

## February 2026 Newsletter



Children's Mental Health Week takes place every February. It was started in 2015 to give a voice to all children and young people and to raise awareness of children and young people's mental health. The theme for Children's Mental Health Week 2026 is '**This is My Place**', with a focus on supporting systems around children and young people to help them feel they belong.

[Community Hive | Youth in Mind](#)

[Kooth has a range of resources to help families support young people's mental health and wellbeing](#)



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Safer Internet Day 2026** Tuesday  
10 February  
better-internet-for-kids.europa.eu/  
saferinternetday

**Check out some helpful sites, information and training opportunities that can help us all to help and support children and young people to navigate the internet in a safe and secure way.**



### **Safer Internet Day – 10 February 2026**

**Theme: *Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI***

Safer Internet Day 2026 focuses on one of the fastest-growing topics in our digital world: how children, young people, and families can use artificial intelligence safely and responsibly.

This year's theme encourages us all to think critically about AI-powered tools, make informed choices online and understand the opportunities and risks that come with emerging technologies.

**Please support our children and families by:**

- Sharing key resources and guidance with children, young people, and families.
- Promoting safe and responsible online decision-making.
- Encouraging conversations about AI, digital wellbeing, and online safety.

[Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

[Children and young people - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

[Teachers and school staff - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)



**Internetmatters.org have some great information to share with our children and families**

**Chatting is important** - build regular check-ins into daily routines. Small, informal conversations help children feel comfortable talking about what they do and see online.

### **Protect children from deepfakes**

Deepfakes are becoming harder to spot. Help children understand what they are, why they can be harmful, and how to question whether content is real.

### **Help build balanced habits**

Support healthy screen use by encouraging breaks, mixing online and offline activities, and helping children notice how screen time affects their wellbeing.

[Keep Children Safe Online: Information, advice, support - Internet Matters](#)



Are a charity dedicated to preventing gaming and gambling harms among young people.

Their work bridges the critical knowledge gap between young people's digital lives and the adults who guide them. They believe in harm prevention through education, empowering the people who can make a real difference.

### **Free Training to Help Prevent Gaming & Gambling Harms**

Young people's online lives are increasingly shaped by gaming and gambling features, from loot boxes to reward mechanics. To support parents and carers and everyone who works with or cares for children and young people, free, interactive training is available to help you understand the risks and become a confident *digital mentor*.

The evidence-based sessions are:

- Engaging and easy to digest
- Flexible and tailored to your setting
- Designed for parents, carers, and professionals
- Focused on preventing gaming and gambling harms before they develop

They help turn parents, professionals, and caregivers into confident digital mentors who can bridge the gap between young people's online experiences and the adults who support them.

#### **Please click and share the links below**

- Parents & Carers – [Parents & carers workshop options | Ygam](#)
- Teachers & Youth Workers – [Teachers & Youth Workers Booking | Ygam](#)
- University Staff – [University Staff Booking | Ygam](#)
- University Students – [University Students Booking | Ygam](#)
- Health Care Workers – [Healthcare Booking | Ygam](#)
- Social Care Workers – [Social Care Booking | Ygam](#)
- Community & Faith Workers – [Community & Faith Leaders Booking | Ygam](#)
- Sports Organisations & Clubs – [Sports Organisations & Clubs Booking | Ygam](#)
- Gaming & Esports( aimed at those working with 7-21year old who have an interest in gaming) – [Gaming & Esports Booking | Ygam](#)

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### **County Lines learning event on February 26<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 12pm – online.**

British Transport Police invite policing colleagues and partner agencies to a national session showcasing their County Lines Task Force and its approach to tackling modern slavery, human trafficking, and exploitation across the rail network.

The session will outline how their integrated model brings together proactive policing, specialist investigations, intelligence, and collaborative safeguarding to improve outcomes for victims and communities.

#### **The briefing will cover:**

- Task Force structure, purpose, and objectives
- How proactive policing supports early disruption and safeguarding
- The role of CLDU investigations and intelligence
- How shared safeguarding, research, and training drive continuous improvement

They will demonstrate impact to date and share their direction of travel as they expand collaboration with forces and partners nationally.

