivors of terrorist attacks and those formerly radicalised. They specialise in counter-extremism education, safeguarding awareness, and prevention work focused on radicalisation, online

harms, and vulnerability. They have worked with Local Authorities, schools, Further and Higher Education providers, safeguarding partnerships, community organisations, and professional networks to deliver training that combines professional expertise with lived experience. **Please note that they charge for their offers. Schools/settings should use their own discretion when deciding to use their services.**

Other news

>> Free Anti-Bullying Week 2026 packs

Anti-Bullying Week 2026 that is organised by the [Anti-Bullying Alliance \(ABA\)](#) will take place from Monday 16 to Friday 20 November with the theme: Break the Silence. This year's campaign - Break the Silence - will encourage children, young people and adults across the UK to start conversations about bullying, speak up, listen and take action together. Free Primary School & Youth Setting Pack and Secondary School & Youth Setting Pack as well as the [Parent and Carer Pack](#) are now available.

>> The experiences and support needs of parents and carers of sexually abused children: A knowledge review

Discovering that their child has been sexually abused can have a profound effect on a non-abusing parent or carer, impacting both their own wellbeing and their ability to support their child through recovery. Research shows that parents and carers are key figures in their children's recovery after sexual abuse, yet they often face significant barriers to getting support themselves. This review by the [Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse \(CSA Centre\)](#) explores the existing research and resources in this area and shines a light on the importance of support for parents and carers of sexually abused children.

>> CSA Centre infographics on the scale and nature of child sexual abuse

Earlier this year, the [Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse \(CSA Centre\)](#) published their 2026 report *Scale and nature of child sexual abuse: Review of evidence* which provides a comprehensive analysis of the available evidence on child sexual abuse in England and Wales. Alongside the report, their latest infographics present the key findings in a visual and accessible way.



Other training opportunities

>> Upcoming free webinars by Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse (CSA Centre)

- [Supporting parents/carers when their child may have been sexually abused](#): **1.00pm to 2.00pm, 6 October 2026**
- [Online sexual offending: supporting families following arrest of a parent](#): **10.00am to 11.00am, 7 October 2026**
- [From knowledge to action: what works in tackling child sexual abuse: Liz Jones Memorial Lecture](#): **10.00am to 11.00am, 18 November 2026**

>> [Vaccinations in schools: support for educators free webinar](#)

Schools are invited to attend this NHS England webinar to learn how they can support vaccination programmes and improve uptake among pupils on **14 October 2026 (4.00pm to 5.15pm)**. Topics include:

- Routine school-age vaccination programmes.
- Working with local immunisation teams.
- The importance of increasing vaccine uptake.
- The current measles situation and the role schools can play, including support for MMR catch-up initiatives.

The webinar includes a Q&A session, and a recording will be available afterwards.

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](#).