



Education Child Protection/Safeguarding Template Policy

Addendum December 2020

Schools and Education Settings - The safeguarding arrangements for remote Learning and Summary of any key COVID-19 Mitigation Planning, safeguarding and child protection changes

Name of school: Blessed Robert Sutton Catholic Voluntary Academy

Addendum approved by:

Name	Role	Date
Date addendum published by the setting and made available on the website		

Addendum review dates and changes

Review date	By whom	Summary of changes made	Date implemented

This addendum supports a Schools/College current child protection and safeguarding policy, 2020/21. It is part of a series of additional templates that have been issued in 2020 in line with COVID-19 mitigation planning and responses to safeguarding arrangements:

- April 2020, Addendum, Summary of any key COVID-19 Mitigation Planning, Safeguarding and Child Protection changes;
- June 2020, Annex A, The Safeguarding arrangements for the wider Opening of Education Settings to Children from June 1st.

This addendum is new information Schools/Colleges need to address to support the Safeguarding arrangements in their School to cover for example, recent guidance issued by the Government on Remote Learning and on Local Safeguarding Arrangements as the pandemic continues.

This Addendum also reflects any updated advice from Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and from Children's Social Care, Reporting Mechanisms, and updated and available support services.

Key information is found here: <https://www.ddscp.org.uk/coronavirus-safeguarding-arrangements/>

All leaders and including Governors will ensure that they will also keep up to date with changing National and Local arrangements:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/administration-services-and-support/coronavirus-information/coronavirus-information.aspx>

CONTEXT

From 5th January 2021 parents were asked to support public health efforts by keeping their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response - who absolutely need to attend.

Schools and all childcare providers were also asked to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

Schools must continue to have regard to the statutory safeguarding guidance, keeping children safe in education. Keeping children safe in education (publishing.service.gov.uk)

Key contacts

Headteacher: Laura O'Leary

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Laura Wilson

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Jake Heath

Chair of Governors: Jacqueline Rodden

Safeguarding Governor: Sharon Keevins

1. Vulnerable Children/reporting concerns

We will help identify vulnerable children and especially those children who continue not to be in school and use the available services, support and referring in arrangements, with particular reference to:

- The Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership briefing on safeguarding children at a time of significant demand from September 2020: Appendix 1.
- Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children's Board
- Community Health Advisors (Mental Health and Wellbeing):
- The locality Early Help Team, Derbyshire
- The Early Help Team Staffordshire
- The Transition Team, emerging needs (Derbyshire) 01629 536451

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. Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
- children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
- adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
- those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
- those living in temporary accommodation
- those who are young carers
- those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
- care leavers
- others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

Children of critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Blessed Robert Sutton recognises that previously looked after children are a potentially vulnerable group who may not have a social worker and will consider the support and offer to this cohort of children. In particular, families and friend's carers may need additional support. Some previously looked after children may still have significant emotional wellbeing needs linked to their journey into care. Education settings have a key role in supporting the stability of those children with special guardianship orders or in adoptive homes.

Those with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school or college place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputy) know who our most vulnerable children are. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support.

Blessed Robert Sutton will continue to work with and support children's social workers to help protect vulnerable children. This includes working with and supporting children's social workers and the Local Authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children. We will work with social workers to ensure that Personal Education Plans (PEPs) for Looked After Children are up to date with the current education offer that looked after children are accessing.

The DSL, Laura Wilson, will continue to provide support to teachers and pastoral staff to ensure that contact is maintained with children (and families) who are not attending school.

Schools are expected to allow and strongly encourage vulnerable children and young people to attend. Parents/carers of vulnerable children and young people are strongly encouraged to take up the place. If vulnerable children and young people do not attend, Blessed Robert Sutton will:

- work together with the local authority and social worker (where applicable) to follow up with the parent or carer to explore the reason for absence, discussing their concerns using supporting guidance considering the child's circumstances and their best interests
- work together with the local authority and social worker (where applicable) and other relevant partners to encourage the child or young person to attend educational provision, particularly where the social worker agrees that the child or young person's attendance would be appropriate

Where schools grant a leave of absence to a vulnerable child or young person they should still speak to parents and carers, and social workers (where applicable) to explore the reasons for this and any concerns raised. The discussions should focus on the welfare of the child or young person and ensuring that the child or young person is able to access appropriate education and support while they are at home.