#### **Who should attend?**

- Police officers and safeguarding practitioners
- Strategic safeguarding and partnership leads
- Professionals working in exploitation, serious violence, county lines, or organised crime
- Partner agencies involved in prevention, safeguarding, or enforcement

[County Lines: What We Do Tickets, Thu 26 Feb 2026 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

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## Holiday Activity and Food Programme – #TAMESIDEHAF2026

Free holiday activities are available this February half term for children and young people on benefit-related Free School Meals (FSM) and those in crisis.

The Tameside HAF Programme offers a wide range of free sessions, including sports, creative activities and dedicated SEND-friendly sessions. Every booking includes a healthy meal.

Funded by the Department for Education and delivered by Tameside Council, the programme supports eligible families across the borough. A limited number of crisis places (15%) are available for children not on benefit FSM but identified by professionals as at risk. These referrals must be completed by professionals following approval from the HAF team. For guidance, email [hafenquiries@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:hafenquiries@tameside.gov.uk).

More information: Tameside HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) Programme – Tameside MBC

Book activities: <https://eequ.org/haftameside>



### CSA Centre Workshops for Local Safeguarding Partners January – July 2026

The CSA Centre is offering six free online workshops between January and July 2026 to help safeguarding partners reflect, plan, and lead on implementing the recommendations from the 2024 [National review into child sexual abuse within the family environment - GOV.UK](#)

These interactive sessions will provide practical guidance and expert insights to strengthen local safeguarding arrangements.

#### Workshop Schedule:

**Tuesday 3rd February** [Workshop two - Professional knowledge, skills and confidence | CSA Centre](#)

Speakers: Anna Glinski & Lorraine Myles

**Thursday 12th March** [Workshop three - Enquiries and investigations | CSA Centre](#)

Speakers: Paul Burnside & Nick Connaughton

**Thursday 21st May** [Workshop four - Assessment of people presenting risk of sexual harm | CSA Centre](#)

Speakers: Anna Glinski, Paul Burnside, TJ Abrahams & Becky Canning

**Wednesday 17th June** [Workshop five - Talking to children | CSA Centre](#)

Speakers: Lorraine Myles & Dr Natasha Sabin

**Monday 13th July** [Workshop six - Health | CSA Centre](#)

Speakers: Dr Natasha Sabin & Dr Alison Steele

### Public Health are offering:

Healthy Start Training and Information Session for all who work with children and families in Tameside

Come along to the Healthy Start Training and Information Session to learn more about the Healthy Start Scheme and how you can support your families to see if they are eligible and help them to access the scheme.

Due to popular demand, there will be four training sessions running throughout January – April. Dates and details of each session can be found below:

**Date: Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026**  
**Time: 2-3pm**  
**Location: Microsoft Teams**

**Date: Tues 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026**  
**Time: 11-12pm**  
**Location: Microsoft Teams**

**Date: Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Mar 2026**  
**Time: 3-4pm**  
**Location: Microsoft Teams**

**Date: Tues 21<sup>st</sup> Apr 2026**  
**Time: 10-11am**  
**Location: Microsoft Teams**

To book your place, please email: [tamesidehealthystart@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:tamesidehealthystart@tameside.gov.uk)

Individuals from teams as well as multiple members from the same team, or whole teams/departments are welcome to attend (you must contact me to book your place and receive the Microsoft Teams invite link)

If you would like your whole team to attend a Healthy Start Training and Information Session but cannot make any of these sessions, please contact me and we can find alternative dates for you.





### **Asthma-Friendly Schools Launch Event**

Teachers and school partners are invited to a free NHS Greater Manchester event to improve support for pupils with asthma. Clinicians will share simple steps schools can take to boost attendance and keep children safe.

The event will also launch Greater Manchester's first **Asthma Guide**

**for Schools.**

**Thursday 12 February, 9.30 am–12.30 pm**

British Muslim Heritage Centre, Manchester

Networking lunch included.

[Greater Manchester Asthma Friendly Schools Launch Event | NHS England Events](#)



Scan to find  
out more and  
register.

### **#LookCloser Programme of Learning Events January – March 2026**

The Children's Society is hosting a series of free learning events as part of the #LookCloser campaign.

