

Safeguarding Update COVID 19(2nd update for 2019/20)

Covers:

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1.0 Safeguarding Principles

The way *Skills & Participation* is currently operating in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) is fundamentally different to business as usual, however, a number of important **safeguarding principles** remain the same:

- with regard to safeguarding, the best interests of children/young people must always continue to come first
- if anyone has a safeguarding concern about any child/young person they should continue to act and act immediately
- Dee John is your designated Safeguarding Officer and Deborah Copeland is the Deputy Safeguarding Officer for Hampshire Achieves and Hampshire Futures(Contact sheet attached on last page). Clare Dobbs is the Designated Safeguarding Officer for Hampshire Outdoors
- it is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children/young people, Safer recruitment practices will continue as per our usual recruitment procedures
- children/young people should continue to be protected when they are online

2.0 Importance of maintaining and recording contact

For Hampshire Achieves, all vulnerable learners will be contacted a minimum of 2 times per week and in Hampshire Futures this will be weekly contact but may increase based on risk during the lockdown period.

Each teaching team has an agreed means of recording every point of contact. It is vitally important that staff note down all contact with the learner and/or their family (One File for new Trainee group and Contact spreadsheet for the Supported Interns and previous group of Trainees, Onefile for Apprentices).

Key questions to ask include but are not limited to:

- have you been outside for exercise in the last 24 hours? Are you managing to maintain social distancing when you go out?
- have you connected/spoken with/to a friend?
- Do you feel safe at home?
- Do you feel safe working on line?
- Specific questions around their learning programme.

Having an audit trail of all communications may be required in the future, so always update the contact logs.

3.0 Peer on peer abuse

We recognise the potential for abuse to go on between young people, even during a national lock down. All staff should remain vigilant to the signs of peer-on-peer abuse.

Extract from Government guidance:

All staff should be aware that children can abuse other children (often referred to as peer on peer abuse). This is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- bullying (including cyberbullying);
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm;
- sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault;
- sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be stand-alone or part of a broader pattern of abuse;
- upskirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm;
- sexting (also known as youth produced sexual imagery); and
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals.

4.0 Mental Health

Isolation brings its own unique challenges and is particularly challenging for those who have had or are experiencing poor mental health.

The following websites are packed full of advice and support.

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/#PracticalAdviceForStayingAtHome>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mental-health-helplines/>

<https://www.mind.org.uk/>

<https://web.ntw.nhs.uk/selfhelp/>.

www.samaritans.or

If you feel any learner or member of staff is in need of additional support, please raise as a Safeguarding concern, see last page for contact details.

Please also check our Virtual Learning Environment for additional links to resources/agencies.

5.0 On line Safety

We work with large numbers of vulnerable young people and their safety is our prime concern. As we move to on line delivery of lessons(via Adobe Connect) and where staff are using applications such as whatsapp and Microsoft Teams to keep in contact and conduct 1:1 reviews, we expect all our learners to complete the Esafety course Side By Side provided by ETF. This on line programme covers all the important aspects of on line safety including privacy settings, what and who to share information with, etc. Staff may want familiarise themselves with our policy:

[Hampshire Achieves Internet and e-safety Policy and Procedures](#)

6.0 Supporting parents and carers

Like all parents across the country our parents and carers are having to get used to having their kids at home all day and its important that we provide them with the support and means to supervise their children's activities on line. Below is a link to an excellent website with a range of resources. All parents of vulnerable learners are contacted once per week by the Teaching teams.

<https://parentinfo.org/>

Cybercrime: a parent's guide to keeping your kids safe

A parent's guide to the dark web: why your child may be using it and what you need to know

7.0 Supporting each other

In the last Safeguarding update, I mentioned that Supervision meetings were being set up so that those of us dealing with Safeguarding concerns can talk it through with a trained colleague. As we cannot meet face to face for the time being, these sessions will be set up via MS Teams and run by Deborah (better known as Debi) Copeland. Staff who have had to deal with Safeguarding concerns in the last 6 months will be contacted via MS Teams.

All Managers and Coordinators are maintaining contact with their teams and every member of staff is having regular communication with their line manager and colleagues. If you want additional support, please feel free to contact your Coordinator, Manager or Head of Service Dee John.

Dealing with Safeguarding concerns, quick guide for staff

All those who come into contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults in their everyday work have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of these individuals. They should:

- be familiar with, and follow their organisation's policy and procedures for safeguarding & Prevent
- know who to contact to express concerns about a child's, young person's or adult's welfare, including safeguarding & Prevent concerns
- attend regular training that raises awareness of safeguarding and Prevent issues, and equips them with the skills and knowledge needed

If you become aware of concerns that a child, young person or vulnerable adult is being abused, or if you have any other safeguarding concerns, you must report it immediately to your Centre's Designated Safeguarding Officer, ensure you tell the DSO the name and date of birth of the young person along with details of your concerns

*Designated Safeguarding Officers:

Apprenticeships Traineeships and supported internships Sub Contracted Provision Hampshire Futures Dee John dee.john@hants.gov.uk 07784 264713 Deputy Safeguarding Officer: Deborah Copeland 07926 077442	Duke of Edinburgh Outdoor Education Clare Dobbs clare.dobbs@hants.gov.uk Mobile: 07701 020336
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If you are unable to contact a DSO and need to seek immediate advice please contact the Hampshire County Council Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) through the Children's Professionals Line **01329 225379** or by email to csprofessional@hants.gov.uk

Ensure you always inform the DSO in writing of any disclosure made direct to MASH.

This helpline brings together professionals from a range of agencies into an integrated multi agency team providing triage and multi agency assessment of safeguarding concerns.

Additional Contact Telephone Numbers

During office hours 8.30am – 5pm

Children's Services 0300 555 1384

Adult Services 0300 555 1386 Out of Hours Service 0300 555 1373

If you believe a crime has been committed contact Hampshire Police 101 or, if the individual is in immediate danger call 999