

## COVID-19 Safeguarding Messages for the Public

Safeguarding risks may increase during isolation for vulnerable children and adults. Children may spend more time online making them more vulnerable to online bullying, sexual grooming, abuse and exploitation. High-stress home environments increase the risk of domestic violence & abuse. Some people try to take advantage of others through scamming or financial abuse.

Safeguarding is everybody's business; we all have a role in spotting when things aren't right.

- **Abuse and Neglect are likely to increase due to increased isolation and stress**
- **Professionals have less opportunities to identify abuse so individuals and communities can help by being aware of potential indicators of abuse**
- **Be aware of signs that someone may be suffering abuse and please report it / discuss it with someone**
- **Services that can help are still operating and will work with the individual to help keep them safe**

### Keeping safe from scamming or financial abuse:

- Don't be rushed into making a decision, if it sounds too good to be true it probably is.
- Only buy things from a reputable outlet and think before you give out money or your personal information.
- Don't assume everyone is genuine. It's OK to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- If someone claims to be from a charity, ask them for ID. Be suspicious of requests for money up front.
- Check with family and friends before accepting offer of help if you are unsure.
- You can contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

If you are concerned that you or someone you know is being abused or neglected:

- For safeguarding concerns about adults call 01422 393000
- For safeguarding concerns about a child or young person call 01422 393336
- On evenings or weekends the out of hours number for both is 01422 288000
- To report a crime call 101 or in an emergency call 999
- If you have access to the internet, you can visit [www.calderdale-safeguarding.co.uk](http://www.calderdale-safeguarding.co.uk) for more information about safeguarding in Calderdale.

Video highlighting the safeguarding risks due to COVID-19: <https://youtu.be/PXn3CN2ItT8>

## Safeguarding Advice for Professionals during the Coronavirus Outbreak

Safeguarding risks may increase during isolation for vulnerable children and adults:

- Abuse/neglect is hidden from professionals or others;
- Adults at risk and children do not get the support they need;
- People feel like they do not want to ask for help for fear of being an added burden or perceived as failing in their role;
- Increased household stress and tension;
- People ask for help from people who want to take advantage of their vulnerable position;
- Increased risks to the child from engaging in more and/or unsupervised on-line activity

### Guidance for professionals:

1. Use existing policies and procedures:
  - Children: <https://westyorkscb.proceduresonline.com/index.htm>
  - Adults: <https://safeguarding.calderdale.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Joint-MA-Safeguarding-Adults-Policy-and-procedures-april-2018.pdf>.
2. Use tools to assess risk: <https://safeguarding.calderdale.gov.uk/professionals/resources/>
  - e.g. [Self-Neglect Policy](#)
  - e.g. [Multi-Agency Risk Indicator Tool](#)
  - e.g. [Assessment of Neglect Toolkit](#)
  - e.g. [Assessment of Parental Mental Health and the Impact on Children Tool](#)
3. Ensure you factor in Covid-19 pressures to any risk assessments
4. As always, adults need to consent to any action undertaken but consider mental capacity, control and coercion on a person's ability to make decisions and keep themselves and their children safe.

### Plans to manage risk might include:

- Exploring with adults, children and extended family, their own worries and strengths in order to identify their own solutions
- Identifying family/friend/neighbour to support the person / family and ways in which this could be done via phone/internet if possible
- Undertaking an assessment/re-assessment of need
- Discussing contingency arrangements for the adult / child's care should the parent/carer become ill, the person providing informal support needs to self-isolate or becomes unable to support the individual
- Video highlighting the safeguarding risks due to Coronavirus: <https://youtu.be/PXn3CN2ltT8>

### If you are concerned about abuse or neglect:

- For safeguarding concerns about adults call 01422 393000
- For safeguarding concerns about a child or young person call 01422 393336
- On evenings or weekends the out of hours number for both is 01422 288000
- Domestic Abuse Hub: 01422-337176
- [www.calderdale-safeguarding.co.uk](http://www.calderdale-safeguarding.co.uk) for more information about safeguarding in Calderdale
- To report a crime call 101 or in an emergency call 999