#### **What is #LookCloser?**

A partnership campaign between:

- The Children's Society.
- National County Lines Co-ordination Centre.
- British Transport Police.

The aim is to raise awareness of child exploitation and abuse and encourage the public and businesses to identify and report concerns.

#### **Why attend?**

- Learn how to spot signs of exploitation in everyday settings.
- Understand the latest trends in child criminal and sexual exploitation.
- Gain practical advice on safeguarding and reporting concerns.

**Book by clicking on the links:**

[#LookCloser: The Digital Lives of Children and Young People Tickets, Tue, Feb 10, 2026 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

[#LookCloser: Overcoming gender assumptions to tackle child exploitation Tickets, Thu, Mar 5, 2026 at 1:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

### **Tameside Sensory Pathway Launch Event for Professionals – 26<sup>th</sup> Feb, 9.30-2.30pm, Hyde Town Hall**

The Sensory Pathway Launch Event is a full-day, collaborative learning experience designed to introduce, explain, and celebrate the implementation of a new, structured approach to understanding and supporting children and young people with sensory needs.

It will include interactive workshops will give attendees the chance to engage with practical tools, case studies, and lived experiences. These sessions are designed to build confidence



in recognising sensory needs, adapting provision, and working collaboratively across services. There will also be opportunities for networking, professional discussion, and Q&A with specialists. A goodie bag of sensory tools and resources will be included.

Please book: [Tameside Sensory Pathway Launch Event for Schools Tickets, Thu, 26 Feb 2026 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#)

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### **Virtual College/TSCP Online Training Offer Free Safeguarding Training – Have You Registered Yet?**

If you work with children, young people, or families in any capacity, safeguarding is part of your responsibility. To support you, Tameside Safeguarding Children Partnership (TSCP) has partnered with Virtual College, a leading online training provider, to offer **free access to 40 high-quality safeguarding courses**.

So far, **581** safeguarding courses have already been accessed by staff in Tameside—don't miss out!

#### **Registration is free for all staff working to safeguard children in Tameside.**

Safeguarding is a broad and complex area, covering:

- Attachment Theory.
- Self-harm Awareness
- Supporting Teenagers and Young People.
- E-Safety.

These courses are designed to support your continuing professional development (CPD) and help organisations across Tameside build a confident, well-informed workforce.

Whether you're a frontline practitioner, manager, or volunteer, these courses will help us all work together to keep children, young people, and families safe.

Accessing the training is simple and completely free. Just follow the link below to register through [Enable](#), our online learning platform.

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### **Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) – TSCP Training**

#### **Why this matters:**

Neglect affects 1 in 10 children in Tameside, making it one of our most pressing safeguarding priorities. The Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) tool is central to our commitment to help professionals understand what life is really like for a child and take effective action.

#### **What is GCP2?**

GCP2 is a strength-based, evidence-informed assessment tool that measures the quality of care a parent or carer provides in meeting their child's needs. It supports professionals to identify areas of concern and strengths, enabling timely and targeted interventions.

#### **What you'll gain from this training:**

- Hands-on experience: Learn how the tool works and complete a full assessment.
- Accreditation: Receive a GCP2 license to use the tool in your practice.
- Resources: Access all training materials for ongoing support.
- Impactful practice: Gain confidence to provide guidance, interventions, or make referrals to the right agencies.

**Sessions are a full day and will be delivered at Dukinfield Town Hall you can book by clicking on the links or via the TSCP website: [Training - Tameside Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)**

[Graded Care Profile 2 Training Tickets, Mon, Feb 23, 2026 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

[Graded Care Profile 2 Training Tickets, Fri, Mar 6, 2026 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)



# Tameside Safeguarding Children Partnership

[Graded Care Profile 2 Training Tickets, Mon, Apr 13, 2026 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)  
[Graded Care Profile 2 Training Tickets, Wed, May 20, 2026 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)  
[Graded Care Profile 2 Training Tickets, Wed, Jun 24, 2026 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)  
[Graded Care Profile 2 Training Tickets, Fri, Jul 10, 2026 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

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## **TSCP Missing from Home Training**

To book a place, click on the link:

[Missing from Home Tickets, Thu, Apr 9, 2026 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)  
[Missing from Home Tickets, Thu, Jul 2, 2026 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)  
[Missing from Home Tickets, Thu, Oct 8, 2026 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)  
[Missing from Home Tickets, Thu, Jan 14, 2027 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

### **Why this training matters:**

The local authority has a statutory duty to offer all children and young people who run away or are reported missing a Return Home Interview. These interviews are vital to understanding why a child went missing and how to reduce future risk.

