**COVID procedures and guidance**

**Introduction**

This is a summary of local guidance and information and national guidance / resources that have been developed in response to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Links to national guidance and other useful resources have been added and all the local documents referred to can now be found in the tri-x Torbay Children’s Services Policies and Procedures Manual which you can access via the intranet. Once in the Manual, you can find the specific information referred to below by clicking the Resources Tab and then the Torbay Guidance section and then the Covid Tab.

You can also access all of the information by clicking the following link:

[Torbay Guidance (proceduresonline.com)](https://torbaychildcare.proceduresonline.com/local_resources.html)

**Staffing During Covid-19**

All staff if they have not already done so will need to complete a risk assessment if they are office based as part of the Integrated Duty Team or are needing to come into a Council Building to collecting printing etc.

The risk assessment tool and accompanying proforma are both available within the Covid Guidance section of the Document Library. You can access those documents by clicking the link below:

[Torbay Guidance (proceduresonline.com)](https://torbaychildcare.proceduresonline.com/local_resources.html)

Unless you form part of the Integrated Duty Team or have been authorised by the Children’s Services Senior Leadership Team to be office based, you will now either work or continue to work from home until further notice. We want to be unequivocally clear that this includes all of our workforce who have been risk assessed to have underlying health conditions or are otherwise designated vulnerable( needing to shield) via the NHS . We will continue to support you to be able to discharge our statutory functions. However, it is almost inevitable that over the coming weeks we may ask you to undertake other pieces of work not normally associated with your everyday responsibilities so that we can keep the service functioning.

Your Heads of Service mobile numbers are as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Head of Service*** | ***Service*** | ***Contact Number*** |
| *Nick Hollins* | *Business Support* | *07500120381* |
| *Stefan Chapleo* | *Early Help/Targeted Help, Supporting Families, MASH, Single Assessment and FGC* | *07391 738340* |
| *Karen Ogle* | *Head of Operational Services* | *07500608467* |
| *Patrick McCann* | *CLA, CWD, Fostering, Placements, Edge of Care, YOT* | *07920 502675* |
| Ceri Woszczyk | Head of Safeguarding and PSW | 07901 515965 |
| *Rachel Setter* | *Head of Learning Academy* | *07391732343* |
| *Sue Whitmore* | *Head of Quality Assurance* | *07920260815* |

**Integrated Duty Team**

This Team will continue to be based at Tor Hill House and comprises children’s social care practitioners, Team Managers and a Head of service along with a colleague from Early Help and the YOT for the first time. The Terms of Reference for this team are located in the documents library, which can be accessed by clicking the link below:

[Torbay Guidance (proceduresonline.com)](https://torbaychildcare.proceduresonline.com/local_resources.html)

**PPE guidance**

The purpose of this guidance is to support local authority, community, education and social care settings with interpretation of national guidance for their specific contexts. It has been updated following the release of new guidance for care homes and supported living. It also aims to provide some clarity for special schools whilst specific guidance for settings is awaited. Specific information relating to children’s social care can be found in the documents library.

* All national guidance and support can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
* Working safely guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19>
* Children’s social care services: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-childrens-social-care-services>
* Education and childcare: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare>
* Face coverings: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

**What to Do If You Think You May Have COVID Symptoms**

The Council has previously published procedures on what you and your manager must do if you think you are experiencing COVID symptoms. There’s a flowchart for staff and managers on what you must do, and what you can expect us to do to support you.

In brief:

* **Isolate yourself** in line with government guidelines
* **Tell your manager** as soon as possible
* **Book a test** and confirm the outcome with your manager

It’s ***critical that everyone within the council follows these processes***, as it protects our families, our colleagues and our ability to serve the communities of Torbay.

