

Information for Childrens Social Care COVID-19

This information should NOT be used as a substitute for local directives. All children's social care practitioners (regardless of setting) should contact their line manager for their organisation's latest guidance.

During this difficult time, we are looking at information from various sources to aid you in your day to day practice. We will be regularly updating this information as and when it becomes available to us.

Sign Up for Government Alerts

Anyone can sign up to receive email alerts from the government about their response to COVID-19.

<https://www.gov.uk/email-signup?link=/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

Coronavirus Helpline

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 4pm Saturday and Sunday

Working from Home Well

With the government asking everyone to work from home wherever possible we have found some guidance about how to do so effectively whilst taking care of mental wellbeing.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-51868894>

<https://www.britsafe.org/media/7432/supporting-remote-working-checklist.png>

<https://www.britsafe.org/media/7433/homeworking-mental-health-tips.png>

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak/while-working>

Contents

To make this resource more accessible we have divided it into sections as set out below.

Use the linked headings to go straight to the information you are looking for:

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5. [Transition \(up to age 25\)](#)
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1. Legislation

Emergency Coronavirus Bill

https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-01/0122/cbill_2019-20210122_en_1.htm

This Bill is set to become law imminently.

What will it do?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-bill-what-it-will-do>

The key points are in regards to adult social care:

All of the following duties of The Care Act 2014 will likely be downgraded to 'powers' –

- s.9 duty to assess the individual's needs;
- s.10 duty to assess carer's needs;
- s.13 duty to determine eligibility;
- s.17 duty to assess financial resources;
- ss.24-27 care planning duties;
- ss.37-38 duties relating to people moving areas; and
- ss.58-64 duties concerning child carers.

Note: The duty to meet eligible needs for care and support will also be downgraded to a power, unless failing to meet the needs would be a breach of human rights.

Note: These changes will only last the duration of the emergency.

Note: Local authorities will still be expected to do as much as they can to comply with their duties to meet needs during this period, and these amendments do not remove the duty of care they have towards an individual's risk of serious neglect or harm.

For further information see:

<https://www.communitycare.co.uk/2020/03/22/coronavirus-bill-allow-ministers-suspend-key-care-act-duties-event-pandemic-emergency/>

The Health Protection (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020

These regulations identify the role of the responsible adult, and can be helpful to understand the role of parents when out with their children.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/129/made>

2. All Children & Young People

Social Distancing and Shielding

Guidance on Social Distancing and for Vulnerable people (various languages)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people>

Guidance on Shielding and Protecting People Defined on Medical Grounds as Extremely Vulnerable from COVID-19

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

Vulnerable Children and Young People

Guidance on Vulnerable Children and Young People

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people>

Children's Commissioner

Supporting children during the coronavirus outbreak

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/2020/03/17/supporting-children-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/>

Regulation of Services

Gov.uk

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/deferring-ofsted-inspections>

Ofsted

Routine inspections suspended

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/routine-ofsted-inspections-suspended-in-response-to-coronavirus>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-covid-19-rolling-update>

3. Education

Also relevant: [Legislation](#), [All Children & Young People](#) and [Transition](#)

General Guidance

[COVID-19: guidance for educational settings](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): maintaining educational provision](#)

Social Distancing and Isolation

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance on isolation for residential educational settings](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): implementing social distancing in education and childcare settings](#)

Other information

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plans-set-out-to-support-pupils-eligible-for-free-school-meals>

[Closure of educational settings: information for parents and carers](#)

Department for Education

[Letter to Early Years and Childcare Providers in England from Vicky Ford, Minister for Children and Families \(24.4.20\)](#)

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4. Children's Homes

Also relevant: [Legislation](#) and [All Children & Young People](#)

Gov.uk

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<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-covid-19-rolling-update>

5. Transition (up to age 25)

Also relevant: [Legislation](#), [All Children & Young People](#) and [Education](#)

Youth Work

Guidance for youth workers on supporting young people through COVID-19

<https://youthworksupport.co.uk/>

Regulated Services

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-residential-care-supported-living-and-home-care-guidance/covid-19-guidance-on-residential-care-provision>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-residential-care-supported-living-and-home-care-guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-supported-living-provision>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-residential-care-supported-living-and-home-care-guidance/covid-19-guidance-on-home-care-provision>

CQC

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/news/stories/routine-inspections-suspended-response-coronavirus-outbreak>

Ethical Framework for Adult Social Care

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-ethical-framework-for-adult-social-care>

Published on 19th March 2020 this is a framework to support the planning and organisation of adult social care during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

6. Court Work

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/hmcts-telephone-and-video-hearings-during-coronavirus-outbreak>

President of the Family Division

[COVID-19: National Guidance for the Family Court 19th March 2020](#)

The Remote Access Family Court

<https://www.trixonline.co.uk/media/1448/the-remote-access-family-court.pdf>

A 32 page guidance booklet on the remote family justice system, covering:

- Proof of concept.
- Aims and objectives.
- Legislative framework: statutory basis for remote access; rules of procedure.
- Challenges: remote issuing of applications and orders; judicial access to range of communications platforms; e-bundles; witnesses; recording; use of interpreters; use of intermediaries; transparency; litigants in person; security; legal aid; publicity.
- Timescales.
- Primary remote communications platforms: MOJ/HMCTS Cloud Video Platform; judicial telephony; telephone conferencing/BT MeetMe; Skype for Business; Microsoft Teams; Zoom; Lifesize; FaceTime.
- Appendix 1: a procedural protocol modelled to a certain extent on the Civil Protocol published by the Master of the Rolls.
- Appendix 2: a protocol to ensure that where some live hearings remain contemplated, those hearings are safe.

Cafcass

Cafcass has put together the following guidance to support children and families as the situation around COVID-19 develops:

<https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/grown-ups/parents-and-carers/covid-19-guidance-for-children-and-families/>

gov.uk

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/applications-to-adjourn-civil-and-family-hearings-because-of-coronavirus-covid-19>

7. Commissioning

Local Government

<https://www.local.gov.uk/coronavirus-information-councils/social-care-provider-resilience-during-covid-19-guidance-commissioners>

8. Social Work England

Social Work England

<https://www.socialworkengland.org.uk/news/temporary-registration-of-social-workers/>

<https://www.socialworkengland.org.uk/coronavirus/>

9. Other News/Information

Government WhatsApp Information Service (25.3.20)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-coronavirus-information-service-on-whatsapp>

Youth Justice Board

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/youth-justice-board-update-on-covid-19>

BASW

<https://www.basw.co.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-basw-updates>

tri.x Procedures

Our procedure customers can be reassured that at tri.x it is business as usual, with no impact expected on update schedules.

Practitioners working from home or that do not have access to their organisation's systems can still access the procedures, as long as they have internet access.

Remember that the Resource/Documents Library or News Area can be a helpful way to share information and updates quickly with procedure users.

Reconstruct Training

The delivery of all face to face training has been suspended.

However, Reconstruct training are able to provide all of their extensive training portfolio virtually and continue to welcome new enquiries.

Reconstruct Children's Services and Consultancy

We are working with all of our customers to agree the best way to provide continued support during this period, taking into account all of the available guidance. The safety of children and young people remains our priority at this time.

Carter Brown Expert Witnesses

Given that the Courts and Local Authorities remain open, it is business as usual for Carter Brown. We are still accepting new referrals and exploring with customers the best way to undertake assessments, utilising communication tools such as Skype wherever possible.

To find out more see <https://www.carterbrownexperts.co.uk/covid-19-update/>