

Solihull Local Safeguarding Children Partnership Newsletter

COVID-19



Welcome to the **LSCP** newsletter.
Do contact us if you have any queries.

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COVID-19 Government Advice

STAY AT HOME

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

Do not meet others, even friends or family.

You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.

Many of you will not be staying at home as you are key workers; thank you for all your hard work and dedication in these difficult times

Get the facts:

Gather high-quality information that will help you to accurately determine your own or other people's risk of contracting coronavirus (COVID-19) so that you can take reasonable precautions.

Find a credible source you can trust such as [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk), or the [NHS website](https://www.nhs.uk), and fact check information that you get from newsfeeds, social media or from other people.



CORONAVIRUS
STAY AT HOME
SAVE LIVES

The only reasons to leave home are to:

- ✓ shop for basic necessities, pick up medicine, travel to work when you absolutely cannot work from home and exercise once a day – alone or with members of your household.
- ✗ Do not meet others, even friends or family.



CORONAVIRUS
STAY HOME
PROTECT
THE NHS
SAVE LIVES

COVID-19: Help for practitioners

We hope that you and your families are all able to stay safe during this difficult time. We appreciate that all of us are being asked to work in extraordinary circumstances. We hope that you are all able to work with your organisations to ensure that you, your teams, and the families that you support are able to access essential services in the safest way possible.

The Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Faculty have provided the following resources you may find useful in your work:

[Supporting schools & colleges: A guide to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of pupils and students during periods of disruption](#)

[Video for school staff](#)

Additionally, The British Psychological Society have provided various news bulletins that can support those working with children during this time, these can be found [here](#).

Changes to the way Child Protection Conferences are conducted in response to COVID-19

This [briefing](#) outlines the interim approach to the management of Child Protection Conferences in Solihull during the period when we are required to employ social distancing to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

There is also a West Midlands Authorities contingency [position statement](#) for transfer responsibilities between authorities for child protection cases during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please disseminate these briefings to all practitioners who might ordinarily attend Child Protection Conferences on behalf of your organisation.

[NYAS](#) provide an advocacy service for children and young people who are involved in the child protection process and this is still available virtually through Covid-19 measures.

Volunteering during the pandemic

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published interim guidance on DBS and other recruitment checks for providers recruiting staff and volunteers to health and social care services in response to coronavirus in England. This guidance can be found [here](#).

If you are taking on a volunteer role yourself during the pandemic then this [film clip](#) provides an introduction to safeguarding.

COVID-19 Domestic Abuse

This is a difficult and challenging time for everyone however there is still help, advice and support for anyone that is experiencing domestic abuse. If you are at immediate risk you must still ring 999. Find details of where and how to get free, confidential advice and support [here](#)

Alcohol (and other drugs) do not cause domestic abuse. However, both perpetrators and victims of domestic abuse may drink alcohol. This [briefing](#) offers some considerations relating to alcohol and domestic violence during the restrictions placed on households as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

A Message from BSWA

Our priority is as always, the wellbeing of our staff and those women and children who need our service. We have been looking at measures to enable us to protect the wellbeing of our staff whilst continuing to provide a service to the women and children requiring support. Due to the unprecedented nature of the circumstances, we are having to stress test how we offer certain services. We are however continuing to provide support as safely as possible to women and children affected by Domestic Abuse.

BSWA will now be entering into a phase of remote working for all of our services.

Pathways:

- BSWA **refuges** are fully open. Checking for space is through helpline 0808 800 0028
- The **Birmingham Drop-in** services will be closing by the end of the week and alternative telephone support is accessed via 0808 800 0028
- Any women needing support who would have approached the **Solihull Drop-in centres** can call: 07891492327
- Our freephone **Helpline** is operational as normal. 0808 800 0028
- Any women at **risk of homelessness** as a result of domestic violence and abuse in

Solihull: contact Solihull Housing Options team

Phone 0121 717 1515

Text 07781 474 722

Email info@solihullcommunityhousing.org.uk

Birmingham: call the **Housing Options Hub**: 0808 169 9604

- All meetings coordinated / hosted/attended by BSWA will move to a digital platform where possible or be postponed until further notice

Have you experienced
domestic violence, sexual violence,
forced marriage or FGM?

