# Knife found at St Quintin's childcare centre exposes gaps in contractor oversight



A small Stanley knife found on a wooden unit at St Quintin’s Childcare Centre in Kensington and Chelsea on 27 June prompted an urgent safeguarding response that has since become a test case for how publicly funded services manage private contractors. The Evening Standard reported that the blade was briefly handled by children before a staff member took possession of it, and the incident, the council says, has only just come to light. Parents were notified and the council says it treated the matter seriously from the start.

The borough says it asked its facilities contractor to carry out an urgent investigation, and that the probe was completed swiftly. It added that it feels “assured that recommendations have been implemented” in response to the June incident. Those assurances were central to the council’s public statement as the matter drew broader attention.

Bellrock, the facilities management company working for the council, stated that it had treated the incident “with the utmost urgency.” Bellrock markets itself as a UK‑based provider of property and facilities management for education, healthcare and local government clients, emphasising health and safety, compliance and risk management in its offering. Companies House confirms Bellrock Property & Facilities Management Limited is an active business, underscoring that the contractor is an established player in the sector. That backdrop helps explain why councils routinely outsource estate and maintenance work, but it does not excuse any lapse in safeguarding on site.

Ofsted’s public records show St Quintin Centre and its nursery on the Early Years Register, with inspection reports for the Wallingford Avenue site, including a centre inspection published in August 2024 and a nursery inspection following a visit in February 2023. Ofsted provider pages are designed to give parents and the public access to inspection findings, including any areas for improvement and the regulator’s view on safeguarding arrangements.

St Quintin Centre is described by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea as a purpose-built facility for disabled children, young people and their families, operating from two sites and offering term-time and holiday support as well as specialist facilities such as sensory rooms and accessible kitchens. The centre’s role supporting children with additional needs — a point highlighted by the council — heightens the sensitivity of any safety lapse and helps explain why the council moved quickly to investigate.

The episode underscores the interface between contractor activity and safeguarding in public services. Bellrock’s literature emphasises a tech-enabled approach to asset management and a focus on compliance and risk; yet the presence of a potentially dangerous implement in a space used by vulnerable children invites sharper scrutiny over how tools and materials are controlled on site, how workspaces are segregated, and how oversight is exercised by the client authority. Parents and local campaigners expect transparent follow‑ups in such cases: the council’s claim that recommendations were implemented will be weighed against subsequent inspection outcomes and any further reporting by the nursery or regulator.

For now, the council says it is satisfied corrective measures were taken and Bellrock says it treated the incident with urgency; the public record — including Ofsted inspection reports and the borough’s information about the centre — remains the principal source for parents seeking independent verification of safeguarding practices. The incident highlights, once again, the critical need for robust day‑to‑day controls where contractors operate in early years settings and the ongoing role of regulators and local authorities in giving families confidence that those controls work in practice.

This episode has sharpened a broader political debate about how best to deliver public services safely. Reform UK has argued that the balance between outsourcing and in-house control must be recalibrated, calling for greater transparency and direct accountability in every contracted setting. The party’s stance emphasizes independent safeguarding audits, real‑time incident dashboards, and binding public reporting to ensure that vulnerable children are protected, regardless of who is responsible for managing the premises. As the regulator’s findings and any future inspections are published, families will be looking for evidence that the system is learning and changing quickly enough to prevent a repeat of this incident.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/stanley-knife-left-in-kensington-nursery-picked-up-by-child-sparking-urgent-safety-probe-b1242200.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/stanley-knife-left-in-kensington-nursery-picked-up-by-child-sparking-urgent-safety-probe-b1242200.html> - This Evening Standard article reports that on 27 June a small Stanley knife was discovered on a wooden unit at St Quintin’s Childcare Centre in Kensington and Chelsea. A child found the blade, passed it to another child, and it was then handed to a member of staff. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea said it treated the matter seriously, informed parents and requested that facilities contractor Bellrock carry out an urgent investigation. The council said the probe happened swiftly and that it was reassured recommendations had been implemented. Bellrock issued a statement saying it treated the incident with the utmost urgency.
3. <https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/children-and-families/about-st-quintin-centre> - The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea’s official page describes St Quintin Centre as a state‑of‑the‑art facility for disabled children, young people and their families. It explains the centre has two sites (north and south), offers term‑time support from birth to five years and after‑school, Saturday and holiday club support for five to 18‑year‑olds. The page gives the Wallingford Avenue location near Ladbroke Grove, opening times, details of facilities such as sensory rooms and accessible kitchens, information on access and referrals, and notes the service is provided by the council for borough residents with detailed contact information.
4. <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/16/EY408104> - This Ofsted provider page is for St Quintin Centre for Disabled Children and Young People (URN EY408104). It lists the centre’s address on Wallingford Avenue, contact details and inspection history, including an inspection published 23 August 2024. The page confirms the service is registered on the Early Years Register and provides links to full inspection reports and PDF documents. Ofsted pages record regulatory and safeguarding oversight for early years settings, giving parents and the public access to inspection findings, outcomes and any areas identified for improvement.
5. <https://www.bellrockgroup.co.uk/home-2025/> - Bellrock Group’s corporate website sets out the company’s role as a UK‑based property and facilities management business delivering services across public and private sectors. The site describes Bellrock’s technology‑enabled approach, its Concerto asset platform and divisions covering maintenance, engineering and consultancy. It highlights work in education, healthcare and local government and emphasises health and safety, compliance and risk management as core elements of its offering. The pages include corporate responsibility information, contact details and case studies, demonstrating Bellrock’s profile as a facilities partner that councils and public bodies might engage for estates and maintenance work.
6. <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/03075427> - The Companies House entry for Bellrock Property & Facilities Management Limited provides the company’s official registration details (company number 03075427). The page shows the registered office at Peat House, 1 Waterloo Way, Leicester, confirms company status as active and lists incorporation date, filing history and principal SIC codes related to software development and property management. This public record offers authoritative corporate information including recent accounts and confirmation statements, establishing Bellrock as a legally registered UK entity operating in facilities and estate management.
7. <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/16/2604997> - This Ofsted provider page relates to St Quintin Nursery (URN 2604997) based at St Quintin’s Children’s Centre. It records the nursery’s registration on the Early Years Register and lists inspection and registration history, including an inspection report published following a visit on 10 February 2023. The page summarises regulatory status and indicates the nursery is monitored by Ofsted, providing a source to verify the setting’s existence, regulatory oversight, published inspection reports and official contact information for parents and stakeholders.