### **The risks of going missing:**

Children and young people who go missing are at increased risk of:

- Abuse in any form.
- Substance misuse.
- Poor mental health.
- Disrupted education and relationships.
- Reduced life chances.

### **They are also particularly vulnerable to:**

- Trafficking.
- Violent crime.
- Drug use.
- Exploitation, including sexual and criminal exploitation.

### **Who should attend?**

Carers and professionals who want to develop knowledge and understanding of missing episodes and learn how to respond effectively.

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## **TSCP Understanding Exploitation Training**

### **Why this training matters**

Safeguarding children from exploitation is everyone's responsibility. This training will help you understand how children and young people are groomed and exploited, including emerging risks such as sextortion, sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation and county lines activity. You will learn how to recognise the signs that a child is at risk, understand the impact exploitation has on them and their families, and know what steps to take if you have concerns.

### **The risks of exploitation**

Children and young people may be at risk of:

- Grooming by individuals or organised groups.
- Sexual exploitation.
- Sextortion.
- Criminal exploitation, including county lines.
- Manipulation, coercion, and threats.
- Harm to mental and emotional wellbeing.
- Increased vulnerability in peer and online environments.

Exploitation can lead to:

- Physical and emotional harm.
- Increased risk of substance misuse.
- Disrupted education and relationships.
- Long-term trauma for children and families.



## Tameside Safeguarding Children Partnership

### Who should attend?

Carers and professionals who want to build their knowledge of exploitation, recognise warning signs early and take effective action to safeguard children and young people.

You can book a place by clicking on the links below:

Dukinfield TH [Understanding Exploitation Tickets, Thu, Mar 26, 2026 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

On-line [Understanding Exploitation Tickets, Thu, Jun 11, 2026 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Dukinfield TH [Understanding Exploitation Tickets, Thu, Sep 24, 2026 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

On-line [Understanding Exploitation Tickets, Thu, Nov 26, 2026 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)



The **Brook Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool** helps professionals identify, understand and respond to sexual behaviours in children and young people up to 18. While curiosity about bodies and sex is a normal part of development, some behaviours may signal concern or potential harm. The Traffic Light Tool supports practitioners in recognising the difference and responding appropriately.

Originally introduced in Tameside following a Serious Case Review, the training takes around **2 hours** to complete. TSCP still has **multiple licences available** for partners across the workforce.

If you are interested, please contact us at [tscp@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:tscp@tameside.gov.uk) and we will send you details on how to access the course.

An overview of what is covered in the training can be found via the link [CPD: Brook Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool \(RSE\) Course](#)



### Online safety

Source: Internet Matters

Date published: 13 January 2026

Internet Matters has published a briefing on the differences between girls' and boys' online experiences. The report draws on data from Internet Matters' annual UK survey of 1,000 9-to-16-year-olds and their parents. Key findings include: boys' and girls' online activity is becoming more similar, as they spend the same amount of time on activities including chatting to friends and browsing social media; both genders are broadly positive about their time online; 69% of girls and 66% of boys report having at least one negative online experience; girls are more likely to be contacted by strangers and to receive abusive and upsetting messages from people they know; and while girls are more likely to speak to someone when they experience harm online, boys are more likely to take steps on the platform on which harm is encountered. Recommendations to government include: mandate robust age assurance; and support schools and teachers in delivering media and digital literacy.

Read the report: [The gender gap: understanding and responding to girls' and boys' online experiences](#)

### See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Online safety: expert insight videos](#)

### Tameside Safeguarding Children Partnership Training Offer

A new TSCP training calendar of events is being developed, which will outline the multi-agency safeguarding training offer for professionals working with children and families in Tameside.



This training programme is designed to:

- Reflect the TSCP Learning and Development Framework.
- Align with strategic priorities, national guidance, and emerging local themes.
- Incorporate learning from Rapid Reviews and case learning to address recurring issues.