If you're using a laptop or desktop PC [you can read the staff advice here](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDA5MjMuMjc2MDUzMzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vaW5zaWdodC9pbmZvcm1hdGlvbi9jb3JvbmF2aXJ1cy9zdGFmZi1hZHZpY2UvIn0.GhHqANiTo97iq7aftDsOVfSRoCSHoAdqIT4KDui-ECI/s/1159037666/br/85839243453-l) or if you're using an iPad [you can read it here](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDA5MjMuMjc2MDUzMzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3RvcmJheS5nb3YudWsvaXBhZD9saW5rPW1pYnJvd3NlciUzQSUyRiUyRmluc2lnaHQlMkZpbmZvcm1hdGlvbiUyRmNvcm9uYXZpcnVzJTJGc3RhZmYtYWR2aWNlJTJGIn0.nkQqQjyGo2jsSPHgGiblkqMkUE-IzFLqxvqiGEDK3Uw/s/1159037666/br/85839243453-l).

**Advice for Managers** [can be read here if you're using a laptop or desktop](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDgsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDA5MjMuMjc2MDUzMzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vaW5zaWdodC9pbmZvcm1hdGlvbi9jb3JvbmF2aXJ1cy9zb3Atcy1hbmQtYWN0aW9uLWNhcmRzLyJ9.qG_9m36VlsJSU5mPDErdVKZCAwjZfOzO1iocZeetJok/s/1159037666/br/85839243453-l).

Please contact Nick Hollins in the first instance if you have any queries around any of this information.

**Early Help**

All children who have a Targeted Help Plan will now be considered vulnerable within the Covid definition and school attendance. Therefore, these children should be attending school. It is the individual Community Care Worker’s responsibility to track the school attendance of the children they are working with.

Early Help, which includes Supporting Families, Family Intervention Team, and Family and Youth Homelessness will operate a ‘business as usual’ service. This includes:-

* Undertaking home visits
* Carrying out face to face direct work
* Undertaking TAF meeting within the usual timeframe

All children open to CSC Early Help Service will now also have a Covid Risk Assessment recorded on Paris – the risk assessment will need to be updated regularly and following any significant incidents of concern.

The weekly Early Help Panel will continue as usual albeit virtually via Microsoft Team and children will be allocated to agencies/workers following panel.

The Targeted Help waiting list will be monitored and reviewed weekly to ensure oversight of risk of this cohort of children who may not have a lead professional allocated to them in the interim.

**MASH**

The **MASH** will continue to function out of Torhill House albeit with partner agencies working remotely. It will triage all contacts and referrals and redirect work that does not fall into the ‘immediate risk and harm’ category.

Where a contact is received into MASH, the MASH will send a COVID postcard (once available) to all children when the contact is closed.

**Referral** – on receipt of a referral the SAT’s team will ensure that a COVID Risk Assessment is completed. All children and young people passed from MASH to Early Help will have a Covid Risk Assessment completed by MASH. The Covid Risk Assessments supports prioritising of responses. It also supports colleagues in the Emergency Duty Service(EDS).

**COVID and Recording**

Two new Covid-19 case notes have been added to PARIS as follows:

* The first covers the contact that you have had during this period with children, young people and families. It is important that you now start to use this particular case note as the information it contains will allow us to run management reports that will enable us to see the overall picture of children being seen and whether they are seen face to face to virtually, together with informing your caseload and activity reports. It is also important to note that you will also need to load your usual visit case note as well as the new contact case note to ensure the Child Seen, Seen Alone, Seen at Home boxes are completed.
* The second covers contact with Foster Carers which will also enable the correct contact recording to be made and to enable us to see the overall picture and whether or not they are seen face to face to virtually. It is also important to note that you will still need to load your usual supervision visit case note as well as the new contact case note to ensure the announced, unannounced contacts/visits are recorded.

**When to record on covid case note examples:**

* Phone call to child and family discussion around how the family have been;
* Unannounced home visit, **child seen** and spoken to – record also on visit case note in the usual way (including visits to unborn);
* Virtual contact with a child in their placement or family home, **child seen** and spoken to about how they are, – using Skype, face time etc. – record also visit case note in the usual way (only if you actually  see  the child or young person – tick seen); and
* Letter, card or any form of written communication to addressed to the child or young person asking how they are.

