

Keeping Children Safe in Kent: 2025-26 at a glance

Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership (KSCMP) works to improve how agencies safeguard children and young people across Kent.

Kent's Safeguarding Children Picture

355,400 children live in Kent.

Key statistics from 2025-26 included:



12.5% more children under 16 in poverty



7.4% more children on child protection plans



5,234 children educated at home



11,921 children looked after

Key Learning for Professionals

Across 7 Rapid Reviews, the most common learning themes where improvement was needed were:

Risk assessment and safety planning

Listening to and understanding children's lived experiences

Understanding how parental mental health affects parenting and children's wellbeing

What We Learned This Year

Child Sexual Abuse

Be professionally curious, recognise signs of abuse within families and keep children's voices central.

Domestic Abuse

Recognise children as victims in their own right and understand and record their experiences.

Father Inclusive Practice

Consider the role, influence and involvement of fathers.

Race, Racism and Safeguarding

Ensure race, discrimination, culture and identity are considered.

Resources Developed This Year

- ["I'm Lucy" campaign on parental mental health](#)
- [Clear Minds, Safer Homes campaign on parental cannabis use](#)
- [Navigate Wellbeing mental health resource for education settings](#)
- [Kent Safeguarding Children Escalation procedure and resources](#)
- [Information Sharing video resource for practitioners](#)

What you can do:

- Listen to children's voices and lived realities
- Use escalation processes when concerns are not being addressed
- Consider parental mental health, domestic abuse and exploitation within assessments
- Engage fathers and father figures
- Use KSCMP training and resources to support your practice

Priorities for 2026-27

Fewer children experience abuse

Fewer children experience neglect

Fewer children experience exploitation



Kent Safeguarding Children
multi-agency partnership

www.kscmp.org.uk