Our aim is to ensure that future training events respond directly to areas of need, strengthening multi-agency collaboration and improving outcomes for children and families through continuous learning and development.

Training can be booked via the TSCP website: <https://tamesidescp.org.uk/training>

### **Polite Request**

#### **Please Cancel If You Can't Attend**

We recognise that situations change after you have booked to attend a session; however, we have seen several non-attendance and last-minute cancellations for training events. This always impacts the trainers who are delivering the events and other staff who would have liked to attend the event but were unable to book on as the event was fully booked. TSCP is proud to be one of the few partnerships that does not charge for training.

To help us manage places effectively:

- Only book a place for yourself – please ask colleagues to register individually.
- If you can no longer attend, cancel your booking as soon as possible so your place can be offered to someone else.

Thank you for your support in making training accessible to everyone.

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## **research in practice**

Research in Practice, is a leading resource hub for evidence-informed practice in social care. RiP works with and for professionals in the social care, health, criminal justice, and higher education sectors, offering resources, learning opportunities and specialist expertise with an aim to support their learning to enable people – children, young people, families, adults, carers, and communities – to live good lives.

By registering with RiP, you'll gain access to:

- Expert-led webinars, podcasts, and research briefings.
- Practical tools and resources to support your day-to-day work.
- CPD opportunities to enhance your professional development.

Whether you're looking to develop your knowledge and skills, stay up to date with best practices, or connect with a community of professionals, Research in Practice has something for you.

This resource is free of charge and open to anyone with a Tameside email address can create an account free of charge by following the information [here](#).

If you would like to learn how to get the best out of Research in Practice, why not book onto the next event: [How to use Research in Practice - February 2026 | Research in Practice](#)



## Tameside Safeguarding Children Partnership

**Children and families Partnership Conference: Making Families First a reality**  
Thursday 26 March 2026, 9:30-16:00 online

### research in practice

National reforms are reshaping children's services with a focus on early help, stronger partnerships, and keeping children at the centre of practice. This conference will explore how local areas are embedding the **Families First Partnership guidance** and upcoming **Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill**, and how approaches such as kinship care, Family Group Decision Making, and the Family Help Lead Practitioner role are driving change. It will also highlight how children's and families' voices are shaping meaningful improvements.

To book a place, book via the link – you will need to register first.

[Making Families First a reality | Research in Practice](#)

### research in practice

**Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of care leavers**  
**Published: 07/10/2024**

As it is Mental Health Awareness Week, why not listen to this series of five linked podcasts where RiP speak to care leavers, practitioners and a researcher about support for care leavers' mental health and wellbeing.

[Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of care leavers | Research in Practice](#)

## NSPCC Learning

**Violence against women and girls**

**Source:** UK Government

**Date published:** 18 December 2025

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; and 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. The strategy is UK-wide but specific commitments on crime, policing, and justice apply to England and Wales, while those on health, social care, housing, transport, and education apply to England only. An action plan and an evidence summary on effective approaches to reducing violence against women and girls have also been published.

Read the news story: [VAWG strategy to better protect children from misogyny and abuse](#)

Read the strategy: [Freedom from violence and abuse: a cross-government strategy](#)

You can also sign up for the NSPCC weekly Casper Newsletter and a monthly learning newsletter by registering using the links below.

- [CASPAR | NSPCC Learning](#)
- [NSPCC Learning newsletter | NSPCC Learning](#)

Greater  
Manchester  
SAFEGUARDING

TSCP has signed up to the Greater Manchester Safeguarding Partnership, and along with the other Greater Manchester authorities, TSCP has agreed to use a standardised set of procedures and protocols



The [Resource Hub - tri.x \(trixonline.co.uk\)](http://trixonline.co.uk) details the latest protocols, policies and procedures in use across Greater Manchester and good practice from across the region.

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We hope you find this information useful. If you would like your service or any updates to be included in a future TSCP Newsletter, please e-mail [TSCP@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:TSCP@tameside.gov.uk)

If you wish to unsubscribe from this Newsletter, please email [TSCP@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:TSCP@tameside.gov.uk)