

Water safety for children and young people

With summer approaching, please help us to spread the message about how to keep children and young people safe near water.

Drowning is the third highest cause of accidental death in children in the UK. On average 40-50 children drown per year in the UK. During the school holidays, and in particular in hot weather, increasing numbers of children and young people put themselves at risk of drowning.

Berkshire East CCG has produced a short video clip on water and window safety - click on the link here <https://www.eastberkshireccg.nhs.uk/>

Since the death of two young people (aged 17 and 22) within a three week period last year, Slough Borough Council has worked with the Environment Agency, Thames Valley Police, and Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service to look at ways to minimise further deaths.

Whilst the Environment Agency has overall responsibility for the Jubilee River, it was recognised that a multi-agency response was required in order to change behaviour, and this has been co-ordinated by the community safety team.

There have been some physical changes at the riverside, including new fencing. Life saving equipment has been replaced; this is a constant struggle as it is very often removed or vandalised. A new information board is being installed, which explicitly details the dangers of entering the river and the weir.

The family of the 17 year old who died in 2018 have been interviewed and an article will go in the local press, highlighting the need for families to speak to their children about the dangers of the river. This will also be covered in the Slough Borough Council hot weather plan.

The Thames Valley Police Schools Liaison Officer has been talking to secondary school children about water safety, as part of a general personal safety session, and Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service deliver sessions to primary schools around water and road safety.

For further details please contact: Helen Buckland, Risk and Exploitation Co-ordinator, Slough Borough Council, helen.buckland@slough.gov.uk, 01753 690409.



To keep yourself safe, when you are in, on or beside water, always follow the **Water Safety Code**

Spot the dangers!

Water may look safe, but it can be dangerous. Learn to spot and keep away from dangers. You may swim well in a warm indoor pool, but that does not mean that you will be able to swim in cold water.

The dangers of water include:

- it is very cold
- there may be hidden currents
- it can be difficult to get out (steep slimy banks)
- it can be deep
- there may be hidden rubbish, e.g. shopping trolleys, broken glass
- there are no lifeguards
- it is difficult to estimate depth
- it may be polluted and may make you ill

Take safety advice!

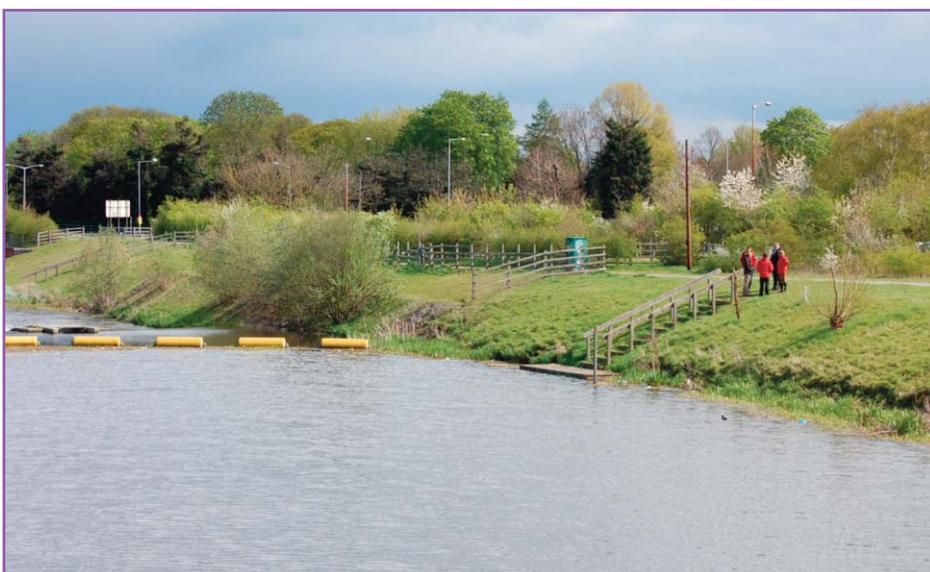
Special flags and notices may warn you of danger. Know what the signs mean and do what they tell you.

Learn about water safety signs and the flags you should look out for on the beach.

Go together!

Children should always go with an adult, not by themselves and be supervised at all times.

An adult can point out dangers or help if somebody gets into trouble.



For further information and resources:

- Royal Life Saving Society: www.rlss.org.uk/water-safety/
- Child Accident Prevention Trust: <https://www.capt.org.uk/keeping-your-child-safe-from-drowning>
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents: www.rospa.com/leisure-safety/water/advice/children-young-people/
- Canal and Rivers Trust: <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers/water-safety>
- Healthy Children: <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-play/Pages/Water-Safety-for-Older-Children.aspx>
- Hampshire Council: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/susiethechildminder>

3rd Pan Berkshire CDOP Conference 24 April 2019 at Reading University



The 3rd Pan Berkshire CDOP Conference was held on Wednesday 24 April 2019 at Reading University with 80 delegates from across Berkshire attending. It was a multi-agency training event for professionals to raise awareness and develop new skills building on the learning from child deaths.

This year's presenters focussed on the older child and young person; those living with complex health needs; neuro developmental disorders and acquired brain injury who may be vulnerable to exploitation and violence.

Successful CDOP campaigns were shared with delegates around safe sleeping; improving the health, wellbeing and safety of young people at Reading Festival and raising awareness of Pneumococcal death and its prevention in 'at risk' groups. Group work continued in the afternoon focussing on real cases.

For further information visit the CDOP website
<http://www.westberkslscb.org.uk/professionals-volunteers/cdop/>

Reporting a child death via eCDOP

From 01/04/2019 Pan Berkshire eCDOP is live and all notifications of a child death must be made via this link which anyone can access
<https://www.ecdop.co.uk/panberkshire/live/Public>

Lift the Baby Campaign



Players from London Irish Rugby Club have teamed up with health chiefs to launch a major video campaign aimed at cutting baby deaths. The video is the result of a year long piece of work pioneered by Berkshire West CCG, East Berkshire CCG and a range of health partners.

Launched in London on Tuesday 25 June 2019 the video is called Lift the Baby and is aimed at promoting safer sleeping in younger babies. A special website has been developed in partnership with the Lullaby Trust and features a link to the video along with a range of safe sleeping advice - please share with your teams.

www.liftthebaby.org.uk