



Cheshire West and Chester
Safeguarding Children
Partnership

Covid-19 Newsletter 1:
Safeguarding Children
Partnership
27.03.2020

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A thank you from the Independent Chair, Gill Frame

In Cheshire West and Chester, we take comfort in knowing there are strong and resilient multi-agency partnerships in place that pull together when needed. The challenges of last week, and those which lie before us, will undoubtedly test those partnerships to the absolute limits, but I share the confidence of all Senior Leaders in saying that collectively, “we can do this”. Everyone has a vital role to play, and I know that people are working flat out in a range of different ways to respond to the covid-19 pandemic. Your responses have been truly humbling, and I can only thank you for your concerted and ongoing efforts.

We all know that as a consequence of the changes to how we go about our daily lives, the risk to vulnerable children and families will increase. We anticipate rises in domestic abuse and parental mental health issues as families spend more time in isolation and may be anxious about the unfolding situation; there will be greater demands on families already experiencing poverty and all this at a time when many children are out of sight of key services, such as schools. As a consequence, there is a real sense that we need to do more with less so that we can meet the needs of these children. We know we don't have a finite resource, and therefore we must all be clear about what is our collective “critical business” in the next weeks and months in order to ensure we fulfil our statutory safeguarding responsibilities.

This newsletter aims to bring together key partnership updates and guidance, helpful resources to share with children and families and information for staff and Managers to remind us of the importance of keeping ourselves safe. The situation is likely to change daily and so we aim to send these newsletters on a weekly basis for the foreseeable future.

We are working to update our [Safeguarding Children Partnership website](#) so that all of this information can be hosted in one place. If you have other useful resources for us to add or questions that you wish to raise please contact us as SCP@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

GFrame

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Multi-Agency Minimum Safeguarding Practice Standards for the workforce

Working Together 2018 (WT18) sets out the expectations of all agencies as to how they must safeguard vulnerable children and protect those that need it from harm. However, during this Pandemic we recognise that services may have depleted staff resource. So, whilst staying in line with WT18 guidance we have agreed with our three Statutory Partners – Police, Children’s Services and Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Groups, a set of minimum expectations for all multi-agency partners. We believe these standards strike the balance between keeping our children and those staff who protect them, safe. It is important that we all continue to ‘play our part’ and ensure that multi-agency working continues throughout this hugely challenging time for everyone.



COVID-19%20Multi-Agency%20Minimum

Risk Assessing visits to or contact with children and families

Embedded in the document below is a Home Visit Risk Assessment. We appreciate that each service area may have other considerations that they need to account for. We are sharing this in the hope that it proves useful for adaptation in your own service areas. Please do share back any other examples you have to SCP@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

- **SCP Home Visit Risk Assessment**



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Supporting a volunteer workforce to recognise the safeguarding needs of children and families

There’s been a fantastic response to the Prime Minister’s call for NHS volunteers and this is supplemented locally with around 1,300 people already having registered through the [Council’s ‘How you can help’ page](#) to support those in our own communities. Some of these volunteers will likely have safeguarding awareness from their current or previous roles but many more will not. They will be playing a vital role within our communities and can be the eyes and ears for our safeguarding services at a time when children and families are isolated from their wider support networks. We’re not currently running our face to face training offer; but are refreshing our Safeguarding Children Induction Booklet so that services can use this with their new recruits and volunteers to enable them to recognise and respond to safeguarding concerns. We’ve also created some visuals to support the message to volunteers and the wider community (with thanks noted to Rochdale Safeguarding Partnership for sharing their template). Please use the poster on social media and websites to help us spread the word and we’ll be back in touch when the Induction Booklet is available early next week.



Community%20&%20Volunteer%20Covid'

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E-Learning & Safeguarding Procedures

Whilst our face to face training is currently on hold can we also take the opportunity to remind you that there remains a range of e-learning courses that you can still access, and the Pan Cheshire Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures remain operational.

- [E-Learning Safeguarding Training](#)
- [Pan Cheshire Safeguarding Policy and Procedures](#)

Wellbeing

At times like this we will all have concerns for ourselves, our families, our colleagues and those in the society that we support. It is our priority that frontline services are safe and well cared for as they go about their day to day business. There is lots of information available, both within organisations and at national level, to support you to do this but below are some useful resources online resources we wanted to share.



apps%20and%20web
sites.docx

Resources to use with children.

 dave-the-dog-corona virus-1-1 (1) (003).pd	 Coronavirus Social Story.pdf	Coronavirus: here's some advice if you're worried about it CBBC
Think you Know Activities Online Safety Activity Packs from CEOP	Childline Resources on Coronavirus	Hello I'm a Virus workbook Mindheart Resources

There's also useful information about how to go about having difficult conversations with children which can be found at NSPCC [How to have difficult conversations with children](#)

Other Useful Information

- NSPCC Learning has published a webpage with resources to help schools keep children and young people safe while teaching in a remote or unusual setting. Topics covered include: consent; contacting children at home; child protection concerns; online safety and mental health and wellbeing.

Visit the webpage: [Undertaking remote teaching safely](#)

Stay safe this weekend

From your Safeguarding Children Partnership Team

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