**When not to use covid case note examples:**

* Phone call to another professional is not a COVID contact with a child or family, - use the standard communication case note;
* An email from a school, or another professional is not a COVID contact , use the standard communication case note;
* A telephone contact to a parent or child where the child or parent is not spoken to is not a COVID contact  - use the standard communication case note;
* A home visit to a child that **isn’t seen** is not a COVID contact with a child – use the standard visit case note an record child not seen
* Email to mother of child to inform them that I would be visiting Monday- use the standard communication case note

Visits or attempts to visit both planned and unplanned even during a period where a family is self-isolation must be recorded on **both** the COVID case note and the standard visit case note. For visits to unborn children please record on the COVID case note **and** the visit case note in the usual way.

Any uncertainty or questions please contact your Team Manager in the first instance. Having your work accurately reflected in the recording is key for children, key for you and key for Children Services. The DFE and Ofsted have responded very positively to this initiative and as a whole we want to be able to confidently show your work to them once this current crisis has passed.

Information on the above is located in documents library and can also be found by clicking the link below:

[Torbay Guidance (proceduresonline.com)](https://torbaychildcare.proceduresonline.com/local_resources.html)

**COVID Risk Assessments and Reviews**

This is the risk matrix to look at each child in your teams. This is part of business continuity planning which will continue during the pandemic unless further communication is received from the DCS. The purpose of the Risk Assessment is to identify children in each team and to consider, in the event of a reduction in staffing, which would continue to require an intense level of response.

The matrix will allow you to ‘score’ and rate a level of risk for the child so that this can feed into the wider business continuity planning. The key here is to consider each identified area and consider if that area is urgent and critical (Red), medium risk (Amber) or is a manageable risk area (Green). This will require the social worker to use their assessment skills and professional judgement and is absolutely critical as in the case of a reduction in staffing levels as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, we may for example only be able to visit those children and young people who have been catororised as RED and whether or not that they must be seen by a qualified Social Worker.

**At the end you will add up the score and come to an overall rating for the child.**

The assessments are matrix style and need a one line analysis and a short idea of the mitigation needed if rated Red or Amber.

What you need to do:

* Each Social Worker should undertake this assessment per child in their allocations. This should then be QA’d by the Team Manager
* Team Managers will send the risk assessment outcome (RAG) to [CScentral@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:CScentral@torbay.gov.uk) for associated alerts to be added to PARIS
* The risk assessment will be uploaded to PARIS by Social worker after being QA’d

The risk assessment matrix is located in documents library and can be accessed by clicking the link below:

[Torbay Guidance (proceduresonline.com)](https://torbaychildcare.proceduresonline.com/local_resources.html)

**COVID visiting**

Visiting during this lockdown will be a ‘Business as Usual’ approach which means face to face in line with COVID social distancing national guidance. Virtual visits will be a last resort and only with the agreement of the TM and SM.

Professional practice guidance for home visits during Covid-19 Pandemic (BASW) <https://www.basw.co.uk/professional-practice-guidance-home-visits-during-covid-19-pandemic>

**Placement Searches or Changes**

Placement searches or changes should be undertaken through the Placements Team. It is really important that Social Workers or Personal Advisors do not make direct contact with providers in relation to any children and agreeing any extensions or variations to contracts. Any changes or requests for changes must come through the placement Team, in consultation with your Team Manager and Service Manager.

**Looked After Health Assessments – Current Approach from Health Colleagues.**

We would like to advise you that it has been agreed that for the time being named Doctors will continue to complete IHA’s (Initial Health Assessments) virtually and in discussion with Social Workers and Foster Carers around the child. Only when absolutely necessary, or when safeguarding medical information cannot be transposed onto IHA, will a child/young person be seen in a clinic setting. Any follow-up physical examinations will be carried out when the risks of Covid-19 have ceased.

Named Nurse and children in care teams will review all RHA’s to see if there is a clinical need to complete/update a RHA during the current time. This service will continue to be reviewed in response to NHS England guidance. Where a child is identified as being more vulnerable to Covid- 19, those with an unmet health need and those that are socially isolated i.e., care leavers, will be triaged as a priority.

