

## Newsletter, October 2023

### 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.**

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.**

**In this newsletter:**

- Private Fostering
- World Mental Health Day 10th October 2023
- Parental Substance Misuse
- Neglect of Adults with Care and Support Needs
- Cultural Literacy and Anti-Racist Practice
- New children's LADO process
- Home Fire Safety Checker - new online risk assessment tool

**Partnership News:**

- Wear Red to Show Racism the Red Card
- International Day of the Girl
- Prevent Partnership Training

### Safeguarding Partnership Training Offer

The Partnership commissions safeguarding specific training in line with Partnership priorities. This training is free to staff in the organisations who jointly fund the Safeguarding Partnership: NHS, Police, and Local Authority. It is open to other organisations in Hillingdon, at a fee.

**You can book onto this training via this link:**

[Learning Zone: Safeguarding Partnership \(learningpool.com\)](https://learningzone.org.uk/learningpool.com)

If you do not have a Learning Zone account please [complete this form](#)

## Private Fostering

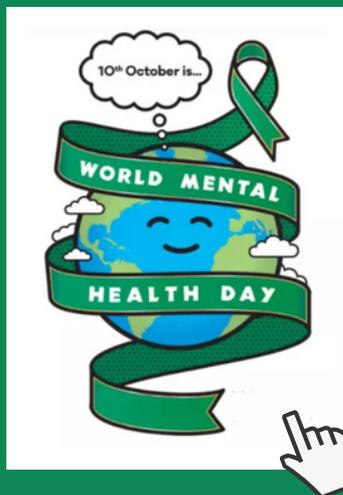
Private fostering is an arrangement where a child, under 16 (or under 18 if they have a disability), is looked after by a person who isn't their parent nor a close relative, on a full-time basis for over 28 days. Private fostering does not necessarily involve any payment to the carers. This does not include fostering arranged by the Local Authority.

If the child is in a private fostering arrangement, you must notify the council of this arrangement immediately

Here is a new briefing to support you to identify and respond to private fostering, and to understand why it is important.

**Notify the council of private fostering**  
Let us know of any private...  
[hillingdon.gov.uk](http://hillingdon.gov.uk)

## World Mental Health Day 10th October 2023



World Mental Health Day is about raising awareness of mental health and driving positive change for everyone's mental health.

The theme for 2023 is Mental Health is a Universal Human Right.

It's a chance to talk about mental health, how we need to look after it, and how important it is to get help if you are struggling.

Some children, adults and families in Hillingdon are impacted by poor mental health. This can affect people of all ages, in all walks of life. To provide the best possible support we need to understand what it is like to live with mental health problems.

Children, young people and adults in Hillingdon have shared their stories, art and poetry to help us understand their experiences.



## Parental Substance Misuse

Parental substance misuse refers to the problematic use of drugs (legal or illegal) and/or alcohol by a parent or caregiver. This includes but is not limited to:

- Dependency on alcohol or drugs
- Regular or excessive drug use
- Consuming large quantities of alcohol regularly that can lead to health problems
- Being unable to supervise their children appropriately due to their drugs or alcohol use.

Exploring a parent or carer's drug or alcohol use is important to understanding the impact on a child's lived experiences. Substance misuse can affect a caregiver's ability to provide practical support, or a safe and nurturing environment for their child. It can also increase the risk that a child could experience neglect or abuse.

'Parental Substance Misuse: What Professionals Need to Know' covers:

- understanding parental substance misuse
- the risks to children and adults
- spotting signs and indicators
- best practice and what works
- NSPCC learning from reviews of practice.



## Neglect of Adults with Care and Support Needs

Adults with care and support needs are often dependent on others to meet their most basic needs. Sometimes these needs go unmet. This puts adults at risk because a person supporting them either cannot or does not do what is necessary to meet their needs. This is neglect.

Neglect includes:

- ignoring medical, emotional, or physical care needs
- failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services
- withholding the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating

This new briefing covers a range of guidance and information to support safeguarding practice including:

- Opportunities to prevent neglect
- Signs and indicators
- Working with informal carers to prevent and identify neglect
- When neglect is a criminal offence



## Cultural Literacy and Anti-Racist Practice

Cultural literacy in safeguarding practice enables individual professionals and systems to intervene respectfully and effectively to safeguard people of all cultures, classes, races, ethnic backgrounds, religions, genders, abilities and sexual orientations. It recognises the centrality of identity, culture and lived experience.



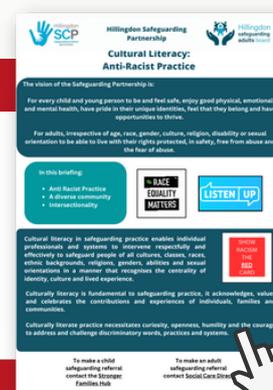
Culturally literacy is fundamental to safeguarding practice, it acknowledges, values and celebrates the contributions and experiences of individuals, families and communities.

