



ADDENDUM:

Impact of Coronavirus - Safeguarding Children's policy **Health for All**

Safeguarding principles

Principles stay the same

Although day-to-day working arrangements may be different, the key principles of Health for All's safeguarding and child protection policy remain the same.

- Children's welfare comes first.
- If anyone has a concern about a child or young person they should act immediately following our safeguarding and child protection procedures.
- Line Manager and **nominated child protection lead** should always be available to deal with concerns staff raise and there should be people who are trained to deputise in their absence.
- **Safe recruitment practices** should be followed

Health for All will continue to follow existing statutory safeguarding and child protection guidance.

Safe recruitment

Despite the pandemic restrictions, safer recruitment principles will be followed at all times. All new staff will be DBS checked. Only suitable people will be recruited to work or volunteer with children. Health for All will do this during the pandemic following our practices in :

- shortlisting
- interviews

- vetting and barring checks
- induction and training

Recognising when children and families need support

Changes to ways of working, such as contacting children and families on the phone and by video calling, may bring new information to light about their home situation. Families may also experience new challenges during the pandemic, for example income loss, mental health problems, family conflict and difficulty getting food.

Managers will make sure staff and volunteers know what to do if they are concerned that a child, young person or their family are struggling to cope.

Set out how to liaise with multi-agency partners during the pandemic to ensure families have the support they need. This could include referrals to the local early help service, children's social care, community food banks, mental health support or other relevant services.

Online safety, domestic abuse and mental health

Online technology is invaluable for enabling children and young people to keep in touch with friends and feel connected with the outside world. But changes in online behaviour can put young people at risk of online abuse. Staff should follow Health for All's safeguarding policy and report any incident in line with statutory guidance if child or young person is at risk of abuse.

During this intense period of social distancing where families are spending more time together, staff will refer back to Health For All's domestic violence procedures regularly due to the heightened risk of [domestic abuse](#).

Health for All recognises that some young people's mental health may suffer during the pandemic, staff and volunteers should

consider what can be put in place to help children who were already receiving mental health support through our organisation.

Parents' and carer's mental health will also be affected during the pandemic. Consider how this will affect the children and young people you work with and what support they need. If a child or young person needs confidential help and advice, direct them to Childline. Calls to [0800 1111](tel:08001111) are free and children can also [contact Childline online](#).

What to do if you are concerned for the safety of a child

If you suspect that a child or young person is being, or is at risk of being significantly harmed as a result of abuse or neglect, you must report this **immediately**.

Practitioners working with children, young people and families (paid or un-paid) should:

- Discuss your concerns in the first instance with your line manager or **Safeguarding Lead** if you are unsure if they are suffering significant harm
- **During office hours** (9.00am – 5.00pm) call the Duty & Advice Team on 0113 376 0336 (option 2)
- **Out of office hours** (evenings, weekends and bank holidays) call the Children's Emergency Duty Team (EDT) on 0113 5350600
- If you believe a child is in **immediate danger** and at risk of harm call the police on 999

Training

All training requests should be initially discussed with line manager.

Introduction to Working Together is now available as an online course.

<https://www.leedsscp.org.uk/News/Introduction-to-Working-Together>

For more information regarding training offered by Leeds Safeguarding Children's Partnership : LSCP.Training@leeds.gov.uk or 0113 3786018