

In Case You Missed It Bromley Safeguarding Children Partnership

(ICYMI) NEWSLETTER SPRING 2026

Welcome to this Spring edition of ICYMI from the BSCP. In this newsletter you will find:

- The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's review into the death of Victoria Marten
- Learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews – three recent publications
- Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill: Impact Assessments
- Update to Bromley Procedure for Child Protection Medicals
- Government to publish new gender guidance for schools



Protecting all Vulnerable Babies Better

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has published a [national review](#) into the tragic death of baby Victoria Marten. Key findings & recommendations include:

- Earlier & stronger pre-birth safeguarding, including more detailed national guidance on safeguarding vulnerable unborn babies & infants
- The importance of trauma-informed practice to help reach families who do not engage with services.
- Better engagement with & support for parents before & after child removal, to help break cycles of harm & reduce repeat risk
- A preventative 'Think Family' approach, bringing together adult & children's services to identify issues that affect the whole family unit
- Stronger links between CSC & offender management services, especially when serious sex offenders are parents or carers

Read the summary here



The CSPR panel is hosting a webinar on Wednesday 4th March 2026, 10am-11am, to share the findings from our national review into the death of baby Victoria Marten. Click [HERE](#) to access the webinar.

Government to publish new gender guidance for schools

The Department for Education (DfE) has announced plans to publish new guidance for schools in England on children who are questioning their gender. The guidance will be published within 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE).

A press release and policy paper have been published about the proposed new guidance. The government are seeking views on the proposed revisions to the KCSIE statutory guidance for schools and colleges. The consultation closes on 22 April 2026.

Read the press release: [Government to publish new gender guidance for schools](#)

Read the policy paper: [Including guidance on children who are questioning their gender in KCSIE](#)

Find out more about the consultation: [Keeping children safe in education: proposed revisions 2026](#)



Learning Opportunities in March

- 3rd - **Information Sharing Guidance - Safeguarding Children** - 10:00-12:00
6th - **Incels - A deep dive into extreme misogyny** - 09:30-10:30
9th - **Exploring the ripple effects of serious youth violence** - 9th 10:00-11:30
10th - **DBS - eligibility & duty to refer** - 10:00-12:30
13th - **Comprehensive insights into coercive control - adult & child perspectives** - 10:30-11:30
16th - **Beyond cultural & racial bias for implementing anti-racist practice** - 10:00-11:30
Gaming & Gambling Harm by YGAM Supporting Children in Care (YGAM) for different sectors:
17th 09:30 - 12:00 (Supporting Children in Care)
17th 10:00 - 12:00 (Teachers and Youth Workers)
17th 10:00 - 12:30 (Social Work professionals)
17th 13:00 - 15:30 (Healthcare professionals)
17th 13:00 - 15:30 (Community & Faith Leaders)
18th **Working with Child Sexual Exploitation** - 10:00 - 13:00
20th **Overview of hidden harm & harmful traditional practices** - 09:30 - 10:30
20th **Love or leverage in child criminal exploitation** - 12:00 - 13:30
24th **Manosphere & Misogyny** - 09:30 - 10:30
25th **Understanding Prevent & Mixed Unclear Unstable Ideologies (MUU)** - 09:30 - 12:30

Details of all our training courses can be viewed in our Training Programme. All training sessions for the 2026 period, with booking details, can be found in our updated Training Programme on our website. www.bromleysafeguarding.org.

Violence Against Women & Girls

The UK government has published its strategy addressing violence against women and girls. The strategy outlines the work the government is committed to undertaking based on three areas:

- prevention and early intervention
- working to improve justice outcomes
- support for those affected by violence and abuse.

The strategy includes a section on child sexual abuse covering the government's response to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA); reforms introduced by the Online Safety Act and Crime and Policing Bill; and group-based child sexual exploitation and abuse.

An action plan and an evidence summary on effective approaches to reducing violence against women and girls have also been published.



Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill

On 7th January 2026, the Department for Education released a series of updated impact assessments & policy papers relating to the Children's Wellbeing & Schools' Bill.

MACPTs

- This details the transition to these new teams, which are intended to be "local centres of excellence."
- The government has committed £2.4bn through to 2028 to roll out these reforms.

Family Group Decision-Making (FGDM)

- Families will be offered the chance to create their own safety plan before court action.

Information Sharing & the Single Identifier

- Safeguarding histories will follow children more effectively when circumstances change.

Children Not in School (CNIS) Registers

- The register is positioned as a critical safeguarding tool & aims to reduce the number of children who are currently invisible to services.

The updated impact assessments and policy papers can all be found, in full, [HERE](#).



Learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

There is valuable learning to be had from other LSCPs in the country who have independently reviewed & analysed their systems following a child death or a serious safeguarding incident where there are concerns about how agencies worked together. Here are some recent publications:

- Baby A (Birmingham) - Death of an 8-day-old baby girl in September 2021 whilst in the neonatal intensive care unit. Learning includes, the effectiveness of MAPPA & MARAC & their interface in reducing risk & safeguarding vulnerable adults & children; & barriers to practitioners' response to suspected domestic violence where there is evidence of abuse but absence of disclosure by the victim.
- Ivy (Hertfordshire) - Death of a 2-year-old girl in April 2024. Ivy's mother contacted emergency services stating that she had 'caused' Ivy's death. She was subsequently convicted of murder. Learning themes include, understanding private law proceedings; the impact of DA on children & parental mental health; physical chastisement; the voice of the child, including non-verbal children; multi-agency working with families that move across boundaries.
- Nic (Haringey) - Death by suicide of a 16-year-old. Nic had been known to child mental health services since July 2021 due to concerns including self-harm & suicide. At the time of their death, Nic was on the waiting list for an ASD assessment. Nic had not been in full-time education since September 2021. Learning themes include, understanding the child's voice & lived experience, assessing parents' support needs, psychiatric evaluation of self-harming behaviour.

Update to Procedure for Child Protection Medical Examinations

Bromley has a revised Child Protection Medical Procedure. All social workers should read and understand who to contact and when. Medical examinations take place at different venues depending on the type of suspected abuse and age of the child.

Procedure for Child Protection Medical Examinations



Embrace Support Services for Children and Families Affected by Serious Crime

Embrace are offering a range of free emotional support, counselling, and advocacy services available across the UK for children and their families affected by domestic abuse and other serious crimes.

'You are Enough' offers national peer support for parents and carers of children affected by sexual abuse, including online harm. Referrals can be submitted by professionals, police, parents, and schools.

Click [HERE](#) for access to the 'Protect Children' website. Information is provided for parents and professionals.

Multi-agency response to children who are victims of DA

The findings of six joint targeted area inspections (JTAs) about child victims of domestic abuse have been published. The inspections looked at how local partnerships respond to unborns & children aged 0-7 who experience DA.

A consistent concern was the failure to recognise children as victims of DA in their own right. Children were often viewed as passive witnesses rather than individuals directly experiencing harm, with responses focused primarily on adult victims. The report also identified examples of strong practice where children were properly recognised as victims, leading to timely, child-centred responses

The report aims to improve multi-agency practice in supporting children affected by DA. Read it [HERE](#).