

Sefton Support

Guide for schools and settings following tragic events in Southport on Monday 29th July 2024

Dear Sefton schools, nurseries, day care, childminders, out of school provision and other educational or childcare settings,

We are deeply shocked and saddened at the tragic events, which unfolded on the 29th July. Our thoughts are with all the victims of this attack and their families at this incredibly sad time.

Our Sefton community is close knit, and we know some of you will have been affected by this personally or have members of your community who have been caught up in this tragedy. I want to reassure everyone in our schools and settings that we are here ready to support you with whatever you may need to help yourselves, your families and your children in the weeks and months to come.

The Southport and wider Sefton community is strong and that has been evident over the last few days as our community overwhelmingly came together with love following this tragedy.

This tragedy not only hurts those directly involved but has impacts across our community. We know that those children involved will need ongoing support both physically and mentally and for those children not directly involved, there may be fear, uncertainty and anxiety for some time to come. Families will need ongoing support and schools and settings will need to be given the resources they need to signpost families to the right support.

We hope the below information will be useful for you in the coming days to share with your communities and help you to navigate difficult conversations.

Thank you for your ongoing support at this very difficult time for our community

Dr Risthardh Hare, Director for Children's Services in Sefton

Sefton Council Support

Family Hubs

Linaker Family Hub is offering specialist support with its mental health and talking therapy teams who will be on site.

Linaker Family Hub, 103 Linaker Street, Southport, PR8 5DQ

Our Family Hub network across Sefton provides a range of different services and are open for people to find advice and support across a range of issues.

Educational Psychology Service

Sefton's Educational Psychology Service is available to support schools and settings directly affected. Contact Ez Mills, Principal Educational Psychologist
ez.mills@sefton.gov.uk

The team have provided guidance on how to navigate difficult conversations with children around fear, trauma and anxiety and have also provided a script to help you have these conversations.

Psychological and Mental Health Support

Sefton In Mind

If you have been affected – directly or indirectly - by the tragic events in Southport, you can find a range of support at www.seftoninmind.org.uk

The Sefton In Mind pages on mental health support provide information on how to access to a wide range of services in Sefton, including Crisis Support, Specialist Services including bereavement, Support for Men, Support for Women and Someone to Speak to.

Kooth

Kooth can offer free, safe and anonymous support for young people who want someone to understand, advice, or help for a friend; it is an excellent free resource that is suitable for children in Sefton.

Bereavement

The Child Death Helpline run jointly by Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust and Great Ormond Street Hospital.

For anyone effected by the death of a child of any age 0808 800 6019

The Alder Centre which provides bereavement care for parents and families at Alder Hey 0151 252 5391

Winston's Wish: The Charity for Bereaved Children
08452 030 405 or www.winstonswish.org.uk

Sefton CVS Support

Sefton CVS have put together a [list of support agencies in Southport](#) as well as details of the Southport Stronger Together fundraiser.

Support for Education Professionals

Education Support Partnership (a UK charity dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of teachers and the entire education workforce)

<https://www.educationsupportpartnership.org.uk/> or 08000 562 561

Communications Support (Schools Only)

Sefton Council Communications Team will be coordinating media interest/interviews/requests on behalf of Sefton schools.

Please forward on to communications@sefton.gov.uk or call 0151 934 2720 if you need support in relation to media interest or statements.

Community Reassurance

We understand people may be concerned about attending community events and groups for children. We want to offer reassurance to the community and give you the resources and confidence to ensure these activities can go ahead in a safe manner.

We believe that it is safe for holiday activities, children's groups, etc to run as planned over the summer break. We want children to feel like they can have a fabulous, exciting time this summer and for them to make memories that they will treasure.

We have seen significant amounts of misinformation online and we must reiterate that this type of tragic incident is extremely rare and our community have pulled together with love and care. However, we understand that families and children may have anxieties and worries for some time to come. This has been a traumatic incident in our town and we know everyone will process that trauma in a different way and at different times.

We would advise all groups to review their risk assessments and where possible ensure everyone is signed in and out of site and do everything they can to reduce risk. We have provided a template and guidance to help you do carry out a robust risk assessment.

If children or families are worried about attending events, we have provided resources from our Educational Psychology team around explaining and dealing with trauma or frightening situations with children.