Where providers have had to temporarily stop on-site provision on public health advice, they should inform the local authority to discuss alternative arrangements for vulnerable children and young people and work towards welcoming back pupils as soon as possible, where feasible to do so.

Blessed Robert Sutton are encouraged to work collaboratively with other schools and education providers and other local partners (including the local authority, social workers, police, youth services, key workers etc.) to maximise opportunities for face-to face provision for vulnerable children.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, Blessed Robert Sutton or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Blessed Robert Sutton will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed. The DSL will continue to provide support to teachers and pastoral staff to ensure that contact is maintained with children (and families) who are not attending school.

2. Maintaining contact

During the lockdown period, and where families have chosen not to send their child to the in-school provision, communication will be as follows:

- Weekly phone call from the Safeguarding team to the family, with a request to speak to the child. All calls will be logged on MyConcern
- Ongoing communication with professionals linked to the family – Early Help practitioners, social workers etc.
- Children will be expected to log into the daily roll call where pastoral support can be offered as well as wellbeing checks, where they do not attend, admin staff will be contacting home to check pupil attendance and support with any technical/device issues
- Year Leader or Form Tutor contact to be made to support with wellbeing
- Ongoing attendance at any TAF, CIN, CP, LAC review or PEP by a member of the Safeguarding team.

Supporting children not in Blessed Robert Sutton

Blessed Robert Sutton is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all their children and young people.

Where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in Blessed Robert Sutton, they should ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person. Details of this plan must be recorded, as should a record of contact have made. The communication plans can include; remote contact, phone contact, door-step visits. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded.

Blessed Robert Sutton's DSL, Laura Wilson, will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan. This plan must be reviewed regularly (at least once a fortnight) and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate. Blessed Robert Sutton will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages.

Blessed Robert Sutton recognises that school is a protective factor for children and young people, and that the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers. All Blessed Robert Sutton staff are aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work when they are at home. Blessed Robert Sutton will ensure that where they care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, they ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

Supporting children in Blessed Robert Sutton

Blessed Robert Sutton is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its pupils. Our pupils will continue to have a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. Our Governors and Headteacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

Blessed Robert Sutton will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement social distancing and continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID-19. They will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers, vulnerable children and returning pupils on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

Where Blessed Robert Sutton has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as the Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – they will discuss them immediately with the Chair of Governors.

Attendance

During this period of national lockdown, primary, secondary, alternative provision and special schools will remain open to vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers only (recognising that the characteristics of the cohorts in special schools and alternative provision will mean these settings continue to offer face to face provision for all pupils, where appropriate). All other pupils should receive remote education. Pupils who are self-isolating should not attend school. Clinically extremely vulnerable pupils are also advised not to attend school.

Blessed Robert Sutton will continue to record attendance in the register. We will follow up on absences of the pupils who are expected to be in school but where a parent wishes for their child to be absent, we may authorise the absence during this national lockdown period. All pupils who are not eligible to be in school should be marked as Code X. They are not attending because they are following public health advice. As vulnerable children are still expected to attend school full time, they should not be marked as Code X if they are not in school (except if they are shielding, self-isolating or quarantining). If the parent of a vulnerable child wishes their child to be absent, the parent should let the school know.

The DfE expects schools to grant applications for leave of absence given the exceptional circumstances. This should be recorded as code C (leave of absence authorised by the school) unless another authorised absence code is more applicable. Shielding advice is currently in place, and so all children still deemed clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend school.

Blessed Robert Sutton and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school and we will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not. We will also follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their child(ren) and the child(ren) subsequently do not attend. Phone calls will be made to the parents/carers in these circumstances.

In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, Blessed Robert Sutton will notify their social worker.

3. Designated Safeguarding Lead (and Deputy) Arrangements

It is expected that Blessed Robert Sutton will have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. However, it is recognised that there may be operational challenges to this. In such cases, there are two options to consider:

- a trained DSL (or deputy) from the school can be available to be contacted via phone or online video, for example working from home
- sharing trained DSLs (or deputies) with other schools (who should be available to be contacted via phone or online video)

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to one of the above options, a senior leader should take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site. This might include updating and managing access to child protection online systems and liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and, as required, liaising with children's social workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments at the Academy. The DSL will ensure all relevant safeguarding and welfare information held on children remains accurate, and complete. If a child from our school attends another setting, we will do what we can reasonably to provide the receiving institution with relevant welfare and child protection information

It is important that all staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). On each day staff on site will be made aware of that person is and how to speak to them. The DSL will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

Staff training during Term 1 has ensured all SLT and Year leaders have Level 2 Safeguarding training and the Attendance Officer has Level 3 training, thus allowing for a wider group of staff to act as the Lockdown Safeguarding Support Team.

