



Policy title:

SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION ADDENDUM

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Approved by: Trustees Date due for review: JULY 2020

Signature  **..... Date02/06/20.....**

Services Manager

Signature  **..... Date ...02/06/20.....**

Chair of Trustees

Procedures - Adaptations for Coronavirus Pandemic

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1. Scope and Purpose

This addendum applies during the period of Krunch premises closure due to COVID-19 and reflects updated advice from Sandwell Children Safeguarding Partnership (SCSP) and Sandwell Local Authority (LA).

It sets out changes to our normal child protection policy in light of the Department for Education's guidance [Coronavirus: safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers](#), and should be read in conjunction with that policy.

Unless covered here, our normal child protection policy continues to apply.

This addendum will be reviewed and revised as local and national advice and guidance is updated.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children remains everyone's responsibility and all Krunch staff have a role to play in safeguarding all our mentees whom we contact via phone. At all times staff must consider what is in the best interests of the child.

In accordance with relevant law and guidance this policy sets out our procedures for safeguarding and child protection during the Covid-19 emergency response.

Designated Safeguarding Lead's should ensure that all staff are aware of those issues and systems for reporting and provide local safeguarding updates to all staff.

2. Links to other policies and procedures

Links to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy• Health and Safety• Risk Management• Staff Code of Conduct• Behaviour Policy• Attendance Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safer Recruitment/DBS policy• E-safety Policy• SEND policy• Allegations Against Staff (Staff Disciplinary Policy and Procedures)• Anti-Bullying Policy• Acceptable Use Policy

4. Vulnerable Children and Young People

Vulnerable children for the purposes of continued attendance during the coronavirus outbreak are those across all year groups who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan and it is determined, following risk assessment ([risk assessment guidance](#)), that their needs can be as safely or more safely met in the educational environment
- have been assessed as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued attendance. This might include children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services, adopted children, those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training'), those living in temporary accommodation, those who are young carers and others at the provider and local authority's discretion

Read more in the guidance on [vulnerable children and young people](#).

- Have an education, health and care (EHC) plan

Attending education settings is known as a protective factor for children receiving the support of a social worker. It is right that we prioritise support for those who will benefit the most. We are **balancing** this carefully with the urgent need to reduce social contact right across society to support the work to reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Everyone is observant and listening to the voice of the child during any contact.

We will continue to work with and support children's social workers and any other relevant safeguarding and welfare partners to help protect vulnerable children. This includes working with and supporting children's social workers and the local authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children in line with the safeguarding partners detailed in the safeguarding and child protection policy.

5. Reporting concerns

All staff and volunteers must continue to act on any concerns they have about a child immediately. It is still vitally important to do this.

Staff and volunteers are aware that this difficult time potentially puts all children at greater risk.

Staff and volunteers will continue to be alert to any signs of abuse, or effects on pupils' mental health that are also safeguarding concerns, and act on concerns immediately. In particular, children are likely to be spending more time online (see section 9 below).

Reporting procedure is as per our existing Safeguarding policy in the first instance, we will attempt to contact the DSP at the school who referred a child to us and report any disclosures or safeguarding concerns. If this person is not available, we will follow the usual local authority procedures using MARF, MASH and threshold guidelines.

6. Working with other agencies

All staff should continue to work with and support children's social workers, where they have one, to help protect vulnerable children.

We will continue to work with children's social care, and any other trusted adult involved in looking after the child.

We will continue to update this addendum where necessary, to reflect any updated guidance from:

- Our 3 local safeguarding partners – education, police and health
- The local authority about children with education, health and care (EHC) plans, the local authority designated officer and children's social care, reporting mechanisms, referral thresholds and children in need

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will attend any ICPC's/reviews called by the Local Authority by Skype or other means of social distancing and may call on appropriate members of staff for reports

7. Monitoring attendance

As most children will not be attending school during this period of school closure, we will attempt to contact all mentees twice a week to deliver a mentoring intervention. We will report this engagement to school, but Krunch is not overall responsible for monitoring attendance and engagement. Our staff will inform school if we cannot contact a child via their parent/carers.

We will work with and support the relevant families and pupils to return to school or college, where attendance is appropriate. A brief summary of attendance expectations across the different groups of vulnerable children can be found within the following guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>

We will be following up where any child we expect to attend at Krunch premises, once this resumes, doesn't attend, or stops attending. Contact details of parents, social worker and any multi-agency professional working with the child are recorded on the child's file.

