

## Safeguarding Policy- Appendix 1 Coronavirus / Covid-19

### Emergency safeguarding procedures as a result of school closure

For many vulnerable children, school represents a safe haven from risk and an important structure in the overall plan to keep them as safe as we possibly can. Wherever possible school is encouraging parents and carers of vulnerable children to send them to school **unless**, on the balance of assessed risk, it is demonstrably safer for them to be at home. This has been risk assessed on a case by case basis. The longer the crisis continues, the more critical we should expect it to become, that more of our vulnerable children are in school.

'KCSIE is statutory safeguarding guidance that schools should continue to have regard to as per their legislative duty. All existing school staff have already had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of KCSIE. All staff will now be made aware of the new local arrangements so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

The way schools are 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 must always continue to come first
- if anyone in a school or college has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
- a DSL or deputy should be available( this may be virtually)
- it is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children
- children should continue to be protected when they are online

### What is the definition of vulnerable children?

Vulnerable children include those who have a **social worker** and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with **education, health and care (EHC) plans**. Those who have a **social worker** include children who have a **child protection plan** and those who are **looked after** by the local authority. A child may also be deemed to be vulnerable if they have been assessed as being **in need** or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

Those with an **EHC plan** have been risk-assessed by the Safeguarding Team/SLT in consultation with the local authority (LA) and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. (Children and young people whose needs can be met at home, namely those who are not receiving personal care from their educational setting, or whose limited need for personal care can be met in their family home.)**The majority of our children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.**

- If they are not attending school, pupils with an EHCP are supported to access learning materials/opportunities/ resources relevant to their plan, differentiated by the class teacher.
- If at any time staff are concerned about a child with an EHCP, contact will be made with the EHC Team on the email below

### What about children not included in the definition of vulnerable?

The Safeguarding team/SLT have identified our most vulnerable children and have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edges of receiving children's social care support eg those pupils with an Early Help Assessment, whose needs are of concern and cannot be met safely and effectively within the family home. See the Safeguarding list which is not exhaustive.

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### For vulnerable pupils not currently attending school including children supported by statutory services at CiN level or subject to a Child Protection Plan;

- The highest priority is given to children subject to a multi-agency child protection plan.
- Twice weekly Safe and Well telephone calls made to the family home and logged via CPOM's. If contact cannot be made, Safeguarding Team/SLT to alert the child's Social Worker
- Visits to the family home for the most vulnerable children with doorstep contact, with child seen if possible, or to confirm where the young person is staying, if not at home.
- Where no key worker currently exists, a referral will be made to [Janeallen@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:Janeallen@barnsley.gov.uk), via egress, to request support from the Education Welfare Service.
- Offer of food support through school Free School Meal service for those eligible, through provision of a packed lunch.
- Liaising with all necessary professionals as usual
- Providing reports for or attending (inc. virtually) any planned review meetings, where possible
- Safeguarding Team/SLT to record all interactions and any additional concerns via cpoms and escalate if required.
- **Social workers will remain in contact with vulnerable children and families, including remotely if needed.**

### School provision for other Vulnerable children (based upon school's criterion)

- Once weekly phone telephone contact to confirm where the child/young person is staying and report any safeguarding concerns to children's social care
- Offer of food support through the school Free School Meal arrangements/ signpost to Community Shop/ Food bank.
- Signpost families to the services and support available through the family services directory <https://fsd.barnsley.gov.uk/kb5/barnsley/fisd/home.page>
- Safeguarding Team/SLT to record all interactions and any additional concerns via CPOMS
- Liaise with relevant agencies at the point of need, e.g. Family Centres, Children's Social Care, SYpolice, Public Health nursing service as appropriate
- If a need is identified and it is felt that a family may need early help support, an email will be sent to [earlyhelp@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelp@barnsley.gov.uk) to request a call back from an early help professional who will be able to provide advice and guidance

