

KSCP Safeguarding Briefing

27/03/2020



Kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk

Welcome to the first Newsletter prepared under our Covid 19 arrangements

The purpose is to:

- Share key decision making and 'live' issues
- Signpost practitioners of all agencies to new guidance, training resources, briefings
- Share good news (there is still some out there)

There can be no doubt that announcements from central government have changed the landscape of our services and partnership as we deal with Covid 19 and its impact. A number of partners have already highlighted the difficulties in responding to the guidance, managing capacity in the workforce and recognising our operational priorities in supporting some of the most vulnerable in our communities.

Having spoken to statutory partners I have temporarily suspended the partnership meetings and subgroup meetings including multi-agency classroom training that we deliver to enable us to effectively social distance and avoid large gatherings.

This does not mean that safeguarding does not remain a priority, we need as a Kirklees system to maintain our responsibilities to vulnerable children and risk management.

This will be a demanding and uncertain time for the system as a whole but it will pass. For many of the children and families we work with it will increase stress and isolation. We all must recognise our roles, responsibilities and statutory duties to those children. Please therefore maintain the robust and accountable service response that is the Kirklees way.

Lastly, the we have produced new webpages following the recent announcements about the virus in the aim that they will provide information, tips and potential outlets for practitioners, parents, carers and young people visiting our website. The new webpage can be found below and will be updated as things progress. [All the pages](#) contain a link to the UK Government site for the latest national guidance on slowing the spread and stopping the virus.

Key Decisions and Live issues

We continue to progress **serious cases and rapid reviews** although we have been proactive in writing to the National Panel and asking what their position is in the current climate. We will update you when we receive a response. The issues we have raised are timescales and organisation of practice led events.

We have completed one rapid review. We did this in a virtual way, gathering information, pulling that together to tell the story in context and then weighing up risk. We hope to talk to statutory partners again before sending that to the National Panel. Given the links around exploitation, organised crime and serious youth violence it's likely that we will decide to take some further learning from this case.

We are finalising a few serious case reviews and hope to move forward with disseminating learning, probably through briefings shortly. We are going to try some different approaches to taking learning from cases during this time, rather than doing nothing.

Key News from Agencies

All agencies have developed Business continuity plans for Covid - 19, these can be accessed via their websites.

The police are reviewing the central safeguarding hub at corporate headquarters, this is logged to conclude in May. We will be asking how we can play a part in this review.

Ofsted have issued a letter advising of the temporary suspension of all routine inspections of schools, further education, early years and social care providers. The letter has been provided with this briefing.

New Guidance and Briefings

The National Panel published its first national report on criminal exploitation of young people. We have summarised the key issues in a briefing that can be accessed [here](#). Please read this in light of the incident at Sheepridge referred to earlier.

Young People's Voice

We part completed a review of progress against the priorities and issues raised by young people in the Staying Safe consultation last year. Jim Griffith (WYP), Alison Milbourn (Public Health) and myself met with young people, the original Staying Safe Report has been provided with this briefing. It probably won't surprise you but safety in the Town centre around the Bus station was a concern for them. We will be following up on all the issues and hopefully report to you soon.

Frontline Visits

We recently did an assurance piece of work visiting front line practitioners in schools and educational settings, that has been written up and is provided with this briefing.

Domestic Abuse

News has been shared that Karma Nirvana have extended helpline support to victims of **Domestic abuse** as well as victims and survivors of honour based abuse and forced marriage. Our support is available to anyone experiencing abuse, regardless of age, gender, sexuality, ethnicity or religion. <https://karmanirvana.org.uk/covid-19-were-all-in-this-together/>

KSCP Multi-Agency Training

Classroom Training has been cancelled for the foreseeable future which was announced on our website.

<https://www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/safeguarding-2/safeguarding-processes-and-systems/multi-agency-training/>

We are working to summarise the key learning from all the training courses we offer and will be signposting you to those learning summaries via this weekly briefing utilising the website.