Safeguarding Training and Induction

All existing school staff at Blessed Robert Sutton have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020). The DSL should communicate with staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child. Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter Blessed Robert Sutton, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction. If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to our school, we will consider the DfE

supplementary guidance on safeguarding children during the COVID-19 pandemic and will accept portability as long as the current school confirms in writing that:

- the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check
- there are no known concerns about the individual's suitability to work with children
- there is no ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to that individual
- that the member of staff has received appropriate safeguarding training.

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of our Child Protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

Safer Recruitment/Volunteers and Movement of Staff

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children. When recruiting new staff, Blessed Robert Sutton will continue to follow the relevant Safer Recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020) (KCSIE). Schools must comply with their legal duties regarding pre-appointment including having regard to part 3 of the statutory safeguarding guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Where Blessed Robert Sutton are utilising volunteers, Blessed Robert Sutton along with the HR at the Multi Academy Trust, will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in paragraphs 167 to 172 of KCSIE. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

Blessed Robert Sutton will continue to follow the legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult. Full details can be found at paragraph 163 of KCSIE.

Blessed Robert Sutton will also continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 166 of KCSIE and the TRA's 'Teacher misconduct advice for making a referral'. During the COVID-19 period, all referrals should be made by emailing: misconduct.teacher@education.gov.uk .

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current National emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any Blessed Robert Sutton member of staff is aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in Blessed Robert Sutton, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, Blessed Robert Sutton will continue to keep the Single Central Record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

Volunteers

Volunteers may be used to support the work of the school, as would usually be the case. It is important that they are properly supported and given appropriate roles. Where schools are

using volunteers, they should continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in the volunteer section in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity. Mixing of volunteers across groups should be kept to a minimum, and they should remain 2 metres from pupils and staff where possible. Existing volunteers in regulated activity do not have to be re-checked if they have already had a DBS check (which includes barred list information).

Supervision must be:

- by a person who is in regulated activity.
- regular and day to day; and
- reasonable in all the circumstances to ensure the protection of children.

4. Children with a Social worker

We expect that our vulnerable children who have a social worker and children with an EHCP will attend our school, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at severe risk.

Where a parent/carer does not want to bring their child to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, we will agree with the Social worker who will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent and, wherever possible, encourage attendance. This will include children with EHCP plans and we will liaise with the SEND Team. Any discussions will be communicated to the Social worker.

If we must close, our provision and we have children attending with a Social worker, we will liaise with other provision in our area to see if they are open and if the child/ren can attend. We will then update the Social worker and use contingency arrangements for information sharing and recording whilst the child is in the alternative setting.

We will ensure where possible that we have joint discussions with the Social worker around reasons for any non-attendance and the risk this poses to the safeguarding and welfare of the child. Through this discussion we can plan any next steps to try and ensure the welfare of the child.

All pupils who are categorised as vulnerable will have a risk assessment that is updated regularly (minimum once a month) or if any changes occur.

5. Home Educated Children

When parents/carers are considering Home Education and/or have taken a decision to remove the child from our roll, we encourage an open line of communication and will arrange a discussion with the family. In doing this we will inform them of their legal duties and that they will be expected to provide a full-time suitable education. We will also explain that as part of the procedure for wanting to pursue Home Education, we will notify the Local Authority of their decision and the Local Authority will need to make further enquiries directly with them.

If this decision relates to COVID-19 and there are concerns about the physical or mental health of the child or other family member, we will try and continue to offer reassurances about the measures we have taken to protect their health and wellbeing.

The DfE has published advice for parents/carers considering Elective Home Education (EHE). It sets out clearly, the implications of withdrawing children from school for the purposes of home education. We will in our discussion with parents/carers hand out information and provide this link where the option of EHE is explored:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/elective-home-education>

We will also provide additional information found here:

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/elective-home-education/elective-home-education.aspx>

6. Remote Learning

Blessed Robert Sutton is operating a mixture of In-School and Home Learning. If any of our children and their families need to self-isolate, for example, we will need to make provision to teach them remotely. In teaching face to face or in a virtual classroom it is important that we take steps to ensure children are protected.