### School designated teacher provision for Children & Young People in the Care of Barnsley

- Welfare Call will continue to monitor attendance of children looked after
- Safeguarding Team/SLT will conduct a welfare telephone call at least once a week.
- Offer of support as appropriate, in conjunction with Social Worker and foster carer.
- Liaise with all necessary professionals as usual (e.g. Education setting, Virtual School, social worker, Personal Advisor, IRO & health professionals)
- Attend any planned review meetings (inc. virtually), unless advised otherwise
- Safeguarding Team/SLT to record all interactions and any additional concerns via CPOM's

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- TPEP kept up to date by Designated Teacher (or Safeguarding Team in DT's absence) including information about changes to educational provision in light of the current situation.
- It is important to note that looked after children currently not accessing education at school may need to return to school based learning to ensure they can continue to be supported in their placement. This should form part of the risk assessment for all looked after children and school should maintain regular contact with social workers to monitor the impact of any decisions regarding school access.
- If support is required Designated Teacher to contact the Barnsley Virtual School Team via [virtualschool@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:virtualschool@barnsley.gov.uk)

### Free School Meal Arrangements

Children who are eligible for free school meals are provided for daily by arrangements through issuing of packed lunches. This is vital to our school as it enables us to have daily contact with some of our most vulnerable pupils.

**Peer on peer abuse** - given the very different circumstances school is operating in, a revised process is required for reporting and managing abuse and supporting victims. Parents are able to report issues directly to school by telephone or emailing the schools inbox.

[office@athersleynorthprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@athersleynorthprimary.co.uk)

Such information will then be forwarded to the Safeguarding Team for action. As part of Kidzone, on the school website, pupils can hit the 'report' button to share any concerns which will again be actioned by the Safeguarding Team.

Contact details for the locality PCSO's are also available on the school website so that parents can contact them directly if they have issues with peer on peer abuse.

<https://www.police.uk/south-yorkshire/BD/team/>

### Online safety

Additional online safety measures have been implemented to support pupils to stay safe when remote learning at home. Remote learning is a great way to continue learning during these difficult circumstances. However it also requires a level of discipline and careful planning. We are using guidance from National Online Safety, displayed on the school website, to help pupils understand different aspects of remote learning and to support them in ensuring their experience is as safe and secure as it can be.

For parents and carers, the idea of remote learning isn't always straightforward and there are a number of factors they need to consider, especially around ensuring their children feel comfortable and are familiar with the whole concept. Information for parents and carers is also displayed on the School website so that they can support their child in getting the most out of the remote learning experience.

### To report any concern;

- Staff should in the first instance continue to complete a blue cfc form and hand to the DSL/DDSL in school, wherever possible
- Contact the DSL/DDSL by telephone immediately, if it is not possible to share the concern in school

### Contact Details

See below, the key staff who will monitor vulnerable pupils during this period, in order to enable all staff to share information from their contact with children or families ( in the eventuality that more staff become ill or are unable to work as a result of self-isolation / shielding) The identified staff are responsible for monitoring CPOMS and internal safeguarding procedures to ensure timely referrals to Children's Services, if required.

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- Designated teacher for LAC(Looked After Children)- **Mel Brightmore**
- DSL and DDSL-**Mel Brightmore/ Kirsty Wordsworth/Clare Storr/ Carla Meynell**
- In the absence of the above, concerns must be shared with **Jackie Milliner or Sarah Hood**

How are we sharing contact details?

### Essential Contact Numbers;

- Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership for advice: 01226 775859
- Early Help support: [earlyhelp@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelp@barnsley.gov.uk)
- Barnsley Schools Alliance: [admin-schoolsalliance@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:admin-schoolsalliance@barnsley.gov.uk)
- Children's Social Care front door – urgent referrals only: 01226 772423
- Looked After Children - [virtualschool@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:virtualschool@barnsley.gov.uk)
- Education Welfare Service – [janeallen@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:janeallen@barnsley.gov.uk)
- Education, Health & Care Plan Team – [EHCTeam@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:EHCTeam@barnsley.gov.uk)
- Special Educational Needs / Disability Information, Advice & Support Service [SENDIASS@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:SENDIASS@barnsley.gov.uk) or phone: 01226 787 234
- Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Phone: 0800 046 8687

It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with as per the child protection policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the police.