

Keeping children safe in our city

Safeguarding Updates for Schools & Colleges, No. 5, June 2020, EXTRA!

Editorial

We know that you have all worked incredibly hard since the lockdown began and are worried ceaselessly about the vulnerable children in your care. It hasn't always felt as if this has been recognised by those outside our world but there is some acknowledgement in the letter from Vicky Ford MP and Natalie Dorries MP sent to Paul Marshall-

'...You have already received a joint communication from the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the Government on the need to continue to meet the duty to notify serious child safeguarding incidents and we thank you for your work in this area...As we all plan for when social distancing measures may be altered, the roles of the designated safeguarding professionals especially those in schools and healthcare become critical.

Unfortunately, we all know that it will be at that point when we are likely to see an increase in reported harm and we all need to be continuing to plan now for how frontline services can respond. At some point we will see children return to schools and contact with GPs and health professionals become more regular. The work of designated leads to identify and respond to children who may be suffering harm has always been a strength of the safeguarding system...With our sincere thanks and gratitude to you and all your teams...'

Please continue to keep in touch with us if you have any questions or concerns, by phone/email and/or attending one of the virtual drop-ins.

Jenny Patterson & Liz Rose

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Safeguarding in Education Twitter:- @SafeguardingEdu

Updated Safeguarding Guidance from the government

The government regularly updates its guidance and it's important to check regularly. See the most recent following the plans for more children to return to school:- safeguarding.info/gov2.

Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)

The DFE's planned consultation on proposed revisions to the statutory guidance in February/March was cancelled. However, there may still be an updated version issued in September. Additions to the draft that was published included more focus on mental health & wellbeing and supporting children with Social Workers. It would be useful to think about these issues as well as all guidance issued since lockdown, when reviewing your safeguarding policies and procedures, which many of you will be doing over the Summer Term.

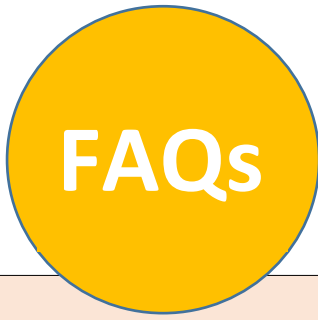
Promoting Emotional Resilience

Many schools are concerned about the mental health of their pupils, both ongoing where they are aware of children with existing mental health conditions and where children may have new fears and anxieties caused by the Covid-19 situation. A 'menu' of ideas and support available in Manchester will shortly be sent to all head teachers via a Briefing from Amanda Corcoran. We will send an additional copy to all DSLs as the support is organised into columns for different audiences and the right hand column is all for you! (although you're welcome to dip into each other's areas).

The information will be updated as often as it practicable and will evolve into a Directory of resources over the summer.

Director's Updates

Please see attached document for a summary of everything that has been sent out on Covid-19 from Amanda Corcoran to Headteachers between 5th May - 8th June, (following on from our previous summaries covering 18th March - 4th May).



Q. We're concerned about some children that we feel are vulnerable, but parents are not responding to our messages or visits. Is there anything more we could be doing?

A. Some ideas from schools attending the virtual drop-ins are: - Important to contact every single family to make sure they are okay. Vulnerable children are contacted through phone or facetime if they don't attend school. Food packages etc delivered which encourages parents to answer the door. Contact police to conduct a welfare check. Speak to Early Help to see if other agencies have been in contact. Print work to deliver if ICT is not accessible for families.

Q. What can we do in case of emergency when we open for more children whilst in a classroom 'bubble'? Can personal mobiles be used if no school phone available?

A. Ideally staff will have access to school equipment, such as school phone, walkie-talkie, etc as they should not be using personal phones for work. In exceptional cases, where there is no other option, a personal phone could be used, but you need to be very clear about the criteria in your policy and that it is short term. School should also ensure more appropriate arrangements are put in place long term.

Q. Has the Prevent offer to the students changed due to Covid-19. Do the challenges remain the same?

A. The work around Prevent, just like all other aspects of safeguarding, continues, albeit we've not had many referrals across the board due to students, apart from the most vulnerable, mainly not attending school.