Safeguarding and Child Protection remains as important in this environment as anywhere else, and our school will apply the school's Safeguarding Guidance to Remote Learning, just as they would to classroom working. Staff who become aware of any Child Protection concerns will continue to follow the school's safeguarding procedures and the local Staffordshire and Derbyshire Childrens Safeguarding Procedures.

When staff work remotely, we will ensure that the School's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is adhered to, and the Managing Allegations Against Staff, Carers and Volunteers policy is followed.

Children and online safety away from Blessed Robert Sutton

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.

Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in the Online Teaching and Learning policy. Senior team will quality assure lessons by being members of class channels and doing live drop-ins.

Blessed Robert Sutton will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Below are some things to consider if there are virtual lessons, especially where webcams are involved:

- No 1:1s, groups only, unless specific permission has been granted; these sessions are recorded.
- Staff and children must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household.
- Any computers used should be in appropriate areas, for example, not in staff bedrooms; and the background should be blurred
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background
- Staff must only use platforms specified by senior leaders and approved by our IT Network Manager / provider to communicate with students
- Staff should note, the length, time, date and attendance of any sessions held and report any safeguarding concerns

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 Blessed Robert Sutton Child Protection Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the police. Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in Blessed Robert Sutton code of conduct.

Blessed Robert Sutton will ensure that any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Delivering remote education safely

Keeping children safe online is essential.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

The statutory guidance keeping children safe in education provides schools and colleges with information on what they should be doing to protect their pupils online. Support on delivering online remote education safely is available from:

- [safe remote learning](#) safe remote learning, published by SWGfL
- [online safety](#) online safety and safeguarding, published by LGfL, which covers safe remote learning
- the National Cyber Security Centre, which includes which video conference service is right for you and using video conferencing services securely [video conferencing](#)
- [safeguarding and remote education during coronavirus Covid-19](#) safeguarding and remote education during coronavirus (COVID-19)
- annex C of keeping children safe in education
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

Updated National Guidance provided by the DfE can be found on the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-and-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19#virtual-lessons-and-live-streaming>

7. Safeguarding and reporting of concerns

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in our Safeguarding Policy. Staff are reminded of the need to report and record any concern immediately and without delay. At Blessed Robert Sutton all reporting is through the MyConcern platform. However, staff are regularly reminded that the DSL or DDSL should be spoken to directly where a staff member has an urgent concern.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should report the concern to the Headteacher. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the Headteacher whilst away from school, this should be done verbally over the phone and followed up with an email to the Headteacher to confirm the discussion. Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors, Sharon Keevins and CEO, Sean McClafferty. Schools must continue to have regard to the statutory safeguarding guidance, keeping children safe in education. It will be important that all staff working in the school are aware of this revised policy addendum.

There should be no change to local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, which remain the responsibility of the three safeguarding partners (local authorities, clinical commissioning groups and chief officers of police). We expect all local safeguarding partners to be vigilant and responsive to all safeguarding threats and ensure vulnerable children and young persons are safe – particularly as more children and young people will be learning remotely.

8. Mental Health

Blessed Robert Sutton are aware of the impact of the negative experiences and distressing life events on the mental health of children, parents and staff. We will, as we always have, ensure there is appropriate support and signposting to relevant support agencies in place, and also supporting those children who continue to work from home

Pupils may be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the coronavirus (COVID19) outbreak, such as anxiety, stress or low mood. This may particularly be the case for vulnerable children, including those with a social worker and young carers. It is important to contextualise these feelings as normal responses to an abnormal situation. Some may need support to re-adjust, either to a return to learning at home or being in school without their peers, and some may be showing signs of more severe anxiety or depression. Others will not be experiencing any challenges and will be content with the change in circumstances. The return to remote learning for most will limit pupils' social interaction with their peers, carers and teachers, which may have an impact on wellbeing.

To support school staff to understand how coronavirus (COVID-19) is affecting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing, and what they can do to look after, promote and support their own, other staff's and children and young people's wellbeing and mental health, the government has recently launched the wellbeing for Education Return programme

Schools should also provide more focused pastoral support where issues are identified that individual pupils may need help with, drawing on external support where necessary and possible. Schools should also consider support needs of particular groups they are already aware need additional help (for example, children in need.)

