



Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership

20th March 2020

Covid-19 update

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Children

Social Care

- First Response remains the first point of contact for new referrals for children at significant risk of harm (otherwise go direct to the allocated social worker). All is currently running as normal.
- A risk assessment has taken place for all children that currently have an allocated social worker, with those at higher risk are being prioritised. Joint visits with the police are continuing as required and social workers will utilise PPE if they need to enter a house where there is a significant risk of Covid-19 transmission.
- Child In Need work visits are reducing with visits taking place virtually where possible. This is to reduce risk of transmission and allow us to prioritise resource on children at immediate and significant risk of harm.
- Child Protection Conferences will be undertaken using ZOOM or conference call software from Monday.
- Our Emergency Duty Team is running as normal out of hours at the moment. They remain the point of contact for urgent safeguarding issues out of hours for adults and children.

Families in Focus

- FiF staff have been directed to work from home and to minimise contact with families, avoiding home visits unless absolutely necessary
- Contact will remain frequent with families and partners and FiF aim to continue to support families to work towards the plans that have been made, offering coaching and support virtually
- Universal services have suspended group-based parenting programmes and universal groups within Children's Centres.
- The current arrangements are that Children's Centres will remain open where viable and focus on their most vulnerable and high need families, but face-to-face contact will be limited
- Locality and Safer Options meetings will continue to take place remotely to ensure that there is good oversight of children at risk in the community.

The three main Families in Focus numbers in each area remain open and staff and advice and guidance will continue to be offered as normal.

Public Health Nursing

- Three telephone advice lines have been set up for any parent to seek support. These will be provided to parents by the Health Visitors/School Nurses.
- The central safeguarding team will continue to offer support in terms of oversight of domestic abuse notifications and will support the child protection processes including virtual MASH discussions
- Updates about the community children's health services model of delivery can be found at <https://cchp.nhs.uk/>

Community Paediatricians

- The number of on-call community paediatricians will remain the same
- Eastgate House is being opened to undertake child protection medicals
- There will be an increase in pre-medical consultation by phone to reduce face-to-face contact.
- Professionals may be asked to take non-intimate photos of children's injuries. This should only be done as part of an agreed approach with the paediatrician on-call and otherwise usual practice such as the use of body maps should be maintained.

Across the health service there is a move towards Zoom to support remote consultation.

The Bridge SARC

An updated protocol for the Bridge SARC referrals can be found [here](#).

It is anticipated that this may change given the highly dynamic nature of the current situation. Any queries, suggestions or feedback should be directed to Michelle Cutland at Michelle.Cutland@UHBristol.nhs.uk

Education

- Schools can take a discretionary approach to identifying vulnerable children beyond those immediately identified in the government guidance, to ensure all those who need have the option to attend. Guidance has been sent out to schools to support them in this process and schools are working with Bristol City Council to implement appropriate processes for next week.
- Teachers are asked to return named medication to pupils parents/carers e.g. Inhalers and epi-pens unless the pupils will be attending school over the coming weeks. This is to reduce medication waste and ensure pupils do not run out of essential medication.
- Provisions for the holiday period are currently underway and updates will be circulated
- Colleagues are starting to share resources around coping with Coronavirus – we will be collating this in a folder named **Coronavirus (Covid 19)** under Guidance and Procedures on the Safeguarding in Education Team webpage. If there is anything you think that would be helpful to share with colleagues please can you send them through to the

Contact the KBSP Business Unit

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Website
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Police

- Investigations teams are running a near to normal service at the moment with Operation Ruby team prioritising child protection investigations.
- From Monday 23rd March the Operation Topaz and I-CAT teams will be redeployed to support frontline policing activity and the main office investigation teams. As a result:
- All current disruption work will be suspended and no new disruption investigations will be taken on
- CSE intelligence should continue to be submitted via the [public portal](#) and will be monitored so as to not lose our intelligence picture of CSE
- Any disclosure of CSE-linked offences will continue to be investigated and, where possible, Topaz officers will be involved
- All Topaz multi-agency meetings are now cancelled until further notice

Please be assured that once this period of high pressure on police resourcing has passed, Topaz will come back together as a team and continue CSE disruption work and the planned expansion into CCE.

