



Corona Virus Addendum 17th April 2020

In these unprecedented times we are all aware of the need for additional needs for our safeguarding procedures; we continue to abide by our current policy but are acutely aware of a need for ensuring stringent online safety for our children and support for parents to have full understanding of the safety levels required.

The whole community will continue to abide by the acceptable use of online materials outlined in our E-Safety Policy, IT User Policy and our Social Media Policy. Merton Council offers online safety advice for parents here <https://www.mertonscp.org.uk/parents/staying-safe-online/>

Support and links to guidance will be issued to parents during the closure. Should we receive any official Local Authority guidance, we will pass it on. Contact details for relevant Local Authority agencies are included in this addendum.

If parents/carers are concerned about the online safety of their child at any time, they should contact the Designated Safeguarding Leads, Mr. Lopez hcl@hsw.co.uk or Miss Partington esp@hsw.co.uk

During the school closures (or being openly minimally for keyworker children) the Chatsworth Schools DSL Viv Thompson is available on 07957207138 vthompson@chatsworthschools.com

Should you be unable to contact her for any reason please call Graeme Delaney 07774 291375 gdelaney@chatsworthschools.com

Arrangements for Children with EHCPs & Vulnerable Children

Vulnerable children and children with EHCPs will continue to be supported by the school. Information will be sent to the parents of those children

The Junior School Wellbeing Hub

The Wellbeing Hub has moved online and into a Google Classroom. Children can access advice and guidance and speak to staff in the usual way. The children have also been provided with a 'chat room' facility in the Wellbeing hub where they can chat to their school friends in a completely safe and monitored environment.

Any queries about the hub can be sent to Miss Partington - esp@hsw.co.uk

IMPORTANT CONTACT DETAILS - MERTON COUNCIL

Who to contact if you are concerned about a child during school closure.

MERTON MASH (Multi- Agency Safeguarding Hub)

UPDATED LBM COVID-19 Children's Safeguarding & Social Care services from April 2020

Latest guidance from DFE

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-childrens-social-care-services/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-authorities-on-childrens-social-care>

Merton Borough Council's COVID-19 Children's Safeguarding & Social Care Services Updated Critical Operating Model

Partners should continue to refer safeguarding concerns through the Multiagency Safeguarding Hub MASH

Phone 020 8545 4226

Email Mash@merton.gov.uk

You can also make contact with the allocated social worker for children open to Children's Social Care.

Referrers should ensure that phone and email details for yourself and the child's parents are included.

Merton Borough Council's Children's Safeguarding and Social Services have put in place interim arrangements during the current unprecedented situation.

LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer - Managing allegations against adults who work with children)

COVID- 19 UPDATE: PLEASE NOTE:

Throughout the current situation the LADO is working from home. If you require a LADO consultation, please call:

0208 545 3187

07814 642 728

If you are sending a LADO referral or your query is LADO-related, please forward to:

lado@merton.gov.uk or securely:

lado@merton.gov.uk.cjism.net

South West London CCG

South West London CCG are committed to safeguarding children and young people during the COVID pandemic; this includes supporting GP's and health providers to fulfil their statutory safeguarding functions.

NHS provider services have given assurance to the CCG that they will continue to work with partner agencies to ensure the safety and welfare of children and young people. This includes continuing to contribute to Child Protection, Child in Need and Children Looked After Processes.

Community provider services risk assess children and families and prioritise contacts with vulnerable families. This includes assessing whether direct contact is required (where necessary using full Personal Protective Equipment) or if contact can be maintained through alternative means including phone and video calls.

The NHS is aware that many families may be experiencing increased stress during the COVID pandemic. Families may be experiencing isolation and reduced support from family, friends and other organisations. This could potentially increase the risk of domestic abuse, exacerbation of mental illness and substance misuse for some households. When concerns are identified referrals will be made to the appropriate early help or Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub.

When a child is ill or injured it may be very difficult to decide if/when to call your child's GP, NHS 111 or go the Accident and Emergency Department (A&E). During the current situation and while the government is asking everyone to stay at home, it can be confusing to know what to do. The link provides guidance accessing the appropriate medical care for your child.

South West Basic Command Unit

Despite the challenges relating to the COVID 19 crisis, South West Police remain committed to protecting the most vulnerable children and adults across our four boroughs of Merton, Wandsworth, Kingston and Richmond. We are working closely with our key safeguarding partners to identify those most at risk and to respond in the most appropriate and safe way possible.

The Police Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub, Child Abuse Referral Team and Child Protection Conference Team continue to process and risk assess referrals and concerns regarding children and vulnerable adults across the BCU. Our staff have adapted well to working remotely in response to the Government's advice and we remain in close communication with our statutory safeguarding colleagues to protect vulnerable people as effectively as we can during this crisis.

Our Safeguarding Investigation teams continue their work 24/7 to bring domestic abuse, child abuse, adult abuse, serious sexual offences and hate crime offenders to justice. We continue to be fully engaged with the use of technology for continuing with multi agency safeguarding meetings to support and protect those most in need of multi-agency intervention.

South West Police Command are monitoring the impact of the COVID 19 crisis in terms of safeguarding trends and police resources closely and we remain focused on keeping South West London safe.