Newsletter, July 2026

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.

In this Newsletter:

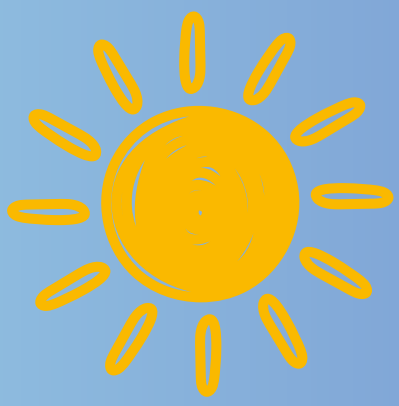
- Summer safeguarding messages for professionals and Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP)
- Reviewing Transitional Safeguarding week 2026
- Home Fire Safety Checker
- **What's new in Hillingdon:** New Hillingdon Domestic Abuse protocol, Walking in Our Shoes expanded training
- **Upcoming training**: Late July, August & September 2026
- **What's coming up:** ICON week, NSPCC PANTS week, Professional Curiosity and Cultural Comptency events

Hello Safeguarding Partnership! The summer has arrived!

Among the hot weather and holidays, there are, of course, some serious seasonal risks to upon which we need a collective preventative focus for children and adults at risk.



Read on more on page 2 about about the local water safety, open window risk and Severe Weather Emergency Protocol



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Summer risks: falls from open windows

The risk of falls from open windows is particularly high during the summer months when windows are often left open for ventilation. This is especially concerning for young children, as they are naturally curious and may climb or lean near windows without understanding the danger. Even low-level windows pose a risk, and it is crucial to take preventive measures to ensure the safety of children during these warmer months.

Young children are naturally curious and may not recognise the dangers of open windows. Accidents can happen in seconds, and children can easily topple head-first while climbing on furniture, toys or window ledges.

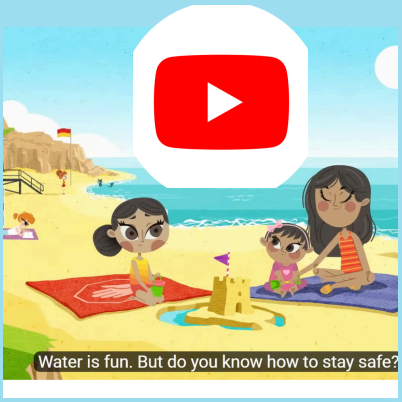


Water Safety Advice

ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY UK | Enjoy Water Safely

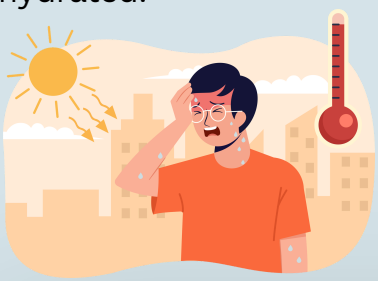
Use the summer period to reinforce water safety messages with families. Drowning can happen quickly and quietly, making active supervision and water safety awareness essential.

Avoid swimming in rivers, canals, reservoirs, unsupervised lakes and quarries, construction-site ponds or any water where signs state "No Swimming." These contain hidden hazards such as strong currents, cold-water shock, underwater debris, and sudden drops in depth.



Heat & Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP)

Those most at risk: young children, older adults, people sleeping rough, and those with health conditions, certain medications, substance use, learning disabilities or difficulty staying hydrated.



Cool Spaces: local libraries, community centres will offer respite during opening house. Olympic House hostel, Grove Lane, UB8 3RG (near Hillingdon Hospital), is open during hot weather alerts (minimum 11am–5pm) for rough sleepers.

Key message: encourage vulnerable residents to stay cool, hydrated and out of direct sunlight.



During the recent Red Heat Health Alert, Hillingdon services implemented an **enhanced Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP)** response to help protect vulnerable rough sleepers from the risks associated with extreme heat.

Emergency accommodation was made available during the alert period for several rough sleepers. Multi-agency efforts helped reduce the risks of heat-related illness and dehydration among those most vulnerable.

Transitional Safeguarding Week

Young people don't become less vulnerable when they turn 18. Risks linked to exploitation, mental ill-health, substance misuse, homelessness, domestic abuse and social isolation can continue into adulthood. Transitional safeguarding recognises that services must work together to provide joined-up support that reflects young people's lived experiences and changing needs.

What We Learnt

Early planning for transition into adult services.
Building strong relationships with young people before key transition points.
Sharing information effectively across agencies.
Taking a strengths-based, trauma-informed approach to support.
Ensuring no young person falls through gaps between children's and adults' services.

Impact on practice

Participants reported increased confidence in supporting young people during transition, improved knowledge of referral pathways, and a better understanding of how agencies can work together to prevent young people from falling through service gaps. The programme reinforced a key message: safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, including when young people move into adulthood.



Looking Ahead

Following the success of the week, the Partnership will continue to promote transitional safeguarding through learning opportunities, resource sharing and multi-agency collaboration. Practitioners are encouraged to apply this learning in day-to-day practice and consider transition planning as everyone's responsibility.

Transitional Safeguarding Key Messages

Plan Early - Identify young people who may need support beyond 18 and begin transition planning as early as possible.
Know Your Services - Familiarise yourself with local support pathways, including SORTED, ARCH, Young Adult Pathways, CAMHS, Adult Mental Health Services and the SEND Local Offer.
Work Together - Strengthen communication and information-sharing with partner agencies to ensure smooth transitions and coordinated support.
Think Beyond 18 - Remember that vulnerabilities and safeguarding risks do not automatically end when a young person reaches adulthood.
Apply the Learning - Use transitional safeguarding principles in assessments, planning and everyday practice to improve outcomes for young people

Home Fire Safety Checker (HFSC) – London Fire Brigade

The Home Fire Safety Checker (HFSC) is a free online tool developed by London Fire Brigade to help residents identify fire risks in their home and receive personalised fire safety advice. It can be completed for your own home or on behalf of someone you support.

