



Cheshire West and Chester
Safeguarding Children
Partnership

Covid-19 Newsletter 5:
Safeguarding Children
Partnership
17.4.2020

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As another week draws to a close, we've noticed a new phrase in use across the partnership, that of "the new norm". We think this reflects just how well partner agencies have prepared themselves, at speed, to be able to provide "business as usual done differently" so that our vulnerable children and families continue to be safeguarded. That's a fantastic achievement.

If you've missed earlier editions of our weekly newsletters you can find the information on our dedicated COVID-19 link pages on our website home page: <https://www.cheshirewestscp.co.uk/>

Key messages from the Partnership

Safeguarding Leads from a wide range of statutory and commissioned services continue to meet weekly to share agency updates and test the impact of the Covid-19 Multi-Agency Practice Standards so that we can respond swiftly to any emerging areas of concerns. Here's the key points from this week's meeting:

- There are no changes to the Practice Standards again this week, which is a positive reflection that our agreed approaches are working well for all involved. We will continue to keep them under review and the latest version is accessible on the [SCP Covid-19 Page for Professionals](#). If you haven't already referenced the guidance please do so.
- As anticipated, we are beginning to see an increase in presentations of Adult's experiencing mental health episodes. Providing support to the adult is a priority but please continue to assess any potential risks and impact for any children living in the home by engaging in multi-agency conversations with other key services. On a related note, last week we shared details of Cheshire and Wirral Partnership (CWP) **new mental health helpline 0300 303 3972**. Please ensure the details are shared with the children and adults that you are working with. It's available 24/7 for people of all ages.
- Whilst we're beginning to see a slight increase in Domestic Abuse incidents locally, these are not at the volume initially anticipated which gives rise to concerns that victims and communities may not be seeking support. A series of campaigns are being launched to encourage reporting (See Below) and we ask that all agencies help us to promote the messages.

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Campaigns and supporting information to protect children and vulnerable groups

[Open the Door](#) is our local campaign aiming to bring domestic abuse out into the open and encourage people to start a conversation and access support. A new Open the Door poster 'Alone at Last' has been produced specifically with COVID-19 in mind; Police colleagues are delivering the posters to retail outlets and store managers are being asked to display the posters in strategic locations where anyone affected by domestic abuse may be alone and can read it. The posters have been added to the [resources section of the Open the Door website](#) (the West Cheshire poster is the second in the file)

[Kind to Your Mind](#) campaign, developed by Champs Public Health Collaborative and the Cheshire & Merseyside Health & Care Partnership, is running in April and aims to support the mental wellbeing of people living and working in Cheshire and Merseyside.

[ICON](#) - The accumulated stressors associated with the pandemic combined with prolonged isolation at home could increase the risk of abusive head trauma to infants. NHS England are asking all professionals working with families who have babies to take the time to discuss the risks. Here's some advice from our CCG and the Cheshire West ICON leaflet to give to families:



Babies Cry, You can cope and Safe Sleep (cheshire_west_icon_leaflet.pdf)



The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) have seen delayed presentations for medical advice during this pandemic, sometimes with tragic consequences. The message to parents is that GPs and hospitals can be accessed safely and should be when there are concerns about a child's health irrespective of whether it's COVID related. Please help us to share the key messages and promote this poster in your settings



COVID19 Advice for parents poster

Other Useful Resources

The Safeguarding Children partnership have created a page on our website for Parents and Carers where they can find helpful tips and resources to help them cope during the pandemic <https://www.cheshirewestscp.co.uk/advice-for-parents-carers/> We're adding information to the site all the time. Here's some of the new information for this week that you might want to share with families you are supporting:

- [Coronavirus – A book for children](#) - Axel Scheffler (illustrator of The Gruffalo) has illustrated a digital book for primary school age children, free for anyone to read on screen or print out, about the coronavirus and the measures taken to control it.
- [Resource Pack for young people](#) - This pack has been developed by CAMHS services within North Wales and offers helpful advice and activities for children and young

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people to complete alone, or with a parent/carer or professional. The [Face Covid Poster](#) also provides helpful advice about healthy coping strategies during the pandemic.

Online Safety - The Children's Commissioner for England, in association with the privacy law firm Schillings, has produced a digital safety and wellbeing kit for parents and a safety guide for children to help keep children safe and well online during the coronavirus outbreak.

- [Parents' digital safety and wellbeing kit \(PDF\)](#)
- [Children's guide to staying safe online \(PDF\)](#)

Parental Conflict Worksheets - This information, provided by One Plus One, is part of the How to Argue Better training and provides activities for parents to help them understand more about their behaviours and how they can talk more and argue less.



Parental Conflict
Worksheets

Stay safe this weekend
From your Safeguarding Children Partnership Team

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