

SSCP Position Statement

Dear Colleague,

During the current Coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak, we would like to reassure you that we are working hard to maintain business continuity and remain committed to safeguarding children and young people in Salford. We have adapted our day to day work to include 'virtual' meetings and the next few months will present new challenges for our key partnership agencies.

In these unprecedented times, it is more important than ever to ensure that we are in touch with our most vulnerable children to make sure they can be as safe and healthy as possible. Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership is working together to ensure that our safeguarding arrangements are as clear and effective as they can be during this challenging and ever evolving period.

Senior and operational managers across agencies are meeting weekly to review children's circumstances and looking to determine which children are our collective priority, agreeing rag ratings and appropriate multi-agency responses.

Our safeguarding effectiveness and practice review subgroup continue to meet, with a focus on the impact of Covid-19 upon safeguarding and how the partnership can respond to this. This includes ensuring relevant COVID- 19 auditing it taking place where needed and responded to effectively.

We all have a responsibility to be alert to possible concerns and act to safeguard others in our families and communities who may be less able to protect themselves. Report child safeguarding concerns to the Bridge tel: 0161 603 4500 (8:30am-4:30pm) or complete the [online referral form](#). Outside of office hours tel: 0161 794 8888. If you believe a crime has been committed contact the police on 101. If you believe the child is at immediate risk of harm, call 999.

It is essential that as practitioners we co-ordinate our work to keep children safe, keep in touch and offer support to each other while understanding that our roles may change and adapt as we respond to the demands from Covid-19. It is vital that we consider what we can do to keep children safe, even if this is outside our normal working practice. As a partnership it is our aim to provide strong, visible leadership and to support you to fulfil your statutory responsibilities to keep children safe.

We have produced this brief to outline how our key multi-agency safeguarding processes will be delivered in the coming months. You should read the brief as a supplement to current [safeguarding multi-agency practice guidance](#) and [Salford's threshold of need](#); and in addition to any internal guidance your service/organisation has produced.

As a minimum we will review and update the brief on a monthly basis. However, it is likely to be subject to change as new risks emerge, government advice develops, and public health guidance is updated. Therefore, we would encourage all practitioners to check the [partnership website](#) regularly to ensure they are working to the current version. We are asking our partners to share the brief with you, as a minimum every month and we would encourage you, if you can, to give us your feedback, particularly if there are any gaps. Tel: 0161 603 3446 or email sscp@salford.gov.uk.

Please take care of yourself during this difficult time for the latest advice and best practice on responding to Covid-19, visit: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england

Thank you all for your work in supporting vulnerable children and their families during this challenging time.

Best wishes, Salford Safeguarding Executive

Jim Taylor
Chief Executive,
Salford City Council

Shaun Donnellan
Chief Superintendent, Territorial Commander for
Stockport, Trafford and Salford Districts, GMP

Steve Dixon
Chief Accountable Officer,
NHS Salford CCG

COVID-19 Brief on Safeguarding Children Arrangements -April 2020

Due to the recent developments with COVID 19 Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) have developed a business continuity plan. SSCP Safeguarding Operational Group (SOG) (made up of the 3 statutory safeguarding partners, the Police, Clinical Commissioning Group and Local Authority) has reviewed all of our partnership activity, meetings and events over the forthcoming three months and agreed what we should prioritise, approach differently, scale back, or suspend during this difficult period.

This document summarises our plans in response to COVI-19 and is subject to continued review.

The SSCP Business unit are all working remotely from home but if you have any questions or become aware of any particular child safeguarding issue that requires a multi-agency safeguarding response from the partnership please contact SSCP@salford.gov.uk.

Rapid Reviews/Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

- Partners should continue to notify the SSCP of any serious incident that could meet the criteria for a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review – see the '[Practice Review Policy and toolkit](#)' link for further guidance.
- Partners should continue to send Practice Review Referrals to the SSCP@salford.gov.uk mailbox as per usual process
- The three statutory partner representatives will act as the Rapid Review Group for the period when 'lockdown' is in operation and meetings will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams to facilitate discussion and decision-making.
- A Rapid Review report will be completed and submitted to the National CSPR Panel, following email consultation with statutory partner representatives. We will endeavour to complete Rapid Reviews in the 15 day time period.
- Where a CSPR or other review type is recommended this will not be initiated until the 'lockdown' has been lifted and suitable arrangements can be made. Information shared will be regarding immediate leaning only and if further information is required this be progressed.
- Ongoing CSPR's will continue to be processed as much as possible using technology and be completed as close to 6 months as possible. The national panel will be updated regarding any delays.
- Learning from the reviews will be shared virtually and updated on the SSCP website
- We will update families involved in these reviews of the current situation
- The SSCP Business Unit will contact ongoing action Plan leads to request updates and develop a consolidated SSCP Action Plan.
- Work continuing to develop a quarterly practice review subgroup report to better understand themes and impact to inform the work of the subgroup and safeguarding effectiveness.