**LADO**

The LADO is running a ‘Business as Usual’ service with virtual meetings being held via Microsoft Teams.

**COVID and Exploitation**

All children who have a COVID risk assessment who are exploited will be considered high risk and the top 20 children are reviewed weekly to ensure that visiting is taking place.

The Exploitation Coordinator (Brian Mason) and the Missing Coordinator (Victoria Fildew) continue to work remotely from home.

As well as the day to day functioning they continue to support strategy meetings and risk management meetings.

Multi Agency exploitation mechanisms which are chaired by The Exploitation Coordinator continue to meet monthly albeit virtually and as originally scheduled.

Triage Meeting – First Tuesday of every month – Desktop Activity

CEMOG (Child Exploitation and Missing Operational Group) – Third Tuesday of every month – Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

MACE (Missing and Child Exploitation) – Final Thursday of every month – Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting.

**COVID and Child Protection Medical Examinations**

Information on medicals during Covid 19 is located in documents library or by clicking on the link below:

[Torbay Guidance (proceduresonline.com)](https://torbaychildcare.proceduresonline.com/local_resources.html)

**Guidance for food support referral pathway in Torbay during COVID-19**

Any requests for food parcels need to be made to the Torbay Food Alliance using the link below:

[www.torbay.gov.uk/food-bank-referrals/](http://www.torbay.gov.uk/food-bank-referrals/)

As you may be aware, the Council has purchased a number of vouchers that we are able to allocate to those families who are most need as a direct result of Covid-19.

The vouchers are designed to support the purchase of **fresh produce** for children and young people an can be seen as a compliment to the Food Parcels containing dry goods provided Torbay Food Alliance.

A request form which is located within the Documents Library will need to be completed to access the vouchers.

The form needs to be signed by your Team Manager and emailed to Nick Hollins who will arrange for the vouchers to be issued.

**Please ensure that a copy of this referral is saved in a Team to Team Case Note on Paris.**

Food Parcel referrals should still be made directly to the Food Alliance for those families who need the additional support.

On the Request Form you will be asked to comment when the last referral was made to the Food Alliance for a food parcel as this may impact on our ability to issue vouchers.

We are able to support **one** Food Voucher request per identified family per month (in addition to any Food Parcel requests). If a family is in extreme hardship and requires further support that could relate to fuel poverty or period poverty for example, please discuss directly with your Team Manager or Service Manager

Please ensure that you also consider making a referral to Paul Blake Early Help Benefits Advisor if the family are experiencing ongoing financial challenges. Paul may be able to support a review of family benefits and entitlements.

**Youth Offending Service**

As result of the January lockdown and conversations at IMT earlier this week, there are no plans for the immediate re-opening of Parkfield.

In general the YOT Team will all be working from home but offering a ‘business and usual’ service where possible. A YOT duty worker will also be allocated to the Integrated Duty Team for the 1st time and will continue to be based from home. In order for the service to fulfil some Court Ordered obligations it will be necessary for a limited number of young people that are most pressing/high risk on Court Orders will be able to meet their allocated face to face. We will continue to identify options to allow this to happen in other venues including Torhill House, The Arc and Berwyn House.

All other young people open to specialist workers including (Mental Health, Speech and Language, parenting work) etc. will continue to be managed outside of this arrangement and continue to either be virtual appointments for those where it is suitable and other venues including the Community, The ARC, The Mezzanine Level at Torhill House and Berwyn House for those specialist appointments ordered by the Court. To check availability for rooms at the ARC, please email [gina.powell@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:gina.powell@torbay.gov.uk) for room availability on the Mezzanine Level, Torhill House please continue to use the Ziporrah booking system.

**Family Time Policy During COVID-19**

Family Time is such an important part of a child’s life and Torbay remain committed to promoting face to face family time where it is safe and possible to do so. However, there is also a great need to work together to reduce the impact of coronavirus and ensure the health and safety of all children, young people, parents, family members, carers and staff members. This is in line with the relevant legislation and guidance which is included below.

