

Child Protection Appendix – Safeguarding during the period of centre closure

- The key points of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) continue to underpin policy and procedures at Stevenage Education Support Centre for safeguarding our students.
- During this period of centre closure, our fundamental role in safeguarding students remains as it always has:
 - with regard to safeguarding, the best interests of children must always continue to come first
 - if anyone in a centre has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately and record a Cause for Concern in CPOMS
 - a DSL or deputy will be available, remotely, if not in centre. CPOMS will be monitored throughout the day by the CP team to enable a prompt response to any CFCs. The senior member of staff present in centre will ensure that the DSL is contacted if there are any safeguarding concerns they are made aware of, in addition to ensuring the concern is recorded in CPOMS by the member of staff.
 - to ensure that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children
 - children should continue to be protected when they are online. Information has been sent to students, parents and staff to support this
- All members of staff have a responsibility to safeguard children. If there is an immediate concern about a child being at risk of significant harm the member of staff should contact social services directly on 0300 123 4043 but inform the CP team via email that they have and record the information in CPOMS
- Where the centre had concerns for a student prior to centre closure, for example vulnerable students but also students where there is a concern but do not meet the threshold, a programme is in place for the Safeguarding team ensure regular contact is being made
- Where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at centre, or discontinues, the centre should notify their social worker.
- Where a student changes centre during the closure period we will provide the receiving institution with any relevant welfare and child protection information. This will be especially important where children are vulnerable. For looked-after children, any change in centre should be led and managed by the Virtual Centre with responsibility for the child
- New staff appointed to the centre during the centre closure, will receive a safeguarding induction pack upon appointment at the centre and face to face induction by a DSP once they are present in centre
- The centre will continue to work with the virtual centre, social care and foster parents for looked after children. Meetings will be held remotely where possible
- All students have been given access to contacting the centre between the hours of 10 and 12 during the centre day during the Easter break, which is staffed by senior staff
- Where there is a concern of peer on peer abuse, contact will be made with the victim and perpetrator and their families by a member of the safeguarding team. Normal safeguarding procedures will continue depending on the outcome of the investigation. The wellbeing team may be asked to offer support to the victim

- The centre will continue to follow our relevant safer recruitment processes. Checking and risk assessment processes will continue to be carried out for checking volunteers
- The Single Central Record should be maintained as usual during the centre closure
- The centre has a separate guidance on supporting students with Mental Health concerns as part of our wellbeing programme
- Whilst the centre is closed, students will be at greater risk of being unsafe online. Staff should continue to look for signs a child may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with as per the child protection policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required the police. The Online Safety policy, together with the guidance issued to students (April 2020) should be read in conjunction with this update