

# Greenwich Safeguarding Children Partnership Newsletter



**Welcome to this first edition of the Greenwich Safeguarding Children Partnership Newsletter.**

The Greenwich Safeguarding Children Partnership (GSCP) will regularly be releasing newsletters to provide updates on the current work of the partnership, share important learning, information and provide links to local and national resources that can be used by professionals working with children and families to promote good practice. Our newsletters will focus on and reflect the partnership's priority areas to improve safeguarding of all children and families in Royal Greenwich.

## Injuries to Babies & Safe Sleep

During the pandemic, there has been an increase in injuries to babies under



one and child deaths due to unsafe sleep both locally in Greenwich and nationally.

**Did you know that sleeping on a sofa with your baby increases the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) by up to 50 times?** The GSCP has produced a quick easy read advice document on sofa sleeping with babies which can be shared with families. [Download it here.](#)

[The Lullaby Trust Website](#) has a whole host of useful resources and information for parents and carers.

The NSPCC regularly update their website with helpful advice and have recently added to their [baby parenting tips](#).

**Coming soon...** Look out for the Tri-Borough 'Coping with Crying Campaign' which will be launching soon!

## GSCP Training

As everyone has had to, we have adapted our ways of working throughout the pandemic so that we can continue providing our training programme. All of our courses are now available as on-line workshops or webinars. [View the full programme here.](#)

## Coronavirus—Useful Links

Support for young people, families and professionals is available.



Royal Greenwich continue to provide support to residents via the [Community Hub](#).

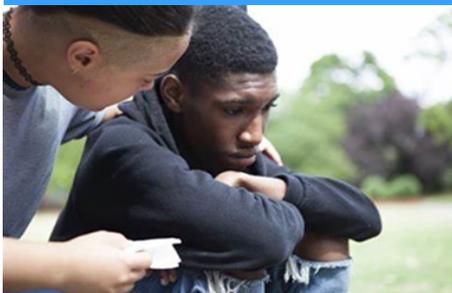
[Young Minds](#) have a dedicated page to advise, support and help parents and carers support their children.

[The NSPCC have dedicated resources](#) for social workers, schools/Early years and health professionals.

The Anna Freud Centre has a range of toolkits which are available to download. View their toolkit '[Coronavirus—resources for dealing with the effects of lockdown](#)'.

## Learning Focus:

### Additional Exploitation Risks to Black Children



The additional risk to black children in Greenwich and the UK has been highlighted by our recently published Child Safeguarding Practice Review following the death of Child A.

Several national reports have also highlighted this issue. We want to raise practitioners' awareness of this and provide advice on becoming more 'culturally competent' in practice, to ensure victims are identified early and appropriate support can be put in place.

[Read the 7 min briefing here](#)

A recent knowledge briefing from Research in Practice highlights that in the context of safeguarding "religious and cultural beliefs can be a source of resilience for black and ethnic minority children and their families" this is balanced with that, these same beliefs can also be harmful.

Practitioners should aim to be culturally sensitive with resorting to cultural relativism and ask sensitive questions that gently challenge potential harmful beliefs within individual families.

There is evidence to show that black and ethnic minority families are disproportionately affected by poverty and therefore overrepresented in the child welfare system.

To capture the lived experiences of black and ethnic minority children, social workers must be critically reflexive, understand the intersectionality of different forms of oppression, and be willing and able to engage in conversations that are emotionally-loaded and uncomfortable.

Read the full briefing: [Understanding the lived experiences of black, Asian and minority ethnic children and families.](#)

### Practice tips for working with Black and Ethnic Minority Families:

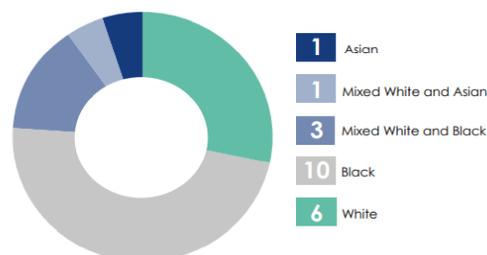
- Create a safe learning space with your colleagues or manager to promote critical engagement about diversity and discrimination;

- Increase knowledge of how social inequalities and poverty significantly impact the lived experiences of black and ethnic minority children and their families in order to enable nuanced conversations about power, race, gender, and class oppression;

- In your teams think about how might you facilitate learning to engage black and ethnic minority children's voices in a meaningful way.

The report from the National Safeguarding Children Panel - '[It was hard to escape- Safeguarding children from Criminal Exploitation](#)' shows that from the reports of death and serious injury to black children from Child Criminal Exploitation is disproportionate.

Table 1: Ethnicity



The report makes **4 key recommendations:**

- 1** Trial a practice framework which can respond to children at risk of serious harm from criminal exploitation;

- 2** Changes to Working Together and inspection regime;

- 3** Improve the working of the National Referral Mechanism;

- 4** Data collection- having a simple agreed data set to identify trends and patterns.

[Read the full report here](#)

## Meet the GSCP Business Unit

The GSCP Business Unit is now fully staffed!

### Professional Advisers

**Angela Clayton & Emma Rodriguez**

**GSCP Manager**

**Caroline Ringwood**

**Workforce Development Officer**

**Wendy Sweet**

**GSCP Business Support Officer**

**Marie Busairu**

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Follow us on Twitter:

[@GreenwichSCP](https://twitter.com/GreenwichSCP)

Visit our website:

<https://www.greenwichsafeguardingchildren.org.uk/>

The 2019/20 GSCP Annual Report has now been published. To find out more about GSCP activity, our transition from a board to a partnership and our progress against our priorities [view the report here](#).

If any of our partners would like to contribute to the next newsletter please email us:

[safeguardingchildren@royalgreenwich.gov.uk](mailto:safeguardingchildren@royalgreenwich.gov.uk)