Young people may be spending a lot longer than usual on their devices and, although there is nothing to suggest an increase in extremism online, it is something that needs our attention, as there is potential in that space.

The Prevent Team is looking at delivery of funded projects for the new school year and is working with providers to look at delivery methods. Once we have confirmation from the Home Office, we'll liaise with schools on what we can offer from September with a new catalogue of products.

Staff training is available free online and sessions can be booked in post-Covid-19 or via a webinar.

Contact Dobir for more information:
mohammed.miah@manchester.gov.uk

Online Drop-ins, Networks & Training for DSLs

Summer Term DSL Networks.

These will be shorter, but we'll have inputs on Complex Safeguarding & Youth Justice as previously planned, with additional news from the Safeguarding Improvement Unit (SIU) with Jayne Jones, Service Lead for Children's Safeguarding. If you have any questions for Jayne regarding the SIU, CP conferences, COVID 19 adjustments, etc. Please email them to Liz beforehand so we can use the air time efficiently.

South, 23rd June, 10.00-12.00

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/virtual-dsl0network-event-south-manchester-schools-only-tickets-66188356155>

Central, 24th June, 10.00-12.00

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/virtual-dsl0network-event-south-manchester-schools-only-tickets-66188929871>

North, 25th June, 10.00-12.00

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/virtual-dsl0network-event-south-manchester-schools-only-tickets-66189276909>

We're also holding **weekly 1 hour DSL Drop-ins** which are a chance to ask questions and share practice, especially around responses to Covid-19. Again, these are via GoogleMeet. To access via a computer go to meet.google.com/xvd-rhnz-brhor or join by phone +442039583178 (PIN 759736573)

DSL Training

We are very pleased that One Education will be continuing our programme of face to face DSL training whenever lockdown is ended and we are able to hold meetings again. Please register on the Waiting List through Eventbrite and we'll be in touch as soon as we're able to confirm dates and venues. This is the link:-

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/designated-safeguarding-lead-training-waiting-listmanchester-schools-only-tickets-95612187627>

Alonzi House

A virtual Stakeholder Engagement event in mid-July is planned - details to be confirmed. If you are interested or involved in the work of the Hub, with LAC and/or Edge of Care children and would like to be invited to participate, please email your details to Liz Rose. The Steering Group are keen to include teachers in the event.

Early Help Updates

See attached really useful newsletter and updates from Early Help. Contact Tony on a.gilfillan@manchester.gov.uk to sign up to receive them direct.

Online Training & Workshops

Domestic Violence & Abuse (DVA)

Although we have had to cancel our programme of face to face training for the Summer Term, we are working with Steve Brock, Social Work Consultant, to run fortnightly online workshops, where you will have a chance to hear from specialists, ask questions, share concerns and ideas around DVA and how the Safe & Together model links with Signs of Safety. Sessions are attended by Social Workers and Health professionals as well as Education staff.

Booking is through Eventbrite as usual. You will be sent an invite and link through GoogleMeet and should be able to sign in through either phone or a computer.

Upcoming workshops:-

- June 18th, 10.00-12.00: Domestic Violence & Neglect: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dva-virtual-worksop-for-schools-tickets-108450207490?aff=ebdssbeac>
- July 2nd, 10.00-12.00: The Adverse Impact of DV on Children: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/dva-virtual-workshop-for-schools-tickets-10845114422aff=ebdssb>

Manchester Safeguarding Partnership (MSP)

The MSP's online learning contract with Virtual College has been renewed for a further 3 years. The online courses are free to anyone who works with Manchester children/adults/families. However the MSP pays a significant amount of money to access this resource. Please remind your staff to select one course at a time to avoid potential non-completion fines of £25 per person per course. The MSP is charged for every selected course regardless of whether or not it is completed.

A revised and updated course catalogue was released on 1st April and now has levels 1, 2 and 3 for Safeguarding Children available, as well as refresher courses. New courses include 'Supporting Teenagers' and 'LGBTQ Awareness'.