**Birmingham & Solihull
Women's Aid**
can support you

Call **HELPLINE 0808 800 0028**

Or visit **COMMUNITY DROP IN**

☒ Text **07891 492 327**

✉ Email **solihulladmin@bswaid.org**

For hard of hearing

🗣️ Text service **18001 0808 800 0028**



BSWA
Birmingham & Solihull Women's Aid



bswaid.org    @bswaid

0121 685 8687 | info@bswaid.org | Ryland House 44-48 - Bristol Street Birmingham - B5 7AA

#NoExcuseForAbuse

A multi-agency campaign led by Police and victims' services has been launched to give information to the public around what services are available to victims of domestic abuse and to emphasise that support is available to those in need whilst coronavirus continues to present new challenges.

The #NoExcuseForAbuse campaign, led by the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner – supported by the police, health, local authorities and domestic abuse specialist agencies – aims to provide those who are victims of domestic abuse with the right information on how to get help and end the abuse they are suffering.

The challenge of dealing with the COVID 19 pandemic brings with it extreme measures including lockdown, social distancing, infection control and transmission reduction which requires us to stay in for long periods and reduces our contact with others, even though where we live may not be a safe place. The consequences of COVID-19 infection control measures, whilst challenging for all of us, can pose extra difficulties and risk for those who are living with domestic abuse. Staying indoors is even harder for people whose home is not the haven it should be. Enforced isolation may increase abusive behaviour. It reduces a victim's ability to access help and support. Isolation may be used as a tool of coercive and controlling behaviour by perpetrators, as they attempt to shut down a victim's routes to safety and support.

If you are a professional working on the front line domestic abuse services are open and it is important to encourage people experiencing domestic abuse to call them and for you to make referrals as you usually would. Refuges are also operating within the COVID 19 guidance and local authorities have a duty to assist individuals and families who are made homeless due to domestic abuse.

#NoExcuseForAbuse

**If you are
scared at home,
there is help**

Support is there for you:
www.noexcuseforabuse.info
National helpline: **0808 2000 247**
Call **999** in an emergency

Birmingham & Solihull helpline: **0808 800 0028**
Black Country helpline: **0121 552 6448**
Coventry helpline: **02476 444077**
Wolverhampton helpline: **08000 194 400**



west midlands
police and crime
commissioner

COVID-19 Response to Exploitation: NWG offer of free website access

The National Working Group is a voluntary organisation bringing together organisations and resources to help people working to prevent and stop exploitation.

A number of resources relevant to the current Covid-19 circumstances have been shared on the NWG website, <https://www.nwgnetwork.org/category/news/>

The NWG will also be sharing this practice through its website during this period so is offering an introductory period of individual membership free until 30th June 2020 (individual membership only)

How do I sign up for this introductory offer?

Your free membership will last until 30 June 2020 during that time you can download, view and share all of their resources.

To join please click on the 'Login Icon' in the header of the website <https://www.nwgnetwork.org/>:

'Create a New Account'

'Register for an Account'

Fill in your details and create a password.

- In the **'Company/Product Description' area** please can you start the message with the code:
 - **COVID-19 General** (without this code we will not be able to activate your membership)
- Select 'Individual - £25 per year' and 'phone' for payment type then 'Register' (Please note that you won't be charged for signing up and they will send you a note at the end of June to ask if you would like to continue – they won't automatically charge you).
Once your application shows in their system they will activate the account

COVID-19: Help for Parents and Carers

We hope that you and your families are all able to stay safe during this difficult time. In these extraordinary circumstances it can be difficult to know what to say to your children and natural to worry.

The Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Faculty have provided the following resources you may find useful:

[Anna Freud: Video for parents](#)

[Place2Be – Guide to helping parents answer questions from their children and to support family wellbeing](#)

[Young Minds - Talking to your child about Coronavirus and 10 tips from their Parents Helpline to support family wellbeing](#)

[Amaze - information pack for parents](#)

CEOP Education links:

[Thinkuknow Parents Helpsheets](#)

Thinkuknow website

Parent Info

Solihull Community Educational Psychology Service

In order to support families during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Solihull Community Educational Psychology Service is providing direct access telephone consultation services for parents and carers. This service is available, 5 days a week for all parents and carers who live in Solihull who feel they may benefit from a consultation with a Community Educational Psychologist to support them with concerns they may have at this time. Concerns might include:

- *How best to look after your own and/or your child's mental and emotional well-being on a daily basis*
- *How to talk with children about COVID-19 and their worries related to it*
- *How to support children to engage with learning whilst at home*
- *How best to maintain social connections whilst complying with social distancing*
- *How to manage behaviour that can be challenging or difficult to manage*

If you would like to arrange a consultation please call **0121 779 1734**

Keeping children safe online

Given the current situation, children are likely to be online more often. The below links are useful to parents and carers of children, including top tips on various different aspects of online safety such as online games, parental controls, internet connected devices etc. as well as leaflets for all ages.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/esafety-leaflets-resources/>

There is also a two page social media guidance document for parents and carers which can be found [here](#).

NSPCC free training course

The NSPCC are offering a free safeguarding awareness training for workers who enter people's homes. This course is a 15 minute e-learning course to help workers to recognise the signs of possible abuse and neglect in homes you visit and help keep children safe. The training course can be found [here](#).

LSCP Training Courses: 2020/2021

COVID-19: at present bookings are still being taken for LSCP training; we are reviewing each course 2 weeks prior to the running date based on the Government guidance available at that time. If the course is cancelled everyone will automatically be booked to the next available date.

Course	Aimed at	Dates
Module 1: Early Help	Those who identify additional needs and carry out early help assessments	13/05/2020 16/09/2020 10/11/2020
Module 1b: Early Help: Recognising and supporting parents in parental conflict	This session explores your role as a Front Line Practitioner when identifying and discussing parental conflict with parents.	06/10/2020
Module 2: An Introduction to multi-agency working	Those who identify child protection concerns and make child protection referrals.	03/06/2020 07/07/2020 22/09/2020 13/10/2020 11/11/2020
Module 3: Child Protection: The challenges of multi-agency working	Those who also regularly attend child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do, or lead organisations that do	02/07/2020 03/11/2020
Module 4: Child Protection: Analysis, judgement and leadership in partnership working	Those who may provide evidence in criminal and civil proceedings and those who lead or contribute to Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and those involved in LSCP partnership meetings.	08/07/2020
Module 5(a) Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness	Those who work with young people and who are responsible to identify and respond to child exploitation.	19/05/2020 15/09/2020 20/10/2020
Module 5(b) – CSE: Skills for working with venerable children & young people	Those who work directly with vulnerable children and young people in relation to child exploitation.	24/06/2020 18/11/2020
Module 6 Neglect: Impact on child development	Those who identify and assess early help or child protection concerns and regularly follow a multi-agency approach and /or attend and report to child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do.	10/06/2020 23/09/2020
Module 6(b) Neglect: Domestic Abuse	Those who identify and assess early help or child protection concerns and regularly follow a multi-agency approach and /or attend and report to child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do.	16/06/2020 30/09/2020
Module 6(c) – Neglect: The Graded Care Profile 2	Those who identify and assess early help and child protection concerns and follow a multi-agency approach and/ or regularly attend and report to child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do.	17/06/2020 25/11/2020

Module 6 (d) Neglect: Substance Misuse	Those who identify and assess early help or child protection concerns and regularly follow a multi-agency approach and /or attend and report to child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do.	20/05/2020 29/09/2020
Module 6 (e) Neglect: "Who is he"	Those who identify and assess early help or child protection concerns and regularly follow a multi-agency approach and /or attend and report to child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do.	30/06/2020
Module 7- Physical Abuse: Impact on child development	Those who identify and assess child protection concerns and regularly attend and report to child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do.	04/06/2020
Module 8- Emotional Abuse: Impact on child development	Those who identify and assess child protection concerns and regularly attend and report to child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do.	14/05/2020 02/12/2020
Module 9- Sexual Abuse: Impact on child development	Those who identify and assess child protection concerns and regularly attend and report to child protection conferences and core groups and/or supervise or manage those who do.	25/06/2020 17/11/2020
Managing Allegations Against Staff	This training is for those with supervisory responsibilities for staff undertaking safeguarding work; managers and strategic leads in multi-agency organisations.	04/11/2020

Practitioners are also able to access safeguarding training from the Safeguarding Adults Board:

<http://training.ssab.org.uk/Learning-and-Development.aspx>

For more information and booking visit the LSCP website.
<http://www.solihullcsp.co.uk/training.php>