Schools should also make sure that parents and pupils are aware of who in the school to contact if they have a new concern about mental health and wellbeing. We should consider the provision of pastoral and extra-curricular activities to all pupils, including those learning at home (for example through online activities and assemblies), designed to:

- support social engagement and maintaining friendships
- address and equip pupils to respond to issues linked to coronavirus (COVID-19)
- support pupils with approaches to improving their physical and mental wellbeing

We should consider how we are working with school nursing services to support the health and wellbeing of our pupils; school nursing services are continuing to offer support to pupils in school and working remotely– school nurses as leaders of the healthy child programme can offer a range of support including:

- support for resilience, mental health and wellbeing including anxiety, bereavement and sleep issues
- support for pupils with additional and complex health needs
- supporting vulnerable children and keeping children safe schools and school nurses need to work together to ensure delivery of the healthy child programme (which includes immunisation), identifying health and wellbeing needs which

9. Monitoring Arrangements

This addendum will be reviewed and updated as Guidance from the Local Safeguarding Partners, other relevant agencies or DfE is received, and as a minimum every 4 weeks by Laura Wilson (Assistant Headteacher/DSL)

At every review, it will be read and approved by the full governing board.

Appendix 1.

Final 27/09/20

Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Safeguarding our Children at a Time of Significant Demand

What Do We Know?

Between March and September 2020, many children and young people were not seen in their day care or school settings. We know that the lived experiences of children, young people and their families throughout the lockdown period may have been very different to normal; greater contact with family members and household pressures such as employment, financial concerns, home schooling and health, potentially contributing to an increase in domestic abuse and other concerns such as parental mental health and substance abuse and family breakdown. Children and young people are also likely to have had increased access to the internet, prompting concerns about an increase in online abuse and exploitation.

As children and young people begin to return to day care or school settings there is an understandable anxiety that significant concerns may come to light about their experiences over the last six months, and there is a need to ensure that children and families are able to access the appropriate level of help for their needs.

The messages from the data we have collected and analysed are clear; demand on all services will increase and all services must identify how they will respond, both individually and in coordination with other agencies

Responding to Emerging Concerns – Essential Questions to Ask

Circumstances for children and young people can be complex. Key to decision making will be your analysis of what you know and whether any new information which has been shared by the child, young person or about them raises specific concerns about abuse or neglect.

- Have you reviewed the threshold document and clarified all the information available to you, from your records and from your work with other agencies, to decide how serious the situation is for the child or young person?
- In all possible cases, have you discussed your concerns with the designated or named safeguarding lead in your organisation? This is an essential chance to reflect on what has been learnt and whether early help may be needed, or the situation is so serious that urgent action is required.
- If the situation does not require a referral to social care, what other services are available which could provide early and appropriate support?

- What action can/should you/your agency take which is appropriate to the identified needs of the child and family, by reference to the Threshold Guidance (e.g. Early Help, direct action from your agency or working alongside another agency).

You can also use the specific sections of the DDSCP Safeguarding Children Procedures to guide you through the process of making a referral.

Next Steps for Designated or Named Safeguarding Leads in all Agencies

Are you clear on:

- Your organisation’s internal procedures for safeguarding children and young people? Do these meet the current situation and availability of support/advice services?
- Where to get help with Early Help assessments and what tools are available to inform your assessment (such as the Graded Care Profile)?
- Where to go for advice on supporting children and young people with specific issues such as concerns around mental health or exploitation?
- All the information available to you, from your records and from your work with other agencies and consideration of the threshold document? Have you reached a conclusion based on all this information to decide how serious the situation is, and that it meets the criteria for a referral?

Further information on numerous topics is available to help you on the DDSCP Website.

Useful Contacts:

Derbyshire Children’s Social Care

Area Referrals/front door Professional Advice

Derbyshire	01629 533190 (Starting Point)
Online referral	01629 535353 (8am – 6pm)

Early Help:

South Derbyshire & Dales	01629 532617
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CAMHS Telephone number

CAHMS Derby and South Derbyshire	0300 7900264
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Staffordshire Children’s Social Care

FIRST RESPONSE PHONE NUMBER 08001313126

DUTY LADO : Contact First Response 0800 1313126

virtual.school@staffordhsire.gov.uk

[ESAS:- 01785 895836](tel:01785895836)

NSPCC :- 0808 800 5000