



Designated Safeguarding Lead Support Hub Meeting
Wednesday 4th November 2020 at 8.30am, 11.00am and 3.30pm
Venue: Virtual Meeting Room

Welcome to all

As ever, if you have queries, or need any support or guidance please email the team at

gsep@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Notes from today's meeting will be available on the Education pages of the GSCB website along with links to all documents referenced.

1

Black and Asian family COVID-19 helpline and webchat facility:

Barnardo's has established a [Black and Asian family COVID-19 helpline and webchat facility](#), encouraging children, young people and families from these communities who have been impacted by COVID-19 to speak about their worries and stresses. It provides therapeutic support, as well as signposting to other organisations who can provide further help.

2

Child Protection Record Transfer

This South West Child protection Record Transfer Protocol has been agreed by all those attendees of the South West Education Group and should be used where there is no existing protocol for when children for whom there are Child Protection (CP) record, move school or educational setting. This includes between schools or at regular transition times such as between primary and secondary or secondary and college.

3

STREET comms flyer – staying safe during social distancing –

How to AVOID UNSAFE SITUATIONS If someone at home is hurting or scaring you
Talks about MAKE A SAFETY PLAN A safety plan can help you know what to do if you feel unsafe at home in an emergency. It's important to talk to someone you trust or a support service when you're making a safety plan.

Attached with these notes.

Free school meals –

Good morning all, please see the information below detailing how families can access free school meals over the school holiday periods. Apologies if you have already had sight.

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28.10.2020

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We are providing free school meal vouchers for children in Gloucestershire who is entitled to a free school meal this half-term and the Christmas holidays.

Parents and carers can apply for a free school meal voucher through an online form or phoning 01452 328518, where a message can be left if the lines are busy.

A voucher code is sent directly the parents or carers mobile and they can use this at local shops and/or supermarkets.

We have provided holiday hunger support to all vulnerable young people since the Covid pandemic started and we will continue to support vulnerable families through our enhanced Welfare Grant Scheme, which provides help with food deliveries, supermarket vouchers, essential household equipment, gas, electricity and essential items of furniture.

Details on how to apply can be found at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/gloucestershire-welfare-support-scheme

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GHLL update –

- Head Teacher briefings will be delivered on Tuesday 24th November at 09:15 / Monday 30th November at 13:45 and 15:45. Information about these will go out in Heads Up next week. They will be live, and will be recorded.
- To address the spike in stress in educational settings this year, the DfE have a “wellbeing for education return” program and have produced a national training pack of two webinars which have been addressed to reflect the local context. These will be available to ALL Gloucestershire schools. They can be attended live, then the recording can be used as a tool to deliver this package to your teams.
- The PSHE bulletin will be out at the end of this week and is packed full of information about support that GHLL can offer.
- Advisory teachers and GHLL team are all working and available, so please contact them if you need to 😊 Remember that support is available for children and young people, and the wellbeing of staff.

Community Social work – New Duty Line

To reiterate:

If the concern is not immediate/urgent, then practitioners can contact the Community Social Work Team on 01452 426263 – we request that practitioners inform parents when doing this as is good practice (unless doing so may place someone at increased risk of harm).

If a practitioner has an immediate safeguarding concern, then continue to call MASH selecting option 3 and confirming the immediacy of the concern.

*****You have been sent this information as you are signed up to the GSCE 'alert' system*****

***** Seeking support when you have a safeguarding concern *****



As all children return to educational settings in the context of COVID-19, we are anticipating an increase in demand from practitioners in the community who have safeguarding concerns about a child.

We want to make it simpler for practitioners to get the right support, at the right time, from the right service.

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If you have urgent safeguarding concerns for a child or young person, please continue to call MASH on 01452 426565 and select option 3.

If you work with children and families and have safeguarding concerns which are not of an urgent nature and would like a conversation, please contact the Community Social Work Team on 01452 426263.

Alternatively, if you ring 01452 426565 and select option 2, you will be transferred to the Early Help service for their response. However, where possible, please contact the Community Social Work team in the first instance.

If you are unable to get through to the Community Social Work Team straight away, please leave your name, contact details, and best time and date to call you back.

It is good practice to inform parents of your concerns and what action you are taking, unless you feel it would place somebody at increased risk of harm to do so.

If you are contacting the Community Social Work Team, they will support you to reflect on your worries, explore what needs to happen next, and complete a follow-up conversation with you at a later time and date to ensure that you feel confident in completing the agreed actions, as well as any support you may require around this.

If you are looking for information on Gloucestershire's Local Offer information can be found by visiting our directory <http://www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk>.

Further information on the Early help Graduated Pathway is also available on the directory. Information is also available by contacting the Family Information Service on 01452 427362.

