

We have switched to collating a summary of the guidance that has been produced during the pandemic period. The newsletter had grown to over 25 pages and it was harder to find new information as it was published. We will add new information to the newsletter weekly moving forwards but if you are looking for information or guidance to support your work at this challenging time do contact us and we will see if we can help you.

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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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.

1. Information and Guidance - COVID-19

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

Email DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

[Local authority children's services: coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - DfE](#) Collated Guidance - What local authority children's services need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

[Guidance for schools: coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - DfE](#) Collated Guidance What school leaders, teachers and school staff need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

[Early years and childcare: coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - DfE](#) Collated Guidance What early years providers need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance - NHS](#) Find guidance about coronavirus (COVID-19) for health professionals and other organisations.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Advice for Social Care Social Care in Excellence \(SCIE\)](#) Advice for councils and care providers as the government works to delay the spread of COVID-19

[ADCS Coronavirus \(Covid-19\)](#) Published Covid-19 guidance and resources for children's services

[BASW Corona Virus Updates](#) hub of information to support social workers with advice and guidance, which has been issued by Government, regulators and health professionals.

[Social Work England - Advice for Social Workers, Employers, Education Providers and Social Work Students](#) Statement and guidance on working with the government, the Chief Social Workers, other regulators and employers on the concerns raised by social workers. They are advising to please follow government advice, and exercise the common sense and flexibility around visiting and meeting others.

Safe Working, Social Distancing and Shielding

[Safe working in education, childcare and children's social care - DfE](#) Preventing and controlling infection, including the use of PPE, in education, childcare and children's social care settings during the coronavirus outbreak. **16.06.20** Updated guidance to clarify PPE advice and changes in access to testing.

[Guidance on Social Distancing and for Vulnerable people \(various languages\)](#)

[COVID-19: staying at home and away from others \(social distancing\) guidance for young people](#)



[Guidance on Shielding and Protecting People Defined on Medical Grounds as Extremely Vulnerable from COVID-19](#) now includes Easy Read version and other languages

[Guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#) now includes YouTube video Easy Read version and other languages

[Coronavirus: How to help safely](#) providing support to people who are in isolation guidance on how you can do this safely

2. Legislation and Regulation

[Coronavirus Act 2020](#)

The Act amends the Care Act 2014, and parts of the Mental Health Act 1983

[The Adoption and Children \(Coronavirus\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020](#) . The Act amends 10 sets of Regulations relating to children's social care to support services manage the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

[Changes to the adoption and children regulations: coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
Open consultation - The amendments are temporary and will expire on 25 September 2020, the DfE would like to extend a small number of these to manage future challenges. This consultation closes at 11:45pm on 5 August 2020 **NEW 16.07.20**

[The Special Educational Needs and Disability \(Coronavirus\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020](#) amend four sets of Regulations for the period 1 May to 25 September 2020 (inclusive). With one exception (the duty on a local authority annually to publish its response to certain comments on its SEND Local Offer), the amendments relate to the timings of processes relating to education, health and care (EHC) needs assessments and plans. See also [Annex A: details of the amendments to the existing Regulations](#)

[Changes to the law on education, health and care needs assessments and plans due to coronavirus](#) Guidance on temporary changes to education, health and care legislation during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. This guidance is applicable to 31 July 2020 and will be reviewed before 31 July 2020. **29.06.20** Guidance updated to reflect the issue by the Secretary of State of a further notice, relating to the month of July 2020. See also [Annex A: details of the amendments to the existing Regulations](#)

Regulation and Reporting

[Ofsted: coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rolling update](#) Ofsted guidance and information relating to coronavirus (COVID-19) for schools, early years, children's social care and further education and skills providers.

