

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN ARRANGEMENTS DURING COVID-19 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. The brief is 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, 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 – June 2020

Due to the recent developments with COVID-19 the Safeguarding Operational Group (SOG) has reviewed the business continuity plan and partnership activity to plan for recovery.

This document summarises the next phase of our plans for *living with and working with COVID-19* and is subject to continued review by SOG.

The SSCP Business unit will continue to work 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
- Notifications to the National Panel will continue to be processed within the 5 day timescale.
- Rapid Review Meetings will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams to facilitate discussion and decision-making for the period when 'lockdown' is in operation.
- 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 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/ where other types of case reviews are recommended these 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 CSPR 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

- Where possible multi-agency audits will be progressed virtually using technology and 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 will commence virtually in August 2020 and work has started to collate evidence for the Peer Review.
- All over expected evidence in the forward plan during this period (Spotlight reports, quarterly score card, how we doing report, and scrutiny of case review action plans) will continue.

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 January 2020. The SSCP forward plan will continue to be updated and maintained by the Business Unit.

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.

Subgroup chairs can contact the business unit regarding any relevant updates or emerging risks. SSCP Business unit will provide 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 for the foreseeable future. This will be reviewed and assessed in line with Government advice. When possible face-to face Training bookings will recommence and further training will be offered
- Partners can continue to access [e-learning courses](#) and [7 minute briefings](#) on the SSCP website
- Workforce training and development plan 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.
- Following consultation a virtual training plan has been drafted considering alternative training methods which will include webinars, spotlight briefings, practitioner forums and video casts. This will continue to be reviewed to ensure we respond to emerging concerns.

Communication

- SSCP and Salford Safeguarding Adult Board (SSAB) and other partnerships/boards continue to have bi-weekly check-ins to ensure we are effectively coordinate/ disseminate 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 have developed a dedicated webpage throughout this period for information in relation to [COVID-19 and safeguarding children](#). Partner agency safeguarding business continuity and recovery plans can be uploaded to the SSCP website. Please send the latest version to SSCP@salford.gov.uk
- 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 another article in the [Life in Salford magazine, June 2020](#).
- Joint communication and engagement (SSCP, SSAB and CSP) subgroup developing a joint safeguarding communication plan 2020 to document all communication activities and support.

Other Priority Activity

- SSCP Independent Advisor continues to work on the SSCP Annual Report 2019-20 with information available. This will be shared at the SSCP 6th July 2020 for approval.
- The Business Unit continue to :
 1. Maintain the SSCP Risk Log and SOG workplan
 2. Develop process maps for practice reviews