Here is the link to Virtual College guidance on safeguarding levels

<https://www.virtual-college.co.uk/resources/2020/02/what-level-of-safeguarding-training-do-i-need>

Here is the link to the MSP online learning resource. All learners will need to register:-

<https://manchesterscb.virtual-college.co.uk>

NSPCC

NSPCC has developed a range on online course and webinars to support schools, as well as resources for children. For more information visit their website <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/training/online-safety>.

Griffin Care

Tom is running a number of online course, including DVA, mental health awareness and DSL. You can find out more here: <https://www.griffincare.co.uk/courses>.

KD Associates

In addition to a range on online courses, Kerry Dawson is running weekly Zoom sessions every Wednesday at 11 am, focussing on specific areas of safeguarding during COVID-19 school closure. See her website for details and register at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/845114422>

Andrew Hall

Andrew is running a number of online courses, including 'Advanced Safeguarding for DSLs'. You can find out more here: <https://www.onlinecpd.info/dsl>

Learning From Serious Case Reviews (SCRs)

The report has recently been published of the SCR following the criminal exploitation and murder of Jaden Moodie, aged 14. It highlights a number of missed opportunities to protect Jaden. Recommendations made within the report include a review of home education guidance and creation of a national response to criminal exploitation that maximises 'reachable moments' to protect children: https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/sites/default/files/WFSCB%20-%20SCR%20Child%20C%20May%20final_.pdf

Manchester Safeguarding Partnership is responsible for carrying out SCRs in Manchester and for sharing key messages. Learning packs, including 7 minute briefings, for completed reviews are made available on the website as soon as practicable and often prior to publication. These can be used by individual agencies for internal briefings to make sure that the valuable lessons learned are shared across staff teams. Supporting learning events are advertised on the MSP training website: <https://manchestersafeguardingpartnershiplearning.co.uk/>

Two Recent Manchester SCRs

The case of **Child U1 (SCR published 15th April 2020)** highlighted that 'fixed professional thinking and a lack of professional curiosity, professional challenge and good communication; within and between agencies can lead to a misunderstanding of a child's presentation'

Child Q1 (SCR published 11th May 2020) had been sexually abused for a considerable period of time and MSCB were concerned that there was late identification and referral by the school. Likewise, as Child Q1 had SEN if this had impacted on the late concern and referral.

Analysis of Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) for the Education Sector (2020) (Social Care Institute for Excellence)

The Social Care Institute for Excellence has just published a new resource for schools. The document is a digest of the government's triennial analysis of Serious Case Reviews (SCR)(2020), specifically drawing out the pertinent learning for schools, school leaders and DSLs.

This analysis brings together key trends and emerging themes arising from reviews that were conducted following the death of a child, or instance of a child coming to serious harm, as a result of abuse or neglect. Researchers reviewed 368 SCRs, involving a total of 404 children, from the period between April 2014 and March 2017. The report aimed to identify common themes and trends across all SCR reports, sample reviews to better understand systemic strengths and vulnerabilities of practice, investigate the impact of policy changes and initiatives and assess the extent to which recommendations from reviews have been implemented and any impact on practice of these changes. Read it at: <https://www.scie.org.uk/safeguarding/children/education/serious-case-reviews/2020-analysis>

National case review repository - NSPCC Learning

The **repository** provides a single place for published case reviews to make it easier to access and share learning at a local, regional and national level. The **repository** is accessible via the **NSPCC** Library, which has over 1392 case reviews and inquiry reports dating back to 1945. How published reports are added to the national repository: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/case-reviews/national-case-review-repository>

Complex Safeguarding

MSP has now published a new **Complex Safeguarding Strategy** and it's available on the website: <https://www.manchestersafeguardingpartnership.co/msp-complex-safeguarding-strategy-2020-2023-published/>

Crest Advisory has published an **insight paper looking at the impact of Covid-19 on county lines** operated by organised crime groups (OCGs) and gangs. Sadly OCGs have adapted to the current context and have found new ways to operate and continue to exploit children.

The paper focuses on children and young people missing from home or care, the trend towards recruiting children locally to the drug dealing base, the demand in the drugs market, changing tactics to navigate the lockdown and new operating models post-Covid-19. There have been recent cases of Manchester children caught up in county lines, even during the lockdown and worries about the drugs available becoming 'harder'.