[Ofsted's autumn 2020 plans](#) for visiting schools, further education and skills, early years and children's social care providers this autumn **NEW 06.07.20**

[HMCI commentary: Our plans for the autumn](#) Amanda Spielman discusses our planned work in education and social care, as schools and colleges prepare to re-open for all pupils. **NEW 06.07.20**

[Social care inspection plans from September 2020](#) Guidance for children's social care providers about Ofsted's phased return to inspection. Registration and regulatory activities are still taking place, though more of this work is happening remotely. The interim arrangements will not start before September 2020. For local authorities, the interim period will run initially until the end of December 2020. We may extend this if measures for responding to and recovering from COVID-19 carry on into 2021. For regulated providers, the interim period will run until March 2021 (the end of the regulatory year) so that we can visit as many providers as possible under these arrangements. **NEW 06.07.20**

[Supporting local areas to prioritise and meet the needs of children and young people with SEND](#) Ofsted and CQC will visit local areas to support strengthening special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) systems in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, before returning to full inspections when it is right to do so. **NEW 09.07.20**

[Education inspection plans from September 2020](#) Guidance for education providers about Ofsted's phased return to inspection. We will be carrying out a phased return to inspection, starting with an interim period of visits during the autumn term. We intend to resume full inspections in January 2021, and are keeping the exact timing under review. **NEW 06.07.20**

[Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman resumes taking new complaints online](#) The Ombudsman is anticipating that it will receive complaints about events which have happened during the crisis over the coming weeks. The law still requires people to have complained to their local council or care provider before they bring their complaint to the Ombudsman.

[HSE RIDDOR reporting of COVID-19](#) Health and Safety Executive has set out when a report must be made under RIDDOR (The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013) in relation to COVID-19.

[COVID-19 & RIDDOR for care providers](#) Local Government Lawyer Article considering when and when not to report in relation to COVID-19 and RIDDOR

[Data protection and coronavirus information hub](#) - the Information Commissioner's Office

3. Safeguarding

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance for children's social care services](#) Advice about coronavirus (COVID-19) for local authorities and their partners to help support and protect vulnerable children. **Updated 15.07.20** Updated the amendments to regulations section of the guidance for children's social care services.

[Advice to parents and carers on keeping children safe from abuse and harm - DfE](#) Advice for parents and carers about the main risks children may be particularly vulnerable to at this time and information about available help and support **NEW 25.06.20**

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): SEND risk assessment guidance](#) This guidance document relates particularly to children and young people whose need for hands-on care or whose behaviours mean that there are more, or more nuanced, risks to be managed than for



the majority of children and young people with EHC plans **07.05.20** Updated to reflect the SEND regulations changes. Also added information about how the guidance affects children/young people with an EHC plan and a social worker and new information on how to keep staff and pupils safe and reduce the risk of infection in educational settings.

[Social Work England - Guides on ethics, risk assessments and virtual meetings](#)

- [Best Practice Guide for Ethical Response to the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Best Practice Guide for Risk Assessment and Prioritising Children and Families' Needs](#)
- [Best Practice Guide for Video/Virtual Calls/Conferencing and Virtual Home Visits](#)
- [Best Practice Guide for Assessing Online Risks, Harm and Resilience and Safeguarding of Children and Young People Online](#) **NEW**

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): keeping children safe online](#) Advice and guidance to help parents and carers to keep children safe online during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

[Safeguarding and remote education during Coronavirus \(Gov.uk\)](#) The government has published guidance to schools about managing remote learning during this critical period. The guidance considers six main areas:

- [Safeguarding pupils and teachers online](#)
- [Reporting concerns](#)
- [Communicating with parents, carers and pupils](#)
- [Virtual lessons and live streaming](#)
- [Providing pastoral care remotely](#)
- [Personal data and GDPR](#)
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[Safeguarding children and families during the COVID-19 crisis - SCIE](#) This quick guide is for practitioners working to safeguard children and families during the COVID-19 outbreak, including social workers and those working in social care settings.

4. Education and Residential

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance for schools and other educational settings – DfE Collated Guidance](#) Guidance and advice about coronavirus (COVID-19) in educational settings for staff, parents and carers, pupils and students. This page is continually being updated as the guidance is released or updated.