Torbay will continue to approach decision-making in respect of family time on a child by child or family by family basis. As far as is possible, for children subject to proceedings or cared for children who have a set schedule of family time per week, we will endeavour to ensure that one family session can take place per week; in the event that this is less than a child’s care plan promotes, we will supplement this with additional virtual family time sessions.

Torbay will make specific decisions in line with the guidance in respect of:

* Newborn babies
* Reunification plans
* Bridging to adopt plans
* Farewell family time sessions
* Family time sessions as part of an ongoing assessment process
* Children whose family time sessions do not require supervision from those outside of the child’s normal household

There may be situations in exceptional circumstances whereby family time cannot go ahead, for example in the event of child, parent or carer testing positive for COVID-19, or in the event of necessary shielding due to NHS or medical advice. In these situations, decisions will be very carefully considered, considering the views of all important people to that child including their parents, carers, Independent Reviewing Officer and Public Health England, to explore how these difficulties will be overcome. All decisions about family need to be carefully and sensitively communicated to those affected; a clear management oversight will also need to be recoded on the child’s file.

Any new requests for Family Time will need to make following the Family Time referral process, with risk assessments completed at the point of referral.

The updated National Lockdown Guidance which can be found in the Document Library states *“There are still circumstances in which you are allowed to meet others from outside your household, childcare or support bubble in larger groups, but this should not be for socialising and only for permitted purposes. A full list of these circumstances will be included in the regulations, and includes:*

* *to allow contact between birth parents and children in care, as well as between siblings in care*
* *for prospective adopting parents to meet a child or children who may be placed with them*
* *to place or facilitate the placing of a child or children in the care of another by social services”*

A further Government Briefing - Coronavirus: Separated Families and Contact with Children in Care FAQs can also be found in the Document Library which also contains useful information.

**CLA Reviews**

CLA reviews and consultation with children are taking place virtually but otherwise it is ‘Business and Usual’. No reviews are taking place in foster homes or residential homes and out of area reviews are also taking place virtually.

**Child Protection Conferences**

Child Protection Conferences are running as ‘Business as Usual’, hybrid virtual conferences are taking place using Microsoft Teams if it is safe to do so. Parents are invited into Electric House to meet with the Chair and attend the conference. The Social Worker attends in person while partners use Teams to join the meeting. The room, activity and individual Chair have all had She Assure Risk Assessments completed. We are also continuing to follow *PPE guidance, the Conference Chair’s will also now ensure that the temperatures of parents attending in person are checked as well as ensuring the parents check in to the NHS Contact Tracing service by scanning the visible QR located in the Children’s reception if their mobile phone allows this.*

If parents ask not to come into the office but to attend virtually this is being facilitated by SARS Business Support.

Conference Chairs are using the mid-point reviews to QA practice in between conferences.

**Useful Resources During Covid 19**

**tri.x resource hub**

Includes latest Covid 19 guidance for children’s social care and safeguarding

[https://www.proceduresonline.com/resources/covid19/#](https://www.proceduresonline.com/resources/covid19/)

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for local authorities on children’s social care**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-childrens-social-care-services/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-authorities-on-childrens-social-care>

It should be read alongside other coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance, including:

* [guidance for schools about temporarily closing](https://signisgroup.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1b6cb0ecc3bd15cb47b353803&id=581b086a94&e=55e2c640d2)
* [coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance on vulnerable children and young people](https://signisgroup.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1b6cb0ecc3bd15cb47b353803&id=2aaab3d397&e=55e2c640d2)
* [information for social workers from Social Work England](https://signisgroup.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1b6cb0ecc3bd15cb47b353803&id=67cdcc4d8b&e=55e2c640d2)

**Advice for the adoption and fostering sector on how to respond to the Coronavirus pandemic and how CoramBAAF is adapting its working practices (CoramBAAF)**

<https://corambaaf.org.uk/coronavirus>

**Council for Disabled Children COVID-19 Support and Guidance**

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/help-resources/resources/covid-19-support-and-guidance>

