

KSCP Safeguarding Briefing

03/04/2020



Kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk

Thank you!

This is the second of our safeguarding newsletters to keep you up to date with the relevant guidance, information and insight that is emerging in safeguarding during the Coronavirus response.

We hope it provides an opportunity to quickly give you an overview of what is happening and allow you as members to share news stories during these unprecedented times.

We wanted to start with a huge thank you to everyone involved in the Safeguarding Partnership work in Kirklees. That includes all the front-line staff, who day in day out do their utmost to protect our children and young people. Despite the exceptional times we have seen no let-up in the commitment to do the best we possibly can to keep children safe – **THANK YOU!**

Training Update

The KSCP Business Unit staff would like to thank all of our Partners across the Borough who we know are working flat out and around the clock to deliver vital services to our children, young people and families in such difficult circumstances. Some of our key roles simply cannot be performed from home and where these roles including classroom training have been identified we are working hard at the KSCP to ensure we can deliver for you.

Updates on any policies and procedures both locally and nationally are key to us to deliver for you at this time. We therefore we want to ensure you are given the most up to date information on practice that is available for you and your staff. These will include new 7 minute briefings and Practice guidance documents relating to safeguarding training that will be available starting from next week. We will be expanding that library of resources through the coming weeks.

Keeping Children Safe Consultation

The Department for Education has suspended the 2020 Keeping Children Safe in Education consultation due to coronavirus. It is not clear when the consultation will resume. At this time

[Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019](#) remains statutory Guidance. There is a recommendation that this should be considered alongside the Coronavirus (COVID19):

Safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers - It is worth noting that guidance in relation to keeping children safe in schools has not changed and that fundamentally its Business as usual, schools should not weaken their safeguarding approach. **We would recommend ALL settings should read the guidance and update their policies to reflect the COVID19 advice**

We know that senior staff from within the LA and school leaders have been working collaboratively to ensure the offer to vulnerable children is widely taken up. As the DCS explained to me this week it's been a fantastic response and because of all the efforts schools are ensuring that the most vulnerable children, those on plans and those that professionals are concerned about are being seen. We're hoping to join one of the calls next week to discuss how we can ensure schools and their staff are safe and that their policies reflect current expectations – perhaps sharing some model policies.

Talking to Children about Coronavirus

The Children's Commissioner for England has produced a children's guide to Coronavirus to help explain to youngsters in language they can understand, some of the issues. You may find this helpful as a resource for staff, to share with foster carers or to talk to your own children or family members. You can access the Guide via our website: <https://www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/home/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Rapid Reviews

We completed a rapid review on a serious incident of youth violence and will be taking steps to understand what this means for our practice locally. Currently this is with the National Panel who, while they have relaxed timescales, are encouraging us where we can to take learning on quickly. We intend to facilitate some virtual discussion, identify themes that emerged for all agencies and get that learning back out to you as quickly as we can.

Assurance

We wanted to seek assurance in relation to business continuity and safeguarding and so completed an exercise with all partners over the last week. All agencies have confirmed safeguarding remains a priority, many are operating with reduced staffing but have put in place arrangements to ensure that safeguarding activity remains protected. Referral routes are unchanged – so if you are worried about a child then you must pass it on.

KSCP Covid 19 Webpages

We have developed new webpages designed to provide guidance and information during the Covid 19 outbreak. Take a look here: <https://bit.ly/2UXz2M2>

Barnardos Young Person Service

Barnardo's Young Carers Service will continue to operate remotely and can be contacted on **07885 202009** or via our email address kirkleesyoungcarers@barnardos.org.uk. We cannot access any post via Brian Jackson House at this time.
In terms of service delivery: We are still receiving referrals, so don't hesitate to contact if you want to discuss any young people.

Kirklees Better Outcomes Partnership (KBOP)

"KBOP have commenced an emergency phone and webchat function providing Advice, Support and Guidance to anyone during this difficult time. Callers do not need to be part of the existing KBOP service, this emergency helpline is available to anyone who needs help with the following: Housing, Financial Resilience, Benefits, Accessing food or medication, wellbeing or Mental Health, social isolation and if they feel unsafe in their home.

The helpline is staffed by professionals from across the KBOP network and available 7 days a week 8am to 8pm.

Online and chat support are available via Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Kirklees-Better-Outcomes-Partnership> and Twitter: @KBOP_Kirklees"

The Well Bean Café

The Well-Bean Café is a safe and confidential 7 day service offering mental health support to anyone in crisis living in Kirklees.

FRIDAY to MONDAY— Tel: **07741900395**

TUESDAY to THURSDAY— Tel: **07867028755**

