

## Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership – Coronavirus update

I'm sure that everyone has been working hard to adapt to the new circumstances that we find ourselves in and to ensure that services continue to be delivered in the most appropriate and effective way. The protection of vulnerable children during this time remains a shared responsibility and clearly the additional challenges brought about through social isolation mean that it is even more important for there to be pro-active communication between professionals. Our strong partnership work will help us to continue to support and protect children #PullingTogetherNotts

The **Strategic Leadership Group (SLG)** of the NSCP have held a Skype meeting and agreed that the focus for the partnership should be on those children with the highest needs and those most vulnerable. The meeting was used to provide updates on the response to the coronavirus and consider the implications for partnership work. The SLG agreed to increase the frequency of their meetings to every 4 weeks and asked that the **Safeguarding Assurance and Improvement Group (SAIG)** provide a mechanism for 'sense checking' revised operational arrangements for delivering safeguarding and ensure that multi-agency work is as effective as it can be. Skype meetings will be arranged for the SAIG every two weeks and will be used to; check how well safeguarding children practice is working in the current situation, consider any new working practices, their impact on children and for partnership working and identify emerging challenges. Dr Mark Peel, NSCP Independent Scrutineer, will be providing assistance and support.

**Key operational meetings** that address the risk of harm to children and young people will continue to take place using Skype facilities wherever possible, these include strategy discussions, child protection conferences and arrangements to address specific areas of safeguarding such as the Harmful Sexual Behaviour Panel, Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation Panel, Serious Youth Violence & Criminal Exploitation Panel and Missing Hotspots Meeting. Local Authority staff all have access to Skype for Business, and it is also possible to download the app by following a link in meeting invites or alternatively just dial in and use the meeting code.

The requirement to submit **Serious Incident Notifications** will remain in place, in line with national guidance, and **Rapid Reviews** will be undertaken with some flexibility around timescales and consideration of capacity. The decision around whether to undertake a more in-depth review (**Child Safeguarding Practice review**) and the timing of such a review will take account of resource implications.

The **Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)** will continue to review cases using Skype meetings and with the assistance of the E-CDOP system. There are also specific responsibilities in relation to the notification of child deaths during this time.

**Multi-agency NSCP training courses** have been suspended and this decision will be reviewed on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020. Those who have booked on courses or were assisting with presenting are being notified of course cancellations directly via the contact details provided at time of booking. Partners are reminded that a suite of E learning is available and can be accessed online through the NSCP learning management system <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscp/training/e-learning> and we will be working to ensure all options to continue disseminating learning are used, including briefings, newsletters and new E learning modules.

**Multi-agency audit activity** has been suspended and those involved in any ongoing work have been notified (this includes the current HSB audit and the forthcoming s.11 audit).

We will continue to take forward other non-case related partnership work, where possible, in a way that takes into account the availability of partnership resources and priorities so as to ensure that we continue to make progress in safeguarding children. The situation is changing each day, and we will need to be flexible in our approach, so further updates will be provided to keep you informed as we work through this together.

Finally, as move forward through this situation, should you identify gaps appearing in yours or other services please raise them through the SAIG either via your representative or directly with Steve Baumber [steve.baumber@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:steve.baumber@nottsc.gov.uk)

Thanks for your continued commitment to safeguarding partnership work.

**Colin Pettigrew**

**(Colin @yourdcsnotts)**

**Corporate Director for Children & Families**

**Chair of the NSCP Strategic Leadership Group**

**31/03/20**