[Guidance for full opening: special schools and other specialist settings - DfE](#) Guidance for special educational settings to prepare for the September return of pupils with special education needs and disability (SEND). **NEW 02.07.20**

[Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak - DfE](#) What all schools will need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak from the start of the autumn term. **NEW 02.07.20**



[Local lockdowns: guidance for education and childcare settings - DfE](#) What schools, colleges, nurseries, childminders, early years and other educational settings need to do if there's a local lockdown during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. **NEW 01.07.20**

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#) Information for parents and carers about the opening of early years providers, schools and colleges, safety in schools, attendance, transport, school meals and exams **Updated 02.07.20** Added guidance for parents and carers about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term.

[Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak - DfE](#) Guidance for parents and carers of children attending community activities, holiday or after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings. **NEW 01.07.20**

[Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak- DfE](#) Protective measures for providers of community activities, holiday or after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings offering provision to children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak **NEW 01.07.20**

[Supporting children and young people with SEND as schools and colleges prepare for wider opening](#) Guidance for special schools, specialist colleges, local authorities and any other settings managing children and young people with complex special educational needs and disability (SEND) **Updated 18.06.20** Updated - changes are listed within the document under '[Main changes to previous guidance](#)'.

[Actions for FE colleges and providers during the coronavirus outbreak - DfE](#) **Updated 15.07.20** Added guidance on supporting vulnerable young people and specific advice for learners with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to 'What FE colleges and providers will need to do from the start of the 2020 autumn term'.

[Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak – DfE](#) This guidance is for providers registered with Ofsted and childminders registered with childminder agencies for children of all ages, including: nurseries and wraparound childcare, before and after school clubs, holiday clubs **Updated 02.07.20** Updated to set out a change to the protective measures in early years settings that will be effective from 20 July, removing the requirement to keep children in small consistent groups within settings (sections 2.1 and 3.3). Added new content on risk assessment (3.1), supporting staff with increased risk factors (3.2) and system of controls (3.3). Updated content on attendance at settings for those shielding, with changes to the advice effective from 1 August, and removal of content on vulnerable children since settings are open for all children (section 4). Updated content on wraparound care (5.3). Updated Early Years Foundation Stage reforms (7.6) and Reception Baseline Assessment (7.7).

[COVID-19: guidance on residential care provision](#) This guidance sets out key messages to support planning and preparation in the event of an outbreak or widespread transmission of COVID-19.

[COVID-19: guidance for supported living provision](#) guidance sets out key messages to support planning and preparation in the event of an outbreak or widespread transmission of COVID-19.



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

to support the management of children and young people living in children's homes, residential special schools and colleges, other further education (FE) providers with residential accommodation, mainstream boarding schools and university halls of residence

Updated 27.05.20 new coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance updates to support management of children and young people in residential educational settings, including boarding schools, residential special schools and children's social care.

5. Court Work

[HMCTS weekly operational summary on courts and tribunals during coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#) provides a weekly summary of the HM Courts and Tribunals Service operational position during the coronavirus pandemic

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

President of the Family Division

[The Family Court and COVID 19: The Road Ahead - President of the Family Division](#)

The document covers:

- Practical Matters: Court buildings and courtrooms; remote platforms (including steer on their use); support for lay parties; the family judiciary (including lay justices) working in court or at home; lawyer and other professionals unable to come to court; ADR;
- Wellbeing and communication: "in the present circumstances there is an enhanced need to consider well-being".
- The key message: time management – a significant change needed;
- Case management: including the COVID-19 case management checklist;
- Best practice: FJO Report Section 6;
- Conclusion: the 'can do' mentality.

See also [Local Government Lawyer article Family President predicts "very radical reduction" in amount of time that courts afford to each hearing](#)

[The Remote Access Family Court](#)

A 32 page guidance booklet on the remote family justice system.