New tactics used by OCGs to avoid detection include using private taxi firms to traffic children and young people dressed up to pose as key workers and dog walkers.

We all know school is a safe space for the majority of children and young people. The pandemic has meant that most young people have been unable to attend school or college and the risk to those most vulnerable to exploitation has increased. Young people in Manchester have continued to go missing from home during this period and have been less visible to services that would previously have had face to face contact with them. If you are worried or concerned that a child or young person might be at risk or is being exploited you can contact the Complex Safeguarding Hub for advice and support on the consultation line, 0161 226 4196.

Transition - NEET, A Safeguarding Issue for Post-16s

There is a growing concern that the pandemic will have a disproportionate impact on the life chances of young people who are at key transitional points in their education and especially those year 11's who left high school in March. We also know that becoming NEET at 16 increases the vulnerability of many young people and that safeguarding concerns can often go undetected.

This year the high schools across Manchester identified 450 year 11's who have been classified as high risk of becoming NEET and another 550 who are medium risk. We are working closely with key staff in our education settings to ensure all our year 11's have secured appropriate post 16 destinations and that the high risk students have plans in place to support them in making a successful transition. We are also asking high schools and alternative provision to share important information with post 16 providers to help them to engage and prepare for those more vulnerable students joining them in September.

From a safeguarding perspective it would be helpful if you work with your careers advisor and pastoral teams to assess if the year 11's at risk of becoming NEET are being supported and if any safeguarding concerns have been registered and referrals made where appropriate.

The City Council commissions Career Connect to deliver a NEET prevention Service called Connect. They will be working across the summer and into the new academic year to support those students most at risk of becoming NEET. You can make any referrals to their inbox eeet@careerconnect.org.uk or phone them on 0161 232 7863, they are particularly interested in receiving referrals for those students who do not have a destination and are difficult to maintain contact with. We have also circulated to all careers staff a Transition Referral form that schools can use to share information with our main post 16 providers.

If you require and further information or particular concerns or issues about your year 11's then please contact Elaine Morrison e.morrison@manchester.gov.uk or Pamela Williams p.williams@manchester.gov.uk.

TRANSITION EARLY YEARS

EY settings have all been reminded of the importance of sharing relevant information when children transition to school. Please get in touch with them if you have any concerns, or Sue Fletcher on s.fletcher@manchester.gov.uk if you're not sure which setting you need to speak to)

CHILD BEREAVEMENT UK

Free bereavement awareness training:-

Thursday 11th June at 15.30

Early Years/Nursery

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IP28pDGgRIm6gGKSGWkiaQ

Monday 15th June at 12.00

Primary

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UKHDUxgSRe-APxvSILjZg

Tuesday 16th June at 09.30

Secondary

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_k46ZyxWtQzahP4-ab69g6Q

These are at short notice and another set will be available soon.

OUT OF SCHOOL SETTINGS (OOSS)

Usually at this time of year, we would be holding a celebratory event with children, parents and teachers from supplementary schools sharing their achievements - including an amazing number of 'A's and 'A*'s in languages, as well as children's knowledge of their heritage cultures and building of self-esteem with the Lord Mayor and other VIPs.

Sadly this has had to be cancelled for the first time in 15 years and they are following advice from DFE that they should not currently be operating.

Many of them hope to be starting up again in the Autumn and we're looking to speak with schools that hire out their buildings to a supplementary schools or other OOSS (including after-school, Breakfast & Sports and Arts clubs) in the evenings or at weekends to discuss expectations and preparations for the settings to return after lockdown. If you have any questions, please contact Sheena on:

s.wadhera@manchester.go.uk.

YOUNG CARERS

Many more children may be taking on temporary caring roles during this time and may be feeling particularly anxious and isolated. There is useful information and advice on the Carers Organisation website:-

<https://carers.org/getting-support-if-you-are-a-young-carer-or-young-adult-carer/information-on-coronavirus-covid-19-for-young-carers-and-young-adult-carers>

DVA

Operation Encompass Helpline

Feedback from DSLs that have used the helpline so far has been highly positive.

Please note that the number has now changed from 0845 6460890. Please now **use 0204 513 9990**. Calls are charged at local rate and the helpline is open 8-11am, Monday to Friday.