## COVID-19 Guidance for Professionals Working with Adults

**Coronavirus Act 2020** This new Act amends key duties of the Care Act 2014, and parts of the Mental Health Act 1983 to alleviate the pressure on local authorities and ensure that support is directed towards those who need it most. These changes will only last the duration of the emergency.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/7/contents/enacted/data.htm>

### Regulated Services:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-residential-care-supported-living-and-home-care-guidance/covid-19-guidance-on-residential-care-provision>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-residential-care-supported-living-and-home-care-guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-supported-living-provision>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-residential-care-supported-living-and-home-care-guidance/covid-19-guidance-on-home-care-provision>

**Mental Health:** Gov.uk press release: New advice to support mental health during coronavirus outbreak: [https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-advice-to-support-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak?utm\\_source=6030a355-bc47-42d5-acc5-8499a6f38573&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=immediate](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-advice-to-support-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak?utm_source=6030a355-bc47-42d5-acc5-8499a6f38573&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)

**Court of Protection:** The biggest impact for adult social care will be the courts use of telephone and video technology during the outbreak: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/hmcts-telephone-and-video-hearings-during-coronavirus-outbreak>: Local authorities will still be expected to do as much as they can to comply with their powers to meet needs during this period and these amendments do not remove the duty of care they have towards an individual's risk of serious neglect or harm.

**Social Workers:** BASW Information and support for Approved Mental Health Professionals, AHMP Leads and PSW's on the role of the AMHP during the Covi-19 Pandemic:

<https://www.basw.co.uk/information-and-support-approved-mental-health-professionals>

**COVID-19 Advice for people who use drugs:** <https://www.trixonline.co.uk/media/1453/covid-19-euronpud-uk.pdf>

**Homelessness:** Guidance for hostel or day centres providers of services for people experiencing rough sleeping: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-services-for-people-experiencing-rough-sleeping/covid-19-guidance-for-hostel-or-day-centre-providers-of-services-for-people-experiencing-rough-sleeping>

**Coronavirus: Advice And Practical Tips For People Affected By Dementia:** During the coronavirus pandemic the Alzheimer's Society have advice and practical tips for people living with dementia and those supporting them – either in the same household or from a distance.

<https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/get-support/coronavirus-covid-19>

### Guidance on Shielding and Protecting People Defined on Medical Grounds as Extremely

**Vulnerable from Covid-19:** This guidance is for people, including children, who are at very high risk

of severe illness from coronavirus because of an underlying health condition, and for their family, friends and carers. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

**Working remotely:** Helpful guidance on working virtually – this is particularly aimed at Adult assessments of mental health, however the principles here can be used for most remote assessments: <https://tsfconsultants.co.uk/guidance-for-virtual-assessments/>

## COVID-19 Guidance for Professionals working with Children & Young People

An online resource for COVID–19 can be found here: <https://www.trixonline.co.uk/resource-hub/>. This resource collates useful information across adults and children’s services in one place, and links to relevant guidance as it becomes available.

**Safeguarding during the Coronavirus for education settings:** [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers – DfE](#)

Interim safeguarding guidance, which will continue to be updated:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>

**Youth Work:** Guidance for youth workers on supporting young people through COVID-19:  
<https://youthworksupport.co.uk/>

**Coronavirus: guidance on isolation for residential educational settings**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-isolation-for-residential-educational-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-isolation-for-residential-educational-settings>

**Coronavirus: implementing social distancing in education and childcare settings**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

**CAFCASS:** <https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/grown-ups/parents-and-carers/covid-19-guidance-for-children-and-families/>

**Social Work England:** <https://www.socialworkengland.org.uk/coronavirus/>

**Youth Justice:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/youth-justice-board-update-on-covid-19>

**Children’s Commissioner:** Supporting children during the coronavirus outbreak:  
<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/2020/03/17/supporting-children-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/>