**Research in Practice – Covid 19 resources:**

Research in Practice have brought together all of their online resources in response to COVID-19 onto one page of the website which can be found [here](https://www.researchinpractice.org.uk/all/content-pages/social-care-practice-in-the-time-of-covid-19/) and they will be regularly updating this as new content is released. Included on this page is:

* A special edition of April’s Research Summary - [Social work in extremis: A COVID-19 edition](https://www.researchinpractice.org.uk/all/content-pages/research-summaries/research-summary-april-2020/) – which distils key messages from research on social work in extremes.
* Webinars which address issues currently faced by practitioners (recordings soon to be uploaded, slides currently available)
  + [Digital family contact time: sharing and building knowledge](https://www.researchinpractice.org.uk/all/content-pages/slides/digital-family-contact-time-sharing-and-building-knowledge/)
  + [Loneliness and social connection: Good practice now and in the future](https://www.researchinpractice.org.uk/all/content-pages/slides/loneliness-and-social-connection-good-practice-now-and-in-the-future/)
* A number of blogs which look at the particular challenges facing practitioners during this pandemic including:
  + [Domestic abuse in the coronavirus epidemic](https://www.researchinpractice.org.uk/all/news-views/2020/april/domestic-abuse-in-the-coronavirus-epidemic/)
  + [Supporting remote and online supervision during COVID-19](https://www.researchinpractice.org.uk/all/news-views/2020/april/supporting-remote-and-online-supervision-during-covid-19/)
  + [Social work with children and families in the pandemic](https://www.researchinpractice.org.uk/children/news-views/2020/april/social-work-with-children-and-families-in-the-pandemic/)
  + [Communicating with younger children about COVID-19](https://www.researchinpractice.org.uk/children/news-views/2020/april/communicating-with-younger-children-about-covid-19/)
* Impact of COVID-19 on care and contact: Experiences in the first COVID-19 lockdown on foster carers and young people in their care – Evaluation Report (2020)
  + <https://www.researchinpractice.org.uk/children/publications/2020/december/impact-of-covid-19-on-care-and-contact-evaluation-report-2020/>
* Supervision:
  + <https://www.researchinpractice.org.uk/children/news-views/2020/june/exploring-supervision-in-the-context-of-covid-19/>

RIP have asked that we get in touch if there are particular resources and materials, responsive to the current Covid-19 crisis that we would like to see in order to address current challenges.

**Domestic Abuse:**

The campaign will be publicising support available including the freephone, 24 hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline number – 0808 2000 247 – run by Refuge, and [www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk](https://signisgroup.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1b6cb0ecc3bd15cb47b353803&id=5acccdb79d&e=55e2c640d2)  
  
See also:  
[Coronavirus (Covid-19) Support for victims of domestic abuse](https://signisgroup.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1b6cb0ecc3bd15cb47b353803&id=4bc048a73c&e=55e2c640d2)  updated to add to list of support services.  
  
[Women's Aid: Covid-19 Safety Advice for Survivors](https://signisgroup.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1b6cb0ecc3bd15cb47b353803&id=0a0bda6f09&e=55e2c640d2)

LGA guidance on tackling Domestic Abuse (correct as of 22nd April) provides a range of resources which offer help, guidance and support to tackle domestic abuse – includes overview of how councils can provide help and support victims of domestic abuse during COVID and tackle perpetrators abusive behaviour: <https://www.local.gov.uk/tackling-domestic-abuse-during-covid-19-pandemic>

**Developing Emotional Resilience and Welbeing: a practical guide for social workers - a free guide from Community Care Inform**

A guide to developing emotional resilience and wellbeing freely available to everyone. It’s a comprehensive guide, based on what research says supports resilience in social workers and is full of information and ideas to use in your practice.  The final section provides tools and techniques: What can I do to enhance my resilience? (on page 17). The guide can be found [here](https://signisgroup.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1b6cb0ecc3bd15cb47b353803&id=443a284242&e=55e2c640d2)