Family Courts

Family courts are moving to using a model based on Skype for giving verbal evidence and to record the session where this is possible. Some hearing will continue to be face-to-face and this will be determined in a case-by-case basis. The local authority is working with the courts and partners to ensure the ongoing smooth running of legal processes to safeguard children

Creative Youth Network

All open access sessions including those at The Station are now closed. Service delivery will be restricted to 1:1, small group work and non-face to face/digital interaction (phone, video conferencing) and detached/street based youth work. There will be a duty worker on call at The Station all day until 7.30pm, with the building closing at 7pm.

Learning Partnership West and Barnardo's

These services continue to offer targeted support for the children they support at the current time. This is being delivered through 1:1 and digital solutions.

Adults

The impact of COVID-19 has developed considerably in the last week and is affecting us all in a number of ways. For Adult Social Care we know this situation is going to have a considerable impact on the way we support vulnerable people and keep them safe.

All statutory functions remain in place however yesterday the Government published a policy paper setting out the provisions of an emergency Bill, to be introduced in Parliament shortly. These include significant changes to Local Authority duties under the Care Act 2014, aimed at enabling them and providers to prioritise resources on the most pressing and acute care needs for the most

critical period of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The planning assumption is a reduction in staffing of 20% and within this keep services as normal as possible. However we are monitoring and review current risks to ensure staff available for priority services and response functions.

Adult Social Care

In line with our business continuity plans we will be prioritising work as follows:

- Continue to assess and respond to needs under the Care Act with highest priority given to safeguarding the most vulnerable adults -
- Continue to undertake Mental Health Act assessments for people in serious mental health crisis who made need compulsory admission to hospital.
- Consider any activity that can cease to ensure we can deliver support to people in most urgent and critical need

Essential visits

- Practitioners will avoid visits to people's homes and care homes wherever possible, apart from essential visits. Wherever possible they will communicate with people by phone or by email instead of visiting.

Essential visits could include:

- Where there is no other way to communicate with the individual and gather the required information other than visiting them
- The individual is at a level of risk that requires an employee to see the individual in person. They should consider whether information provided by other professionals can be used in place of them visiting
- Practitioners undertaking statutory functions that require them to see the individual, e.g. AMHP assessment (unless there is new national government advice which is shared regarding specific statutory duties that alters this).
- The safeguarding of adults at risk is a priority for us but we will be responding to urgent and critical need and high risk situations first. Our approach is to work with our partners to ensure there are safety plans in place by coordinated effort and mutual aid.

Safeguarding Adults Team Hotline 0117 9032269 is available if you need to discuss concerns.

Reporting adult abuse:

Emergencies

- If you have an emergency, call the Police on 999.

If it isn't an emergency but you need help fast, call the Police on 101.

All other times

- Use our online form to report suspected adult abuse if nobody's health or safety is in immediate danger. <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/social-care-health/report-suspected-abuse-safeguarding-adults-at-risk>

Please click [here](#) for medical advice translated into a wide range of languages including Arabic.

An updated protocol for the Bridge SARC referrals can be found [here](#).

Community Safety

The community safety team is currently working on a bigger comms plan across the CCG area around the potential impacts of isolation in relation to mental health, physical health and relationships. The team is aware that there may be an escalation in domestic abuse cases and are working out the best ways for people to find out about support. They are in regular contact with their providers who have been asked to advise if they begin to experience increasing demand.

Commissioned services

- Next Link and Victim Support remain open and will be continuing to receive referrals and provide telephone support.
- SARSAS will continue to provide sexual violence services.
- One25 will continue to support street sex workers.