Culturally literate practice necessitates curiosity, openness, humility and the courage to address and challenge discriminatory words, practices and systems.

A new briefing is available to support cultural literacy and anti-racist practice.

This briefing covers:

- Anti-Racist Practice
- Hillingdon is a Diverse Community
- Intersectionality



## The New LADO Process Managing Allegations Against People Who Work, or Volunteer, With Children

Working Together to Safeguarding Children sets out the requirement for employers to have clear policies about how they will respond to allegations about people in positions of trust, both inside and outside of work. This includes people who are paid, unpaid, casual, agency or self-employed people.

It also defines the role of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) who oversees responses to allegations, and provides advice, information and guidance and support to employers and voluntary organisations. The London Safeguarding Children Procedures set out what should happen when there are concerns about a person in a position of trust with children.

There is a NEW local process for reporting concerns or seeking guidance from the LADO. The new process is attached here. This is important reading for all employers and people who recruit and manage volunteers.



The Children's LADO delivers a 3 hour multi-agency training course suitable for leaders who are responsible for managing allegations in their settings, or as preparation for a role that requires this.

Book through [Learning Zone](#). If you do not have a Learning Zone account [click here](#)

# Fire Safety - Practice Guidance

*"The majority of people who die or are seriously injured in fires have common vulnerabilities and risk factors. They are often known to service providers and agencies. It is the responsibility of all of us to reduce these risks where we can and help prevent fires from happening."*

London Fire Brigade

Click here for specialist guidance



Dementia, learning disabilities, reduced mobility, and a range of medical equipment can increase the risks of fire and can make it much harder for someone to protect themselves from it. Professionals providing support of any kind must be alert to the risks and take prompt action to manage the risks wherever possible.

## Home Fire Safety Checker



There is a new online home fire safety checker which can be used by professionals to assess fire risk in any property. The checker is easy to use and gives expert advice and guidance for each question. If answers indicate a need for a home fire safety visit by the London Fire Brigade, the checker will explain how to set it up.

### Indicators of fire risk:

- Burn marks on carpets, furniture and clothing
- Any history of fire or near misses
- Any behaviours that increase the risks of fires starting and spreading.
- Presence of specialist medical equipment that increases the risk

### Specialist medical equipment which increases the risks of fires include:

- use of emollients and other skin creams
- incontinence products stored at home
- use of air flow pressure relieving equipment
- Use of oxygen therapy

Risk assessment and safety planning saves lives.

### Behavioural and environmental factors:

- Hoarding
- Leaving pots and pans unattended during cooking
- Leaving things such as plastic kettles and tea towels on the hob
- Leaving the hob on when not cooking - particularly when a person forgets to turn it off
- Using heaters to dry clothes
- Placing heaters too close to furniture or too close to where a person is sitting or sleeping
- Leaving candles on unstable surfaces or too close to furniture/fabrics/people
- Substance misuse

### Best Practice

- Report any fire safety concerns to your line manager and take urgent action to manage and reduce risks. Share your concerns with relevant others involved in the person's care.
- Unmanaged fire risk is a safeguarding concern. Report it
- If a person is reluctant to reduce fire risk in their home, give careful consideration to mental capacity, and engage in frank discussion and challenge.
- Fire risk is a public and environmental safety matter. There are legal mechanisms available to landlords and environmental health officers to enforce necessary safety measures.
- The Community Risk Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (CR MARAC) may be an appropriate place to discuss unmanaged fire risk. Click on the link for more information.



## Partnership News

### Show Racism The Red Card - Wear RED

Between **16th and 20th October 2023** Hillingdon Safeguarding Partnership will be wearing red to show racism the RED card.

Join us by wearing RED to work to challenge racism.

There are also fundraising packs available [here](#)

Take a selfie in red and share the picture on social media using the hashtag #WRD23! and tag @hillington\_SP



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### International Day of the Girl



unicef | for every child



The International Day of the Girl (IDG) – observed annually on 11th October – is a global platform to advocate for the full spectrum of girls' rights.

**Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** is a form of child abuse and a harmful practice which exclusively affects women and girls. The Safeguarding Partnership continues to run free monthly multi-agency awareness raising online workshops.

Book onto an FGM workshop via this link:  
[Hillingdon Learning Zone: Safeguarding Partnership](#)  
If you do not have a Learning Zone account, please [complete this form](#)

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### Prevent Partnership Training Offer

Multi-agency training available from the Prevent Partnership about identifying and responding to radicalisation.

Click [here](#) to download dates and how to book a session.

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### NEW Training Trauma Informed Practice Awareness Raising Session

This half day session will offer an opportunity to hear the key principles of Trauma Informed Practice and consider and reflect on our own responses and how being more trauma informed can improve our practice and daily interactions. Book your place on [Learning Zone](#).

Sessions include:

- An awareness of Trauma and how it may present
- The principles of Trauma Informed Practice
- Promoting a change in language and approach in multi-agency relationships