[Court of Appeal sets out 'cardinal points' on remote hearings and approach to public law children cases](#)

The President of the Family Division said in A (Children) (Remote Hearing: Care And Placement Orders) that the Court of Appeal wanted to stress the following cardinal points "with the utmost emphasis"

[Court Of Protection Bar Association Guidance On Effective Remote Hearings](#)

Protection, the guidance covers preparing for the hearing: issues; bundles; skeletons; authorities. Shortly before the hearing and at the hearing: advocacy; conducting the hearing.

[Nuffield Family Justice Observatory](#) data analysis and evidence to help inform decision making in the family justice system includes articles on contact.

6. Other News/Information

[Young carers and young adult carers: providing care during coronavirus](#) DHSC Guidance and information for people under the age of 25 who are providing care for someone during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. **NEW 03.07.20**

[The impact of COVID-19 on mental health in England - BMA](#) paper outlining the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak on population mental health and calls for improvements to mental health services to ensure they can respond to needs of the population **NEW 08.07.20**

[Supporting Pupils' Mental Health and Wellbeing](#) National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) the Anna Freud Centre and the PSHE Association guidance for school leaders and their staff, in all phases of education, support children and young people with their mental health and wellbeing in light of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. **NEW 06.07.20**

[Teenagers falling through the gaps - Children's Commissioner](#) Covid-19 has increased many of the risks facing teenagers. Not just in terms of the epidemiological risk, but also in terms of the additional risks that the lockdown itself has created, such as an increased risk of poor mental health, exposure to domestic violence and addiction in the home, and exposure to exploitation **NEW 08.07.20**

[A Vision for recovery: Early years briefing - NCB](#) highlighting our collective concerns about the impact of COVID-19 on children under 5 and their families, and sets out recommendations for action to stop these concerns having a long-term impact that could last well into childhood and beyond. **NEW 06.07.20**

[Managing through COVID-19: the experiences of children's social care in 15 English local authorities Kings College London](#) report looking at the experiences of 15 local authority children's social care departments in England **NEW 08.07.20**

[Building a country that works for all children post Covid-19 - ADCS](#) discussion paper on the impacts of Covid-19 on children and their families, in order to put their lived experiences front and centre in national recovery planning whilst also articulating what is needed to restore and reset the support services they rely on **NEW 14.07.20**

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. Tri.x have produced a resource in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). This resource is subject to change in line with further guidance. It provides relevant information and relevant changes to key procedures and can be found [here](#)

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

Reconstruct

Reconstruct Training provide a range of virtual open courses for social work and safeguarding across children's services, adult services and partner agencies which can be found [here](#). Specially adapted for the virtual classroom environment. To find out more or discuss your needs visit www.reconstruct.co.uk or contact Leanne McGowan admin@reconstruct.co.uk

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/>

Fostertalk

FosterTalk is the Centre of Excellence UK for the Martin James Foundation and associated group providing fostering advice, practice guidance, training and independent support for both foster parents and fostering services alike. FosterTalk also delivers Fosterline, the free independent advice and support service on behalf of the Department for Education.

Fosterline is free to access for all foster parents and those thinking of becoming foster parents in England. Call 0800 040 7675 or visit the website www.fosterline.info

For more information about Coronavirus Support see [here](#). In these unprecedented times, there are lots of messages being circulated but the main one we want to express is that [You Are Not Alone](#). All of our helplines are open. We have ensured systems are in place in order for our services to continue running to best support you. These helplines will be open for our standard fostering-related concerns and queries, as well as those which have come about due to the coronavirus outbreak. . See also [Fosterline Lowdown](#) and [You're Not Home Alone](#)

Martin James Foundation

Our established and experienced teams help community-based projects build capacity where funding, guidance, training and resources are needed to promote and embed family and community-based care. We work with partners that share our vision around the world.

This practice briefing aims to support practitioners and managers when planning home visits and face-to-face interventions during the Covid-19 crisis. [COVID 19: Home Visits and Face-To-Face Interventions – Martin James Foundation](#)

