

Newsletter, September 2025

The Safeguarding Partnership Vision

For every child and young person to be and feel safe, enjoy good physical, emotional and mental health, have pride in their unique identities, feel that they belong and have opportunities to thrive.

For adults, irrespective of age, race, gender, culture, religion, disability or sexual orientation to be able to live with their rights protected, in safety, free from abuse and the fear of abuse.

All previous newsletters can be accessed [here](#).

The Safeguarding Partnership produces and sources practice guidance, briefings and audit reports to support your safeguarding practice with children and adults.

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**SUBSCRIBE**

Subscribe to the Safeguarding Partnership mailing list [here](#), it only takes a minute! You will receive new briefings and newsletters as soon as they are published.

ICON Week 22nd -26th September 2025

ICON Week 2025 is a reminder that preventing harm starts with understanding, support and compassion. Together, we can build a safer world for babies, and a more confident and supportive environment for those caring for them.



Infant crying is normal



Comforting methods can help



It's OK to walk away



Never, ever shake a baby

[LEARN MORE](#) >>

Educating parents about infant crying and the risks of shaking babies significantly reduces the incidence of abusive head trauma for infants.

ICON is an NHS campaign developed to prevent abusive head trauma. It is an evidence-based programme consisting of a series of brief 'touchpoint' interventions that reinforce the simple message making up the ICON acronym.



Talk PANTS Week 13th - 19th October 2025



Talk PANTS week is an initiative aimed at empowering children to understand their rights to safety and to recognise the potential risks of sexual abuse. Talk PANTS aims to teach children how they can speak up if anything doesn't feel right. Talk PANTS is aimed at parents of children between ages 3-11, giving adults advice on how to talk to children in an age-appropriate way about sexual abuse, without using any scary words or even mentioning sex. We know that simple conversations can make a big difference, and that's what the Talk PANTS campaign is all about.

Want to learn more?

Join our free Talk PANTS Champion Training Webinar to build your confidence in sharing the Talk PANTS message with colleagues, parents, carers and children. The session will show you how to access resources, get support, and use Talk PANTS effectively.

Training Dates

Talk PANTS Champion Training : 30th September 2025 - 12:00-13:00pm - online

[BOOK NOW](#) >>

Talk PANTS Champion Training 2nd October 2025, 12:00-13:00pm - online

[BOOK NOW](#) >>

Substance Misuse and Safeguarding Adults and Children

FREE WEBINAR

24th September 2025, 14:00-16:00pm

Understanding the impacts of substance misuse, and how to help, is key to safeguarding children and adults affected by it. This Safeguarding Partnership webinar will provide an overview of:

- how substance misuse can affect parenting capacity and how it can affect families through generations
- when to view substance misuse through a self neglect lens
- alcohol related brain damage, dementia and mental capacity
- local services for children, young people, adults and whole families affected by substance misuse, and how to access these services

The webinar is open to anyone who is interested. Please feel free to share this email widely.

REGISTER HERE



World Suicide Prevention Day 10th September 2025

Suicide is a major public health problem with far-reaching social, emotional and economic consequences. It is estimated that there are currently more than 700,000 suicides per year worldwide, and we know that each suicide profoundly affects many more people. Suicide remains a critical global issue, affecting individuals and communities.

Changing the narrative on suicide aims to inspire individuals, communities, organisations, and governments to engage in open and honest discussions about suicide and suicidal behaviour. By initiating these vital conversations, we can break down barriers, raise awareness, and create better cultures of understanding and support.



More information in this briefing

Single Point of Access

The Single Point of Access is an NHS Mental Health Crisis Line which offers support and assessment in a mental health crisis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. It is open to children and adults of all ages, including people who haven't previously used mental health services, and to carers and family members who might be concerned about someone.



Call: [0800 0234 650](tel:08000234650) or email cnw-tr.spa@nhs.net

If you think an adult or child is in immediate danger, call 999.

[Stronger Families Hub](#)
01895 556006

[Social Care Direct](#)
01895 556633

Signs & Indicators Cuckooing and Adult Exploitation

Everyone working with adults needs to be able to recognise the signs and indicators of exploitation and cuckooing. Building on knowledge of best practice, research and learning from serious incidents Hillingdon Safeguarding Partnership has developed a checklist to support practitioners and to inform assessments of risk and safeguarding plans. Ask your safeguarding lead for further information.



A pattern of missed or cancelled appointments



The adult appears fearful of others



The adult starts carrying weapons



Increasing isolation from family, friends and support systems



The presence of unexplained injuries



People preventing access to services



Unexplained increase in debt



Reports of antisocial behaviour or noise complaints



The adult is unable to speak freely

Professional Curiosity

Professional curiosity involves looking beyond the initial presentation of a situation to consider what else might be occurring. It means noticing discrepancies, seeking clarification, and being ready to challenge explanations that do not align with other available information. In safeguarding contexts, professional curiosity is essential in identifying and preventing harm, especially when individuals may not disclose their circumstances due to fear, shame, or coercion.

This curiosity must be grounded in respect and empathy, exercised with a strong understanding of diversity and cultural literacy. It is about developing a comprehensive understanding of a person's lived experience and being prepared to act on concerns, even when evidence is not immediately clear or when others may minimize the issues.



**Professional Curiosity Week
3rd November 2024**

The Safeguarding Partnership team is hosting a focused week on professional curiosity. More details coming soon.



Partnership News

Briefing feedback form

Our briefings are concise, informative documents designed to provide quick insights that support learning, reflection, and practical application across the multiagency network. Your feedback helps us understand how these briefings are being used in practice. Whether in team meetings, supervision, or direct work. We would like to know how we can improve our briefings to support you and your teams better.

[**CLICK HERE**](#)

Safeguarding Partnership Information Webinars

The Safeguarding Partnership deliver webinars through the year to provide you with information about our roles, responsibilities, priorities, and relevant legislation. These sessions are for professionals working with children and adults across all local services. This includes social care, housing, education, policing, probation, health, voluntary and private sector organisations. New staff or people who want to refresh their knowledge are welcome.

[Book your place through Learning Zone](#)

Safeguarding Partnership Training Programme

The Partnership commissions a range of safeguarding training relevant to working with children and adults. This training is free to staff in the organisations that jointly fund the Safeguarding Partnership: NHS, Police, and Local Authority. Book on to any of our training at [Hillingdon Learning Zone: Safeguarding Partnership](#). Some courses are chargeable to organisations that do not contribute financially to the partnership, and some courses are free to all.

The courses are for professionals working with children or adults across all local services. This includes: social care, housing, education, policing, probation, health, and voluntary and private sector providers.

**You'll need a Learning Zone account to access our training.
If you don't have one, [click this link](#) to create a new account**