**The Principal Children and Families Social Worker (PCFSW) Network**The PCFSW [Best Practice Guide for Risk Assessment and Prioritising  Children and Families’ Needs during Pandemic](https://signisgroup.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1b6cb0ecc3bd15cb47b353803&id=049bb63859&e=55e2c640d2)  
The PCFSW [Covid-19 Ethical Response and Best Practice Guide for Children and Families Services](https://signisgroup.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1b6cb0ecc3bd15cb47b353803&id=5c04001ca6&e=55e2c640d2)

**Coronavirus (Covid-19) Keeping Children Safe Online - Home Office guidance**

Advice and guidance to help parents and carers to keep children safe online during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. You can access the guidance [here](https://signisgroup.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1b6cb0ecc3bd15cb47b353803&id=df1eb92978&e=55e2c640d2)

**COVID 19 financial support for education, early years and children’s social care**

This guidance provides details of support and government funding for organisations in education, Childcare, children’s social care

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-financial-support-for-education-early-years-and-childrens-social-care#history>

**Alcohol Change UK**

Alcohol Change UK have issued an update on change resistant, dependent drinkers during Coronavirus based on conversations that they have had with providers around the country.   This is in the form of a blog that can be accessed by clicking the following link: <https://alcoholchange.org.uk/blog/2020/covid-19-supporting-the-most-vulnerable-drinkers>

Please also take a moment to visit [Alcohol Change UK's information and advice hub](https://alcoholchange.org.uk/help-and-support/get-help-now/coronavirus-information-and-advice-hub) for up to date information and advice on alcohol generally during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Also, there is also PHE guidance for commissioners and providers of services for people who use drugs or alcohol: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-commissioners-and-providers-of-services-for-people-who-use-drugs-or-alcohol](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-commissioners-and-providers-of-services-for-people-who-use-drugs-or-alcohol?utm_source=d375ca9e-25f4-4ba6-8071-2caf26a79af3&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)   This is to support the continuity of drug and alcohol treatment services throughout the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic while protecting staff and service users.

**Resources for children / talking to children:**

The **Children’s Commissioner** has developed a ‘Children’s Guide to Coronavirus which aims to answer children’s questions about coronavirus, tell children how to stay safe and protect other people and how to help them make the best of their time at home.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/childrens-guide-to-coronavirus/>

**Childline** has created a new webpage with information for children and young people about coronavirus. The page includes information about: what coronavirus is; where children and young people can find help if they are worried; coping if they are staying at home; and what to do if they are feeling unwell.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/coronavirus/>

Corona virus – a book for children [Coronavirus-ABookForChildren.pdf](file:///\\corp_alpha1\corpdata\Data\social%20services\Children%20&%20Families\Shared%20Areas\QAF%20AUDITS\COVID%2019%20PROCEDURES\Coronavirus-ABookForChildren.pdf)

Guide for parents, carers and teachers [COVID- 19 talking to children updated.docx](file:///C:\Users\ssss054\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\5RHH61YC\COVID-%2019%20talking%20to%20children%20updated.docx)

The **NSPCC** has also developed some learning materials in relation to having difficult conversations with Children at this time:[How to have difficult conversations with children](http://email.nspcc.org.uk/c/16YtNodjUui5JE6UrC3PwAOe32)

8 tips to help and comfort children **Unicef**: <https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/how-talk-your-child-about-coronavirus-covid-19>

**Covid 19 Guidance on Supporting Children and Young People’s Mental Health and Wellbeing:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing?utm_source=198a9e75-a418-4442-9102-7c714bd37c3c&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate>

This is a dedicated page which has a range of resources regarding social care practice:

<https://www.researchinpractice.org.uk/all/content-pages/social-care-practice-in-the-time-of-covid-19/>

**Impact of COVID-19 on care and contact: Experiences in the first COVID-19 lockdown on foster carers and young people in their care – Evaluation Report (2020)**

<https://www.researchinpractice.org.uk/children/publications/2020/december/impact-of-covid-19-on-care-and-contact-evaluation-report-2020/>