8. Supporting children back on Krunch premises:

Krunch will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement social distancing and continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID19. They will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

We recognise that negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the emotional well-being and mental health of children and their parents. We will refer to the DfE guidance on [mental health and behaviour in schools](#) to help identify children and families who might need additional support, and put this support in place.

As more children will be returning to school in the coming weeks, we will assess children and see if there is any increased vulnerabilities following the period of lock down. We will continue to work with parents and identify the most appropriate support that need to be put in place for children.

9. Online Safety

It is essential that children are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate communications and online material.

Krunch staff will be reiterating the importance of limiting screen time to their mentees and be encouraging them to keep safe online. However, parents/carers will be expected to manage their children's safety whilst at home. Any mentoring materials sent home will be sent to a parent/carer email address, unless it is first agreed with the parent/carer that they are happy for a Krunch staff member to send it directly to the child's email address from their work email address. We will record consent of this being allowed by the parent.

Remote mentoring from a safeguarding Perspective

The following Safeguards have been put in place:

- Krunch has created new policies, procedure and guidance for telephone and video call mentoring. All staff have read this guidance and are adhering to this.
- A risk assessment has been completed to state how phone or video contact will be managed, by whom and how risks are minimised.
- All staff are aware of the cautions required when using **social media**
- Parents are informed of the methods Krunch will be using to facilitate mentoring

Staff delivering phone mentoring should listen for any cues that indicate a safeguarding concern and report these to the school and Krunch DSL as soon as possible. These cues might include:

- Comments or questions about child abuse or neglect
- Inadequate supervision at home
- The impact of food poverty

Safe Remote Teaching: <https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/safe-remote-learning/>

10. Peer-on-peer abuse

We will continue to follow the principles set out in part 5 of Keeping Children Safe in Education when managing reports and supporting victims of peer-on-peer abuse. Staff should continue to act on any concerns they have immediately.

11. Concerns about a staff member or volunteer

We will continue to follow the principles set out in part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education and Schools Safeguarding policy with regards to allegations against those in a Position of Trust.

Staff should continue to act on any concerns they have immediately. Referrals will be sent to Sandwell MASH by completing a Multi- Agency Partnership referral form available at: <https://www.sandwellcsp.org.uk/key-safeguarding-issues/allegations-against-stafflado/>

and a MARF if appropriate.

Details of LADO are listed below.

We will continue to refer adults who have harmed or pose a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

12. Mental health

Where Krunch interventions of mentoring support and talking therapy are not enough, we will also signpost all pupils, parents and carers to other resources to support good mental health at this time. When talking with mentees, mentors will bear in mind the potential impact of the current situation on both children's and adults' mental health.

13. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed as guidance from the 3 local safeguarding partners, the LA or DfE is updated, and as a minimum, every 3 weeks by Lynsey Grant. At every review, it will be approved by the Trustees.

DSL training is unlikely to take place during this period. Therefore, for the period coronavirus measures are in place, a DSL (or deputy) who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or deputy) even if they miss their refresher training.

We will take full advantage of online training sessions that may be offered through Sandwell Children Safeguarding Partnership, as well as any other accredited safeguarding online training offered.

We will continue to keep up to date with safeguarding developments, such as via safeguarding partners, newsletters and professional advice groups.

14. Further Help and Guidance

[Covid 19 - Managing safeguarding in schools, colleges and other education providers](#)

[Corona Virus – Covid 19, Guidance on Vulnerable Children and Young People](#)

Email DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk Telephone 0800 046 8687

Useful Contact Numbers/Websites

Sandwell Childrens trust (MASH/SPOC):

Contact email: Access_team@sandwellchildrenstrust.org

Telephone: 0121 569 3100 (also use for out of hours)

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO): Roger Beach

Contact email: Roger_beach@sandwellchildrenstrust.org

Online Directory of Early Help Services

<https://www.sandwellfamilylife.info/> - Includes DA services, foodbank details, emotional well-being support

Helpline numbers

NSPCC Adults Helpline 0808 800 5000
help@nspcc.org.uk

Refuge 24-hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline [0808 2000 247](tel:08082000247)

NSPCC Childline 0800 1111 <https://www.childline.org.uk/>