

# Safeguarding Newsletter

## Summer 2024



### WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Designated Safeguarding Officers (DSOs).

If a child is in **immediate danger**, call the **POLICE on 999**

The Safeguarding Team oversee and co-ordinate all aspects of the school's work to ensure that children are kept safe.

They regularly attend training to ensure their skills and knowledge are up-to-date.

Safeguarding Team:



Mrs. Linley (DSL) Mrs. Dykes (DSO) Miss Dorsett (DSO)

All can be contacted via the office or by telephone on:

**0121 357 9892**

Alternatively, to make a referral directly to children's social care you can call Birmingham Children's Trust using the contact details below.



Monday to Thursday: 8:45am to 5:15pm  
Friday: 8:45am to 4:15pm

**Telephone: 0121 303 1888**

**Emergency out-of-hours  
Telephone: 0121 675 4806**

Dear Parents and Carers,



I wish you all a fantastic Summer holiday! Taking time to relax and spend quality time with family and friends is really important for our well-being. Should you have any concerns or feel you need support over the Summer period for your child's mental health, please complete a self-referral form from Compass <https://www.compass-uk.org/services/compass-birmingham-mhst/>

Please see the Early Help information on the opposite page for support regarding financial concerns and please remember that we offer a free fortnightly food bag for families in need. This is donated via the St. Vincent de Paul charity linked to Holy Name Church. Please contact Mrs. Hussain in the office.

I wish you a healthy and happy Summer holiday and I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September!

**Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team**



Mental health support within schools for children, young people and their families.



We are pleased to announce that we are working alongside Compass Birmingham to support our children's Mental Health and well-being. Compass are a non-profit charity who work with children from the age of 5 years old, to provide early support with mental health and emotional well-being through 1:1 support or small group work. For more information about the service provided please see the website [www.compass-uk.org](http://www.compass-uk.org) or speak to Miss Stewart.





# Early Help for families

If anyone in your family needs more help, from public services or community groups, then please contact our Early Help Team member assigned to this local area:

Perry **Spurgeons** 0121 752 1900 [PerrybarrEHnetwork@spurgeons.org](mailto:PerrybarrEHnetwork@spurgeons.org)  
Barr

Named lead:  
Kelly Bagnall

---

## Mental health support

We have to look after our mental health.

For young people aged 11 to 25 there are forums, guides and counselling available at [Kooth](#).

If your child is 0 to 25 years old and needs support, visit [Pause](#), who provide support for parents and carers who are concerned about their child or young person's wellbeing or phone 0207 841 4470.

Adults can get support from MIND by phone on 0121 262 3555.

For urgent help phone [Forward Thinking Birmingham](#) on 0300 300 0099.

---



## Financial help

If you've lost your job, or are struggling to pay for food or rent, there are services that can help.

[Local welfare provision](#) can make a big difference if you are in a crisis and need food, fuel or basic white goods.

[Discretionary Housing Payments](#) may be able to help with rent.

There are also [food banks](#) across Birmingham that are here to help.

---

For more information, please go to :

[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50224/birmingham\\_children\\_s\\_partnership/2218/from\\_birmingham\\_with\\_love/4](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50224/birmingham_children_s_partnership/2218/from_birmingham_with_love/4)



## ATTENDANCE – HOLIDAYS

A LETTER HAS BEEN SENT TODAY TO ALL PARENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN A HOLIDAY IN TERM TIME THIS ACADEMIC YEAR. WE ARE MONITORING THIS CLOSELY AND PENALTY NOTICES ARE BEING ISSUED. WHEN PARENTS FAIL TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THEIR CHILDREN BY **NOT** SENDING THEM TO SCHOOL, THIS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT. CHILDREN MISSING SCHOOL REGULARLY WITH POOR ATTENDANCE ARE NOT ABLE TO THRIVE. **SCHOOL IS A LEGAL REQUIREMENT.**

### PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR SIGNS OF COUNTY LINES AS WE ARE SITUATED CLOSE TO HAMSTEAD TRAIN STATION

County lines is when gangs and organised crime groups exploit children to transport and sell drugs, normally between big cities where the exploiters are based to smaller towns, sometimes across county boundaries but also locally and within the borough.

The children have dedicated mobile phone 'lines' for taking orders for drugs; children are used as they are less likely to be stopped by police, allowing adult dealers to avoid the risk of arrest. County lines is a form of criminal exploitation; this occurs where a person or a group of people takes advantage of their contact with and influence over a young person to coerce or manipulate them into carrying out a criminal act.

Children as young as 6 are known to have been targeted by gangs for this purpose. Young people may be recruited for county lines and other forms of criminal exploitation by a process of grooming: At the targeting stage, the exploiter befriends the young person and gains their trust.

Young people may also be recruited through social media and/or through their peer group. Some parents of young people who have been exploited through county lines involvement have reported that they went through a sudden change in behaviour. Possible indicators of involvement include:

- Unexplained money, clothes or gifts
- Frequent, unexplained phone calls
- New friendship circle that involves older children or adults
- Not attending school
- Carrying weapons



### For more information visit the following:

#### The Children's Society

[www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/tackling-criminal-exploitation-and-county-lines/county-lines-resources](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/tackling-criminal-exploitation-and-county-lines/county-lines-resources)

#### Safe4me

[www.safe4me.co.uk/portfolio/child-criminal-exploitation-county-lines](http://www.safe4me.co.uk/portfolio/child-criminal-exploitation-county-lines)

#### NSPCC

[www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/gangs-criminal-exploitation](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/gangs-criminal-exploitation)

#### National Crime Agency

[www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/drug-trafficking/county-lines](http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/drug-trafficking/county-lines)

### Why could our children be at risk?

Hamstead Train Station – 0.3 miles

Birmingham Canal – 0.1 miles

