



Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership – April 2020

Dear Colleagues

As you are all aware, the current situation is a challenge to all of our organisations and there are and will continue to be significant changes to the way we work and deliver our services, in particular Statutory Safeguarding duties and responsibilities to safeguard children in Nottingham.

We want to reassure you that as the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership, we are working hard to keep vital services running and provide the support everyone needs, and vulnerable adults and children are of course a top priority. We have had to take the difficult decision to close or limit some services and for our staff to work from home where possible - all to limit the spread of Covid-19 while aiming to keep our city running.

We wanted to provide you with details of the interim arrangements we are all putting in place. This briefing note is based on current circumstances and arrangements, you will appreciate that this will inevitably be subject to change over the coming weeks.

Partnership working is vital during this current time and multi-agency safeguarding arrangements will continue as usual, however agencies are to be mindful that this may be undertaken in a different way.

Senior Leaders within Nottingham City Council will continue to review children's circumstances and have implemented the following:

National government has set out 3 key priorities for local authorities under covid-19 which we are focusing on:

- Supporting social care for children and adults
- Mobilising civil society and shielding the most vulnerable
- Protecting the business community.

We are:

- Prioritising how we support children and families based on individual situation/circumstances

- Working remotely where this is appropriate but face to face where needed
- Carry out multi-agency Strategy Meetings, Initial Child Protection Conferences, Review Child Protection Conferences, Core Groups and Looked After Reviews for children using virtual platforms or telephone conference and have / will work with partners to manage this
- Proactively sharing information with partners about families who are self-isolating, to avoid any unnecessary home visits and contact, ensuring all are protected from unnecessary exposure to the virus
- Continually reassess risk and reprioritise work across the partnership to ensure we all continue to provide a safeguarding service to those children who are at risk.

Senior Leaders across Health organisations have implemented the following:

- Identifying and supporting the most vulnerable patients in our communities in partnership with other agencies
- Ensuring that safeguarding advice and support for professionals is readily available across the healthcare system
- Continuing to identify Safeguarding Children and Adults and Children who are Looked After as key priority areas
- Continuing to provide paediatric assessment and support as required. Although children may be assessed in different settings to minimise infection risks as per PHE and RCPCH guidance
- Providing access to the usual primary and community care services to support partners and our communities – albeit that this will be in different ways
- Working with our partners to ensure that children who may have experienced abuse or neglect are appropriately and holistically assessed in a timely manner
- Continue to provide mental health support for those in crisis and support for those who need it as a result of isolation
- Ensuring all Health partners have established mechanisms for regular information sharing for any concerns

Nottinghamshire Constabulary have implemented the following:

- Developed business continuity plans which involve a tiered response to demand and resourcing levels. Overall, the plan aims to ensure at times of highest demand, business critical functions such as dealing with 999 calls, responding to the most serious incidents and investigating the most serious crimes continue. This is a flexible model which may change daily or even hourly
- A strong commitment by the Constabulary to maintain safeguarding children and vulnerable adults as a priority. This includes prioritising investigations where there are imminent risks of harm. As resources become more

challenged, it is likely that investigators and supervisors will be pooled so that partners may not always be dealing with teams with which they have become familiar

- Contingency plans include continued information and decision making and safety planning by officers working within Children and Families Direct MASH, continuing with MARAC, MAPPA, and the management of Registered Sex Offenders and providing services for victims through the Sexual Assault Referral Centre. Work in each of these areas will be prioritised in line with levels of risk and harm
- More detailed plans are being developed to adapt how we work with health colleagues, HM Coroner and other agencies in dealing with sudden and unexpected deaths of both adults and children
- In relation to the most recent announcement from the Prime Minister regarding minimising social gathering and restricting movement, Officers will be continuing to respond to emergencies and deal with serious crime

We are requesting all agencies to share information about visits to children, vulnerable adults and their families to minimise the number of agencies visiting the same families in a short time period and ask that these arrangements are managed locally within existing multi-agency arrangements. All professionals can then record this visit and the outcome on their agency records to provide some assurance that the child, vulnerable adult and or family have been seen or visited.

We are also asking all colleagues to identify areas where they feel we could work more collaboratively as a partnership to support safeguarding differently in the present circumstances.

We can assure you that we are all working closely together to get through this and will continue to review our contingency plans and staffing capacity and will keep you updated. In the meantime, we would like to thank you all for all the work and support you are providing to support our children and their families during this very challenging time.

Catherine Underwood: Corporate Director for People at Nottingham City Council

Rosa Waddingham: Chief Nurse Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCGs

Craig Guildford: Craig Guildford Chief Constable Nottinghamshire Police

Safeguarding Partnership Business Unit contact details:

**John Matravers
Strategic Lead for Safeguarding Partnerships
Loxley House
Station Street
Nottingham
NG2 3NG**

**Email: john.matravers@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
safeguarding.partnership@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Telephone: 0115 87 64762
<http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/ncscp>
<https://twitter.com/NottinghamCSCP>**