

## CRE COVID 19 STRATEGY April 2020

This document sets out up to date guidance for practitioners in line with current national guidance and the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Procedures for responding to Children at Risk of Exploitation (CRE), during the Covid 19 Pandemic isolation period.

Children are at continued risk of exploitation nationally during the isolation period. Therefore, services will still respond to their needs and work collectively to protect them from these risks. The online risk in these times of isolation is likely to escalate and it is vitally important that there is structured educational input and monitoring of online use, to ensure children's safety and to guard against further harm.

### **New Referrals and Reviews.**

At this challenging time, it is vitally important that agencies continue to work together, to share relevant safeguarding information to keep children safe. In line with this ethos, the following strategy plans are agreed with partners. Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Board have set out additional measures to accompany the specific sections of the local procedures - Making a referral to Children's Social Care and S47 procedures these apply to all referrals. Via:

<https://derbyshirescbs.proceduresonline.com/index.htm>

### **CRE Initial Strategy Meetings and Reviews**

These meetings will be held virtually. See the link above to DDSCP Procedures for information on how to make referrals during the period of isolation and social distancing.

Where at all possible and practicable children and their parents will be included in the virtual meeting with professionals via the use of Skype to discuss the concerns about the child.

Where this is not possible the child and parent will be telephoned before each meeting to obtain their views about risk and any support required by the chair of the meeting. The professionals will then hold the virtual meeting to share concerns and agree a plan and the Chair of the meeting who will have taken into consideration the views of the parent and the child.

The outcome of the meeting will then be feedback to the child and Parent/Carer (if they have not been involved in the discussion).

Families will also be given the option of giving views in writing or verbally via the Social Worker or to another agency.

### **Core Groups/Network/TAF meetings**

For updates on the latest position on CIN & Early Help and for Core Group/TAF meetings for Derby City and Derbyshire please visit the DDSCP website <https://www.ddscp.org.uk/coronavirus-safeguarding-arrangements/>

## **Support to children on the CRE Strategy**

### **Medium and High-Risk Cases**

Derby and Derbyshire Child At Risk of Exploitation Service (CARES -Catch 22), will continue to offer support to children at risk of CRE or who have been victims of CRE. They are accepting referrals during new working arrangements and they will also carry out virtual support or in exceptional cases doorstep visits where the risk assessment requires one. They will meet/contact weekly and complete structured work virtually. Referrals via: [Catch22CRE@catch-22.org.uk](mailto:Catch22CRE@catch-22.org.uk) or phone 07714 614563

Parents can continue to self-refer to Parent Against Child Exploitation (PACE) - Referrals are made via: <http://www.itsnotokay.co.uk/parents/pace/>

### **Low Risk Cases**

Safe and Sound will offer a virtual support service to children and parents where there is a low-level risk identified. Referrals are made via: [support@safeandsoundgroup.org.uk](mailto:support@safeandsoundgroup.org.uk) or 01332 362120

### **Multi Agency Oversight of High Risk CRE, Offenders and Places of Concern and Missing Cases**

The Police and Partner tasking group will continue to be held virtually, chaired by DI Richard Booth. The meetings will be monthly and include key agencies such as Social Care, Youth Offending, Missing Strategy Leads, Catch 22, CPM's CRE for City and County, Education and Health.

### **Modern slavery:**

#### **Barnardo's Independent Child Trafficking Guardians**

The Independent Child Trafficking Guardians provide direct support to trafficked and potentially trafficked children where there is no-one with parental responsibility for that child. The service has a 24-hour support helpline 0800 043 4303. Also see working arrangements during Covid 19 via:



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### **Statutory Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Guidance**

The Home Office has published statutory guidance for England and Wales describing the signs that someone may be a victim of modern slavery, the support available to victims, and the process for determining whether someone is a victim. The guidance includes a chapter summarising information for staff who may support child victims. Topics covered include multi-agency working and protocols to support child victims; the development of local protocols for child victims and response; safeguarding children; unaccompanied children; child criminal exploitation and county lines. The guidance includes an annex outlining indicators of child victims and specific types of modern slavery.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modern-slavery-how-to-identify-and-support-victims>

### **Additionally**

The CRE Lead is available for telephone consultation and there is a duty manager available every day from 1pm if staff require support and advice on a CRE case concern / query. Via:

[cypsafeguarding@derby.gov.uk](mailto:cypsafeguarding@derby.gov.uk)

Legislation and Civil Orders are still available for use to support the protection of children.

The CPM CRE and Police CRE Unit have weekly catch up discussions to monitor any emerging risks.

Monthly bulletins will go out to CRE champions re updates from the DFE, CEOP, Safer Internet Centre with tips and resources for use by children and parents during the isolation period. These are sent through the DDSCP education lead and administrators.

### **Safeguarding Legislation/Resources and Procedures During Covid 19.**

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

<https://www.proceduresonline.com/resources/covid19/>

<https://derbyshirescbs.proceduresonline.com/index.htm>

<https://www.trixonline.co.uk/resource-hub/>

<https://mailchi.mp/saferinternet/uksic-insider-newsletter-july-1275554?e=b089fd370d>

In these challenging times the need to ensure children's mental wellbeing is vital. See the link below for information about how parents and carers can keep children safe and well supported.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

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