FOCUS on CSE –

- I shared with you a few weeks ago that the GSCE has published the updated policy for CSE in the county
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKGLOUCESTERSHIRE/bulletins/2a36836>
- Additionally, you will hopefully have seen that in response to a series of Rapid Reviews in the county recently, the “Nobody Understands” labels for pupils have been updated to include signposts to both Hope House, Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) and Gloucestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Support.
- Themes that have arisen from the rapid reviews:
 1. Multi-agency working and information sharing had broken down. This includes safeguarding planning from multi agencies not taking place.
 2. Complex CSE issues have not been addressed, which has highlighted that effective multi-agency structures do not appear to be in place for partnership working.
 3. The risk that is posed by the offenders has not been taken into consideration.
 4. Responding appropriately to the needs of disabled children and young people, a child centred practice needs to be adopted by professionals.
 5. Recognising and addressing adolescent neglect is a clear theme amongst the rapid review meetings.

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A recent draft report submitted to GSCE shows that 700 CSE screening tools were submitted between May 2019 and May 2020. The initial breakdown the statistics contained within show that the most common age for referrals for females is 13, for males is 14 - and that males account for 33% of the tools received.

This report is in a draft format, so I can't share it with you at present, but I feel that this is a topic to begin highlighting with your teams during “Spotlight on Safeguarding” sessions within team meetings, or during discussions with your team about children and young people.

Remember, the vulnerabilities that make CYP more susceptible to abuse often don't appear in a snap, they grow roots over time.

So, your mission – should you choose to accept it (!) – is to pull together resources for discussing this topic with your team, use the CSE screening tool to familiarise your team with the topic.

Link to GSCE page with a full list of resources to support you in highlighting this topic

<https://www.gsce.org.uk/i-work-with-children-young-people-and-parents/issues-affecting-children-and-young-people/child-sexual-exploitation-and-missing-children/>

NSPCC definitions and signs of child abuse is also a useful tool to access for this topic

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1188/definitions-signs-child-abuse.pdf>

- I also spotted this! Some differing statistics from a report undertaken in Scotland, but with some good insights and food for thought <https://www.barnardos.org.uk/news/first-national-study-child-sexual-exploitation-launched-scotland>

The impact of the coronavirus pandemic on child welfare: online abuse –

NSPCC have been sharing reports on themes of child abuse with a specific focus on how the pandemic has affected CYP. The latest one in the series is focused on Online Abuse and is available here https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/2020/coronavirus-insight-briefing-online-abuse?utm_source=adestra&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=AZ3928*&utm_content=NSPCC-Learning-newsletter+Online-abuse%20+Oct20&ac (links to the previous reports on Physical Abuse and Sexual Abuse are also on this page if you have missed them).

The key themes remind us that online abuse is not a straightforward as we might initially think:

- Since the stay-at-home guidance was issued, Childline has seen an 11 per cent increase in the number of counselling sessions about online sexual abuse.
- Childline heard from some children and young people who had been groomed online. Techniques used by perpetrators include: using multiple channels to communicate with children; moving conversations from one platform to another; and taking conversations from public to private online spaces.
- Some children and young people talked to Childline about feeling lonely during the pandemic and seeking company and support online from people they have never met face-to-face. Sometimes these people used this as an opportunity to target children for sexual abuse.
- Some children talked to Childline about using online platforms for the first time during the pandemic, to communicate with friends they already knew. In some cases, they were targeted by perpetrators of sexual abuse.
- For some children and young people, experiencing online sexual abuse can leave them frightened about using online platforms. This can give them extra challenges during the pandemic, when a lot of communication is taking place online.

"I am worried about my son who has been using Fortnite and talking to someone he doesn't know via chat. We have gone online and asked the person to identify themselves but they abruptly ended the chat. I have tried to explain online grooming to my son but he doesn't seem to understand the severity of what I am saying. We don't want to remove it from him because he is home all the time because of lockdown and has nothing else to do. How can I make him understand the dangers?"

"This guy knows everything about me: my name, address, even where I go to school. I'm terrified he's going to share these things with other despicable men on the internet. I can't deal with this anymore, I want to die."

"Since lockdown all my friends want to chat on FaceTime and they don't realise how hard it is for me. I get scared that it will be like the video chats I had with men when I was younger, that someone will hack in and they'll show their boy bits on the screen. Like, I know my friends wouldn't do that, but it's so hard to ration with my brain when it panics. It's the same when I have to log in to video lessons at school. Most of my class mates think I'm just shy, but it's cos I'm terrified. I tried to look up stuff about video chat phobias and how to fix them, only I didn't find any info about what scares me. Now I feel like I'm the odd one out."

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Update from Early Help team
2. Update from Education Research in MASH
3. Update from GHLL
4. Update from CSW team
 - i) The Covid 19 emergency fund exists and parents / carers can apply if they meet criteria – professionals can help to support parents / carers with this
https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/gloucestershire-welfare-support-scheme/?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=SocialSignIn&utm_content=Children+and+Families#Emergency-Living-Fund-criteria
 - ii) Healthy Start vouchers for those aged under 4 years
https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=SocialSignIn&utm_content=Children%20and%20Families
 - iii) Support available from Gloucestershire Families Directory team
<https://www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk/kb5/gloucs/glosfamilies/home.page>
5. Update from Schoolbeat

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FINISH