Safeguarding Effectiveness Evidence/ Activity

- All audits (working effectively with Male, S.11 Audit and Neglect Audit) has been postponed at this time. Work will continue to refresh the forward plan for all audit activity and develop the next audit cycles by the Business Unit.
- SSCP Peer Review with Bolton has been postponed until Sept 2020 but work can continue to collate evidence for the Peer Review.
- All over expected evidence during this period (Spotlight reports, quarterly score card, how we doing report, and scrutiny of case review action plans) to be determined by Subgroup chair and business unit.

Meetings

In general business and decision-making will be done by email correspondence and phone call with the Business Unit. The Business unit are supporting all meeting chairs (Exec, SSCP and Subgroups) to ensure meetings are virtual via the Microsoft Teams platform were practically possible until end of June 2020. The SSCP forward plan will continue to be updated and maintained by the Business Unit.

The Partnership meeting in March was cancelled but the essential business and decision making has been done by correspondence with the business unit –paperwork was re-distributed. Some items have been deferred until the meeting in July and leads have been notified.

SOG will not continue to meet in the interim. The 3 statutory partners are meeting regularly regarding COVID-19 and an assurance report will be provided to the partnership in July via the SOG chair to ensure SSCP has oversight of the arrangements.

There is an additional Safeguarding Executive 4 May to review COVID-19 safeguarding arrangements.

The next SSCP meeting is scheduled for 6 July and this will be reviewed and arrangements changed as appropriate.

Business manager will contact all subgroup chairs via telephone to touch base and see how the SSCP can support at this time and seek the necessary assurances without duplication. Then chairs can contact the business unit regarding any relevant updates. SSCP Business unit will provide weekly updates to SOG (responsible for assurance oversight) to agree if there is anything the partnership need to do.

Training and Development

- All face-to-face multi-agency safeguarding training and events have been suspended to the end of June 2020. This will be reviewed and assessed in line with Government advice.
- Partners can continue to access [e-learning courses](#) and [7 minute briefings](#) on the SSCP website
- Drafted a workforce training and development plan which includes alternative methods of disseminating key case review learning and priority subjects during this period. This will continue to be reviewed to ensure we respond to emerging concerns.
- Produced a number of resources about Safeguarding Children during COVID-19 (some joint with SSAB) to support practitioners, volunteers and the community to recognise and respond to safeguarding concerns.
 1. [Safeguarding Information for Volunteers' Factsheet](#)
 2. [Safeguarding Information for Volunteers' 7 Minute Briefing](#)
 3. [Short 5-minute film clip and information sheet for volunteers and the public](#)
 4. [Short 5-minute film clip and information sheet for professionals](#)

Communication

- SSCP and Salford Safeguarding Adult Board (SSAB) and other partnerships/boards continue to have weekly check-ins to ensure we are effectively coordinate dissemination of key information to support partners safeguard vulnerable residents, to appraise of SSCP priority activity, raise concerns/risks and seek assurance.
- Public communication messages that promote the need for continued safeguarding can be viewed [SSCP](#) and [SSAB website](#).
- We continue to produce monthly bulletins and maintain our [latest news page](#)
- We are reviewing and continue to update the [SSCP website](#)
- We continue to use [twitter](#) to share COVID-19 agency updates, resources, campaign materials and learning from reviews etc.
- We will continue to promote how to report child safeguarding concerns via the above channels and published an article in the [Life in Salford magazine, March 2020](#).

- Partner agency safeguarding business continuity plans will be uploaded to the SSCP website. Please send the latest version to SSCP@salford.gov.uk

Other Priority Activity

- A draft SSCP Annual Report for 2019-2020 framework has been developed. This will be scheduled for the SSCP 6th July 2020 for approval.
- The Business Unit will:
 1. Maintain the SSCP Risk Log and SOG workplan
 2. Develop process maps for practice reviews