

CHSCP Contingency Arrangements – COVID-19

Introduction

This document has been issued by the Independent Child Safeguarding Commissioner (ICSC) of the City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership (CHSCP). It sets out the current contingency arrangements in respect of the activities, services and functions of the CHSCP as a consequence of Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Its overall focus is on supporting the partnership’s operational response to safeguarding children. Any CHSCP activity that is not aligned to this overarching priority will be paused if considered safe to do so.

The CHSCP acknowledges that for operational teams, exceptional measures are needed at this time, particularly as staffing levels fluctuate and physical distancing restricts how we have previously practiced. Regardless, each organisation must consider how best it will meet its statutory and non-statutory responsibilities in respect of safeguard children and swiftly identify those areas that might present a risk in this context. Our partnership must continue to focus its efforts on enabling effective practice to safeguard the most vulnerable.

The arrangements set out within this document will be subject to monthly review by Safeguarding Partners and the ICSC.

Key Contacts

Safeguarding Partners	Click HERE
Strategic Leadership Team Members	Click HERE
Independent Commissioner	Jim Gamble QPM - Click HERE
CHSCP Executive Members	Click HERE
CHSCP Team	General Enquiries: chscp@hackney.gov.uk Training Enquiries: Sarah.seymour@hackney.gov.uk (Training Coordinator) Other Contacts: Rory.mccallum@hackney.gov.uk (Senior Professional Advisor) Sandra.reid@hackney.gov.uk (Business & Perf. Manager) Silvia.kirk@hackney.gov.uk (CHSCP Coordinator)

Activities/Services/Functions

<p>Contingency Planning & Partnership Risk Register</p>	<p>Safeguarding Partners & the Independent Child Safeguarding Commissioner to seek reassurance regarding safeguarding sufficiency of partnership contingency plans.</p> <p>The CHSCP will collate contingency plans of SLT and CHSCP Exec member agencies to undertake gap analysis of operational sufficiency, mitigate and update partnership risk register as required.</p> <p>The Strategic Leadership Team to meet virtually on a monthly basis to ensure coordination of the partnership response to safeguarding children.</p> <p>The CHSCP escalation policy remains in place and should be activated should professional disagreements arise in respect of practice / decision making..</p>
<p>CHSCP Meetings</p>	<p>All meetings have been temporarily suspended at this time pending further discussion by the CHSCP Strategic Leadership Team / advice from the Department for Education (regarding case reviews)</p> <p>Advice note to be issued mid-April 2020 to confirm whether the following meetings scheduled for May 2020 will go ahead virtually.</p> <p>04 May 2020 Early Help / Quality Assurance Sub-Groups – City of London 11 May 2020 Vulnerable Adolescents Hackney 12 May 2020 CHSCP Executive 13 May 2020 Case Review 14 May 2020 Training, Learning & Development 18 May 2020 Quality Assurance</p>
<p>Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews</p>	<p>The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and Department for Education (DfE) have issued a joint communication setting out the expectations on the statutory safeguarding partners in relation to serious incident notifications, rapid reviews, serious case reviews and child safeguarding practice reviews. These immediate changes will be implemented alongside section 19 of the CHSCP's safeguarding arrangements. Any meetings required as a consequence will be convened virtually by the CHSCP team.</p>

<p>Multi-Agency Training</p>	<p>All face-to-face training has been temporarily suspended pending further notice.</p> <p>The CHSCP team is currently exploring options to deliver virtual training and will be disseminating lessons from case reviews within its TUSK briefings.</p>
<p>Learning & Improvement</p>	<p>The activity supporting the CHSCP's Learning & Improvement framework has been temporarily suspended (pending advice on case reviews).</p> <p>This includes multi-agency case auditing, performance monitoring of data and arrangements to seek feedback from stakeholders.</p> <p>Communication to partners on any specific activity that has been postponed will be coordinated by the CHSCP team.</p>
<p>Policies, Procedures & Guidance</p>	<p>Chair of the Editorial Board of the Pan-London CP Procedures to update the front page of the Procedures and provide some guidance regarding the circumstances how/when it will be appropriate to deviate from the Procedures during current</p> <p>Contingency Arrangements for virtual CP Conferences in Hackney have been agreed and are in place.</p> <p>Contingency testing of practice and workforce sufficiency in Hackney undertaken with Safeguarding Partners and Homerton Hospital on 23 March 2020.</p>
<p>Raising awareness of safeguarding in statutory and non-statutory partners, community, businesses, children, young people and families.</p>	<p>The CHSCP to continue promoting awareness via its TUSK briefings and Twitter account.</p> <p>Collated contingency plans to be circulated to CHSCP Safeguarding Partners and Exec members</p>