

## **Latest Safeguarding Guidance for Schools During Coronavirus March 24th**

**Further guidance for supporting vulnerable children. This is to supplement the guidance already shared last week. This guidance draws on the latest government guidance for supporting our key worker's children and our most vulnerable children. Model emergency safeguarding procedures in the event of school/college or other educational setting closures or partial closure across Manchester**

***For ease of reading and clarity, the remainder of the document will use the term school or setting to apply to schools, colleges and other educational settings.***

**Each school/college or other educational setting should have identified the key staff who will monitor vulnerable pupils in the event of school/college or other educational setting closure.** This will support all teaching staff in sharing any information from their contact with children or families in this eventuality. The list should include:

- Designated teacher for 'our children' (children who are looked after)
- DSL and DDSL
- Senior Leadership Team, Headteacher and deputy as a minimum, but extended SLT may be appropriate for your school. **It is recommended that the senior leadership team identify reserve staff**

These identified staff are responsible for monitoring CPOMS and internal arrangements to ensure timely referrals to Children's Services when required. **Consideration should be given to additional staff having access to CPOMS.**

Please ensure that you have the appropriate contact details for children's services: **Manchester City Council Advice and Guidance Service is : 0161 234 5001.**

**If you are worried about a child you can also contact the Early Help Hubs.**

### **EARLY HELP**

North Hub: [earlyhelpnorth@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelpnorth@manchester.gov.uk), 0161 234 1973

Central Hub: [Earlyhelpcentral@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:Earlyhelpcentral@manchester.gov.uk), 0161 234 1975

South Hub: [earlyhelpsouth@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelpsouth@manchester.gov.uk), 0161 234 1977

## **Objectives**

- **Ensure that contact is maintained by the school with all pupils via your mass communication system, e.g. parentcall at least once per week**
- **Ensure that you have planned for how staff will monitor communication from home to school**
- **Ensure that plans are in place for home learning to take place, with flexibility to support homes with/without technology/internet access**
- **Provide guidance for parents/carers outlining how they can support their children to continue learning whilst at home**
- **All vulnerable families should have additional contact and support with any concerns reported and recorded using the guidance below.**
- **All vulnerable children and families should be provided with a contact number for the school which must be a school phone/email address and not a personal number or address (the school should consider an agreement of reasonable contact use)**

## **School provision for Children currently supported by statutory services at CIN level**

The government advice states that most children should remain at home now. Children who are at CIN level should be monitored and school should maintain regular contact. However, for most children at this level of support, it is advisable for children to remain at home.

- Children identified as in need may be deemed to be vulnerable and require a place. Decisions may be based upon the robustness of the stepped down plan and outcomes of the latest core group; this should be reviewed as their circumstances change.

## **School provision for Children currently supported by statutory services and subject to a child protection plan**

- Vulnerable children include those with a social worker and those with an EHCP. Those with a social worker include children who have a child protection plan and those looked after by the local authority.
- Children with a CP plan (all categories) should be offered a place.
- If the child/children are at home and without symptoms, visits can continue to take place. These should be planned with the social worker to avoid duplication and unnecessary contact.
- If the child/children are at home and self-isolating/quarantined then you should use caution and follow necessary infection control measures (or a suitable safe alternative, such as a phone call)
- If parents/carers of children on a CP plan are unwilling to send the child to school, the

school and social worker should explore the reasons for this directly with the parent/carer to resolve concerns. If the concerns are around the child contracting the virus, the advice from Public Health England should be explored.

- ICPCs are being conducted by teleconferencing - reports must be submitted as usual 48 hours before the conference to [qualityassurance@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:qualityassurance@manchester.gov.uk). Please remember to clearly state the family name in the subject line. 24 hours before the conference you will receive a reply to your report email which will contain details of the number to call. If a report is not received, a phone number cannot be provided. Please do not attend the SIU (Bold St) in person unless requested to do so

### **Early Years' setting, school and Post 16 Designated Teacher provision for Children and Young People in the Care of Manchester or Local Authorities outside Manchester.**

- Where the young person is Looked After by Manchester or another Local Authority the young person's education setting should agree with the young person's social worker whether the young person should be prioritised for attending provision or whether they are safer at home.
- Where a child or young person is Looked After by Manchester or another Local Authority and their education setting and social workers agree that there are high levels of concern about the young person's vulnerability, the young person should be in provision they should be encouraged to attend. Where this is the case and the young person does not attend the provision concerns should swiftly be raised with the young person's social worker and the Virtual School.
- Please record any updates in the additional information box at the end of the Personal Details section of the ePEP. Thank you.
- If the young person is in the care of a Local Authority outside Manchester please contact the Virtual School in that Local Authority to access support and to provide updates.

### **School provision for children with an education health and care plan**

- Children and young people with an EHC plan should be individually risk assessed by their school or college in consultation with the local authority and parents to decide whether a place can be offered that meets their needs (support workers may not be available) or if they can safely have their needs met at home.
- The risks to consider include potential health risks from the virus bearing in mind any other underlying health conditions; risks to the individual if some or all of the elements of their EHC plan cannot be met; the ability of the parents/carers or home to ensure health and care needs can be met safely: the potential impact to the child or young person of a change to routine or how the provision is delivered
- Consideration might be given to the arrangements made in longer school holidays and how

these are managed

- Children and young people with EHC plans who attend a specialist school fall into two main categories - those who would be at significant risk if their EHC provision and placement did not continue and those whose needs can be met at home.
- Where children continue to attend school EHC plans may need to be modified although reasonable endeavours should be made to support these families. Changes to, or reduction in, provision during the outbreak will not be considered to be a permanent change to the plan.

### **School provision for Vulnerable children (as interpreted as 'vulnerable' in your setting)**

- Being confined to home may bring additional stresses and strains for children not already identified as vulnerable and new families may come to light as part of the Operation Encompass process - therefore places should be allocated as and when the need arises if safe to do so
- There may be an increase of children being left home alone. Legal guidance is not specific about ages but the guidelines from NSPCC suggest over 11's should only be left for a short time and under 16's should not be left alone overnight. Parents can be prosecuted for neglect if they leave a child on their own "in a manner likely to cause unnecessary suffering or injury to health".

### **DSL Support for schools**

- We have arranged for One Education to operate a helpline and dedicated email address to support schools during this time.
- All schools will ensure that staff are briefed each day as to who the on-site lead for safeguarding is. This may not be the DSL if they are self-isolating.
- The helpline is available to support the DSL with advice, including escalating a concern, or to support the safeguarding lead in school if the DSL is unavailable at that time. A poster for schools to display for staff with the contact details will be shared in a later update.
- Helpline: 0161 276 0116.
- Email address: [DSLsupport@oneeducation.co.uk](mailto:DSLsupport@oneeducation.co.uk)

Finally, a huge thank you to all our settings and schools for all that you are doing to support Manchester's efforts to combat the current challenge of the coronavirus.

We have been humbled by your work.

Please continue to look after yourselves and stay in touch if you have any concerns or questions.