David & Elizabeth (the founders) are now running Operation Encompass Key Adult training, which is free and easy to access from the website: <https://www.operationencompass.org/>. It is appropriate for Governors and other staff, in addition to DSLs and all participants will get a certificate on completion.

Domestic Abuse - calling for help but unable to speak

The following may be useful advice to share with vulnerable groups. What do you do if you need help from the police but can't speak? You can still call 999. After 20 seconds you will be asked to press 55 so you can be connected to a call handler. Listen carefully to their questions and instructions so they can arrange help even if you can't talk

Staff Guidance

Please see attached Powerpoint presentation with guidance for staff with concerns about DVA in families.

UNINTENTIONAL INJURY PREVENTION (UIP)

The UIP lead from Healthy Schools would like to highlight a number of resources that can be accessed for free to help support families to remain injury free.

[CAPT](#) have focussed on a different injury prevention message each week leading up to their Child Safety Week which was on the 1-7th of June. CAPT acknowledge that with so much changing around us, it can feel like it's difficult to keep up: juggling care of children and managing life doesn't make it easy!

They have pulled together lots of helpful content and a free parent pack that can be downloaded and is crammed with useful advice. It also contains fun activity sheets for the children to engage in.

Download the [parent pack](#) here



[Rospa](#) have launched their 'Accident free, avoid A & E' campaign. The campaign has a simple message: Prevent accidents, Protect your family, Help the NHS. They want to work with you to keep everyone injury free throughout the pandemic to ensure the country is easing pressure on our vital frontline health workers.

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They have free resources to download and have highlighted the best ways to prevent accidents. From garden safety to household cleaning products, Rospa have a range of factsheets and top tips to remain injury free. [Rospa: Accident Free, Avoid A&E](#)



SafeTea is an online intervention to help parents prevent hot drink burns in small children and improve burn first aid. Hot drinks are the leading cause of children's burns. Babies and toddlers have much thinner skin than adults and burn much more easily and at lower temperatures. A hot drink can stay hot enough to burn for over 30 minutes.

The key messages of the campaign are:

- Keep hot drinks away from young children
- Don't pass a hot drink over a child
- Never hold a baby and a hot drink at the same time

Burn first aid is simple!



RESOURCES

Online Safety Considerations for Reopening (SWGfL)

The SWGfL has created a guidance sheet to help schools welcome pupils as they return from lockdown.

Download guidance sheet here: <https://swgfl.org.uk/assets/documents/online-safety-considerations-for-reopening-of-schools.pdf>

Be SMART: Online Safety Video Lessons for 6 - 9 year olds (Childnet)

Childnet have released six new easy-to-follow videos for parents and children to work through together. The 10 - 15 minute videos offer simple, clear online safety advice using fun activities, games and discussion. There are optional follow-up activities to extend children's learning.

The videos can be found here: <https://www.childnet.com/resources/video-lessons>

ThinkUKnow have created a page to support parents and young people online. The site includes home activity packs with simple 15 minute activities support children's understanding of online safety at a time.

There is also parent support information for primary and secondary age groups.

The resources can be found here: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets>

KD Free resources - Safe and well activities

The resource area on our website has been updated to include the slides shared in the recent Zoom sessions alongside resources that we have developed to support you during this period, including a Safe and Well Checks Conversation Guide.

Covid-19 Posters

Keep Safe have published new easyread posters explaining the Government's updated lockdown guidance. This is the latest addition to their Coronavirus series. Other posters include 'If You Get Ill', 'Getting Tested' and 'Foodbanks'.

Doodle have also produced a range of free posters for Covid-19 safety, including one reminding people about the 2 metre rule at <https://www.doodle.ac/products/two-metres-is>

Votes For Schools

VotesforSchools creates resources for teachers to hold a topical debate or discussion with their classes. At the end of the week, students vote on the debate and leave comments. **See attached for current debate on the anti-racist protests following the tragic death of George Floyd in police custody.**

EVENTS

Refugee Week

It's almost Refugee Week again. See virtual events taking place from 15th June and resources at: <https://refugeeweek.org.uk/>