

# Education Directorate

## Schools Newsletter

Dear Colleagues,

I hope that you are all well and are finding the newsletter useful.

We have had a meeting in relation to the Covid Winter Food Fund and really need your help to decide who this should support. You are all probably aware of the government's recent announcement, to provide funding to each local authority, to support vulnerable families with food and fuel over the next two school holidays (Christmas and spring half term). We have now received our local allocation figure and want to ensure we distribute it in the best possible way.

The government have been clear that this is not a free school meal fund and it is for local authorities to distribute it to families they feel most in need. This may be benefit-related FSM families, but may also be other groups.

Over the coming week, we will be costing options and would really appreciate your help with this. We would like to know how many families in your school are vulnerable and at risk of food poverty over the holiday periods, that are NOT already in receipt of benefit-related free school meals. This may be families with a recent change in circumstances, furloughed parents/carers or some families with no recourse to public funds (noting that FSM are temporarily extended to this group).

Please email [laura.flanagan@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:laura.flanagan@croydon.gov.uk) the approximate number of non-FSM families at risk of food poverty in your school, **by 12pm on Wednesday 25th November**.

From there, we will cost and review options and inform you as soon as possible about next steps.

Best wishes,  
Shelley



# Resource and Training

## Safeguarding Training

### New to the DSL role – delivered online

The DSL course is for senior and deputy Designated Lead Safeguarding leaders in schools, Early Years settings and colleges and fulfils the statutory requirement for training. The course is delivered by an accredited trainer and will enable DSLs to have a clear understanding of the key responsibilities of this role and how to carry them out effectively in their setting. In addition DSLs will be up to date on pressing local and national safeguarding issues that affect our communities.

The next 3 dates for the online DSL training are:

**9<sup>th</sup> Dec 2020**

[www.octavopartnership.org/courses/online-designated-safeguarding-lead-training-dsl-127495/](http://www.octavopartnership.org/courses/online-designated-safeguarding-lead-training-dsl-127495/)

**6<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021**

[www.octavopartnership.org/courses/online-designated-safeguarding-lead-training-dsl-127500/](http://www.octavopartnership.org/courses/online-designated-safeguarding-lead-training-dsl-127500/)

**20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021**

[www.octavopartnership.org/courses/online-designated-safeguarding-lead-training-dsl-127503/](http://www.octavopartnership.org/courses/online-designated-safeguarding-lead-training-dsl-127503/)

### Refresher DSL training –delivered online

The refresher DSL course is for senior and deputy Designated Lead Safeguarding leaders in schools, Early Years settings and colleges and fulfils the statutory requirement for training every two years. DSLs will also be up to date on pressing local and national safeguarding issues that affect our communities.

The next 4 dates for the online refresher DSL training are:

**3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2020**

[www.octavopartnership.org/courses/online-designated-safeguarding-lead-dsl-refresher-training-half-day-111021/](http://www.octavopartnership.org/courses/online-designated-safeguarding-lead-dsl-refresher-training-half-day-111021/)

**16<sup>th</sup> Dec 2020**

[www.octavopartnership.org/courses/online-designated-safeguarding-lead-dsl-refresher-training-half-day-127498/](http://www.octavopartnership.org/courses/online-designated-safeguarding-lead-dsl-refresher-training-half-day-127498/)

**11<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021**

[www.octavopartnership.org/courses/online-designated-safeguarding-lead-dsl-refresher-training-half-day-111024/](http://www.octavopartnership.org/courses/online-designated-safeguarding-lead-dsl-refresher-training-half-day-111024/)

**28<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021**

[www.octavopartnership.org/courses/online-designated-safeguarding-lead-dsl-refresher-training-half-day-111023/](http://www.octavopartnership.org/courses/online-designated-safeguarding-lead-dsl-refresher-training-half-day-111023/)

### The pitfalls of safeguarding investigations - how to avoid them

1st Dec 2020, 9.30am to 11.30am –delivered online

Croydon's LADO, Steve Hall, leads this new course and will share his experience and insight.

Allegations against staff is an increasing reality faced by Senior Leadership Teams. Such allegations often require the school to lead investigations overseen by the Local Authority Designated Officer. If managed correctly can protect staff from misunderstandings and vexatious complaints. It can also address inappropriate conduct or behaviour which ensures schools remain safe places for pupils and staff alike.

This course, led by the LADO aims to set out how to conduct investigations and avoid common pitfalls, to de-mystify the process and to reduce anxiety for the person conducting the investigation as well as the person subject to the allegation.

To book your place:

[www.octavopartnership.org/courses/online-how-to-avoid-a-poor-safeguarding-investigation-the-pitfalls-118493/](http://www.octavopartnership.org/courses/online-how-to-avoid-a-poor-safeguarding-investigation-the-pitfalls-118493/)

*If you have any questions or would like to find out more about the DSL and safeguarding training available on site or online to your setting, please do contact us:*

[Octavo.enquiries@croydon.gov](mailto:Octavo.enquiries@croydon.gov).

# Update on Covid-19

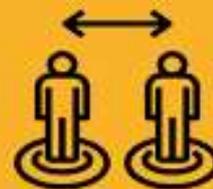
HANDS



FACE



SPACE



## Cold Weather Health Risks and Covid-19

People at risk from cold weather may also be vulnerable to Covid-19 and vice versa. It is therefore more important than ever before to ensure we are prepared for cold weather to enable our children to access education safely, but also to identify and support for those most vulnerable residents, families and staff. Public Health England (PHE) has produced detailed information which is attached.

[Cold Weather Health Risk and Covid-19: actions to prevent harm](#)

Recommended actions for all education settings, include:

- Make sure you're signed up to receive the severe weather alerts. You can sign up to receive the Met Office National Severe Weather Warning Service (e.g. for Snow/Ice) alerts [here](#) and the PHE Cold Weather alerts [here](#).
- Familiarise yourself and your staff with your emergency/business continuity plan in the event of severe cold weather/snow/ice, making any modifications to your plan in light of the PHE information.

## News & Updates



### Croydon Voices

In support of the Curriculum and Change headteacher working group our Croydon Voices teacher resources and further information can be found here: [Croydon Voices](#).

There is still time for your school to take part. Teachers can use the ideas in the resources to help your pupils to express something special about themselves, and you can send a representative sample in to CMA by 1 December to be part of our digital mosaic.

The mosaic will include video tiles with performances from Croydon artists, some of which your pupils can join in with, plus separate tiles for the drama, spoken word, dance and music contributions from schools. All schools will be able to use it as part of an end of term celebration of Croydon's diversity.

Artists have a special role to play bringing people together, because we have a natural curiosity to discover and embrace what others are doing to create new art. Artists can also effect change by exploring issues and developing empathy and understanding in others.

CMA has external funding to enable us to continue this work. We can help you develop your curriculum and we can help your young artists be the catalyst for change