The checker helps identify common fire risks, including unattended cooking, smoking materials, electrical hazards and overloaded sockets, unsafe charging of devices, missing or non-working smoke alarms.

The risks affecting vulnerable residents are often higher.

Why is this important for Practitioners?

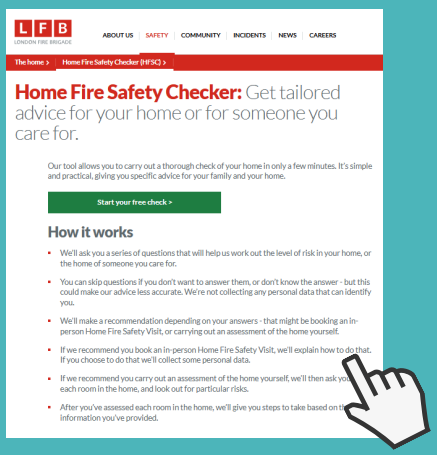
Fire risk can often be linked to wider safeguarding concerns. You should consider a fire safety referral where you identify:

- Self-neglect
- Hoarding behaviours
- Mental ill-health
- Substance misuse
- Domestic abuse
- Social isolation
- Mobility issues or frailty, Learning disabilities or dementia
- Young people living independently or care experienced
- Families living in overcrowded or poor housing conditions



What happens after completing the HFSC

- Personalised fire safety recommendations
- A tailored action plan to reduce risks
- Signposting to additional support
- If a household is identified as being at higher risk, London Fire Brigade may recommend or arrange a Home Fire Safety Visit by firefighters.



In the year ending June 2025:
FRSs attended 165,697 fires, which increased by 28% compared with the previous year (129,638) and increased by 2.3% compared with 10 years ago (161,963)

💡 Safeguarding Tip

A home visit provides an opportunity to think beyond the immediate presenting issue. If you identify concerns about the home environment, consider whether a Home Fire Safety Check could help reduce risk and improve overall wellbeing.

What's new in Hillingdon?

Launch of new Hillingdon Domestic Abuse Practice Briefing



This new practice briefing has been developed to strengthen professional understanding of domestic abuse, with a particular focus on children as victims in their own right, coercive and controlling behaviour, professional curiosity, risk assessment, and multi-agency safeguarding.

Drawing on learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews, JTAI inspections, and the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, it provides practical guidance to help practitioners identify risk, recognise escalating harm, utilise MARAC processes effectively, and improve outcomes for children and families. The resource supports confident, evidence-informed practice and reinforces the importance of seeing the whole picture through effective information sharing and professional judgement

Walking in Our Shoes - expanded training!

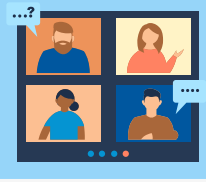
Hillingdon's ever-popular training by care experienced young people has dates upcoming in late July and August. Due to the multiagency demand for this training, Aisling Knight, Children's Participation Officer, has decided to increase the capacity of all upcoming training sessions from 25 to 40 - please book now to avoid disappointment!.



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



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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



Upcoming Training August & September

Late July Training Dates

14 July - Supporting LGBT+ Young People 2026/27
15 July - Introduction to Domestic Abuse 2026/27
16 July - Exploitation - Harm outside the Home 2026/27
17 July - Adult Safeguarding L3 2026/27
20 July - Domestic Abuse and the Impact on Children and Young People
23 July - Walking in our Shoes 2026/27
29 July - In-depth understanding of Probation Services (Managers or above)

August Training Dates

10 August - Domestic Abuse and the Impact on Children and Young People
27 August – Walking in our Shoes 2026/27

September Training Dates

17 September - Introduction to Domestic Abuse 2026/27
23 September - Initial Working Together to Safeguard Children L3 2026-27
28 September - Refresher Working Together to Safeguard Children L3 2026-27

BOOK NOW

What's coming up in Hillingdon

September - ICON week



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. ICON week this year is 21-25 September, the Hillingdon Safeguarding Partnership will be sharing more information about ICON week at the time.



October - NSPCC Pants Week

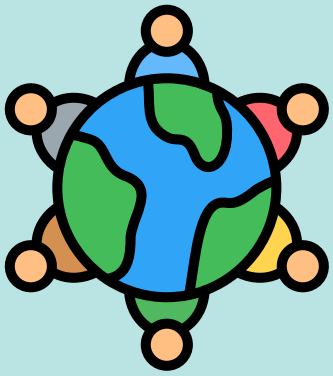


Talk PANTS week is an initiative aimed at empowering children to understand their rights to safety and to recognise the potential risks of sexual abuse. Talk PANTS aims to teach children how they can speak up if anything doesn't feel right. This year's Talk Pants week will take place in October 2026. Expect a webinar and local awareness raising events in schools and libraries.

November - Professional Curiosity and Cultural Competency



This November the Safeguarding Partnership Team will be hosting events on these crucial topics which are core themes of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026 and the new London Multi-Agency Adult Safeguarding Policy, Practice Guidance and Procedures. More information will follow in next month's newsletter!



https://hillingdonsafeguardingpartnership.org.uk/

https://hillingdonsab.org.uk/