

Hello Colleague

Please see below, an update from CSAB/CSCP which provides important information about safeguarding adults and children during the current crisis.

MESSAGE FROM JULIA CALDWELL

Dear all,

Following the update we sent on the 25th March detailing changes to Children's Social Care, Child Protection Plans, Conferences, Health Services for Children Looked After, Regulation 44, LADO, Education, Early Years, Youth Services and National Probation Services; below are the current updates and local changes to front line services for you to be aware of.

Attached is a briefing for professionals and volunteers which highlights national guidance around COVID-19, a poster for the general public around scamming and a link to a short video describing the heightened risk of safeguarding issues due to COVID-19: <https://youtu.be/PXn3CN2ltT8> Please distribute to your teams of staff. Volunteers and pass the messages to service users as and when you can.

There is a lot of information in this email and attached documentation, I hope the use of headings will help direct you to the areas you need. We have a lot more detailed information from each individual organisation, so if you require service-specific updates please ask. Similarly if you want us to send updates to the partnership we intend to send information out weekly or as necessary.

A most useful source of information is from Tri-X which details national guidance and relevant changes to key procedures due to COVID-19 for the following: <https://www.proceduresonline.com/resources/covid19/>

- Children Services
- Adult Services
- Independent and Local Authority Children's Homes
- Foster Carers and Independent Fostering Agencies
- Adoption Agencies

In addition, a separate leaflet has been produced by the Local Authority which will go directly to households in Calderdale – we have highlighted some key safeguarding messages in here.

LOCAL UPDATES:

CHFT: Safeguarding team remain at this time but if large wave hits they will have to report for frontline duties and if this happens the adult lead will remain and be able to facilitate information to the daily DA Hub

Access to GP's in Calderdale: <https://www.calderdaleccg.nhs.uk/temporary-arrangements-for-primary-care-covid19/> From Monday 30 March 2020 people cannot enter GP practices in Calderdale unless they have been given permission by a clinician during a telephone or video consultation. If you need an appointment or advice, call your GP practice by phone in the first instance. You can use the NHS [Find your GP](#) service to get their contact details.

Locals:

- MAST health professional will continue to work and facilitate information gathering etc. virtually
- Health Visitors continuing to do birth visits and either face to face or virtual ante-natal contacts as appropriate.
- Health visitor and school nursing numbers reduced to form primary care support for primary immunisations and 6-8 week old examinations (Dr Caroline Taylor GP involved in all this process from CCG perspective)
- Two nurses attached to CLA are to form part of the paediatric ward nursing team

Children Looked After Health service:

- Admin to remain in place and signpost
- Named Nurse to remain in post and triage all the 100 review health assessments due in Q1. An age appropriate letter is to be sent to all the children and young people who are due in Q1 providing contact detail and links to support groups to support emotional health and wellbeing.

Contact will be made with most vulnerable i.e. where placement not secure, asylum seeking, living with parents under care order, complex needs children etc.

- Remaining CLA nurse also to form part of the paediatric ward nursing team
- Initial assessments will continue virtually. If new-born we know they will have had full paediatric assessment on the ward before discharge and will also have the GP assessment in some form either by a GP or health visitor at 6-8 weeks

Family breakdown and dysfunction: the number of contacts from families under stress is going to increase markedly over the coming weeks. The national situation is serious and must be stressed to families who contact us in these circumstances. There is still a local and national scarcity of foster carers and residential places. The safest place for children and young people to be at the moment is at home – unless there is a serious risk of harm. Placements must be used for those at most risk of actual harm and those who may lose a parent and become orphaned.

Contact for children in care: DfE has also confirmed that in the light of the new rules around social distancing, all regular face-to-face contact between children in care and their birth families in different households should cease. However, it is very important for many children that they can continue seeing and speaking to their family, therefore all children in care should be supported to maintain contact with their birth families and to be able to spend time with their siblings in any other way they can, for example through daily or regular phone calls, video chats, the use of social media platforms or other means. Face-to-face contact should only be taking place in the most extreme cases, for example, the death of a relative.

Free car parking for critical key workers: Under new measures agreed by the Local Government Secretary, all councils in England and the Local Government Association, critical key workers will also be able to use council parking bays without time restriction or charge. The changes will apply to all on-street parking and open, council-run car parks including pay and display and will suspend charges for health workers, social care workers and NHS volunteers. More to come on this once in place.

Virtual Volunteer Hub is now live and matching requests for low level support (shopping, collecting medicines for example) to local groups and volunteers. For more information on how to request support and if you would like to volunteer complete the on-line forms [here](#). You can also email for more general questions Volunteeringcovid19@calderdale.gov.uk

Safeguarding e-learning: courses are available via the CSAB/CSCP website and are free of charge to anyone who is working or volunteering with children or adults with care and support needs in Calderdale. If you already have a learner account, you can access e-learning by logging-in using [this](#) link - note - you may wish to filter the drop-down list to show e-learning courses only. If you do not have an account, you will need to follow [these instructions](#) to register for an account and then to make your selection. **Please select one course at a time and complete it before selecting another – we only have a limited number of licences.**

If you require any further information or clarification, please don't hesitate to contact us. Thanks to all for your essential role in keeping people safe and well, take care of yourselves.

Julia Caldwell

Safeguarding Children & Adults Partnership Manager

Additional Information

Click on this [link](#) for a useful guide for children to the Coronavirus