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Safeguarding in a time of COVID-19

The coronavirus pandemic has profoundly changed our working and, for many of us, our personal lives. During this time our Safeguarding Adult and Children functions have continued to respond to concerns about abuse and harm. Our Safeguarding Partnership work has had to evolve and we have adopted new approaches to ensure we can continue to effectively deliver our assurance and practice improvement responsibilities.

In this newsletter, we have sought to bring together information about helplines and resources that we hope will support our partnership to respond to hidden risks.

For central government information on COVID-19: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Domestic Abuse Helpline

CALL US

If you're worried about yourself or someone else

FREE PHONE

0800 923 9009

Domestic Abuse – Help and Support

Domestic Abuse Freephone helpline

We know this is a worrying and difficult time for everyone – but particularly so for adults and children living with abuse.

If you have experienced or are currently experiencing being made to feel unsafe by someone close to you, this is domestic abuse. Call us, we are here to help you.

Domestic abuse is not okay and is a crime. There is a specialist team to ensure no one is turned away and support is there for anyone in need.

Modern Slavery

Modern Slavery is a crime that is hidden from plain sight but, occurs everywhere around us. Modern slavery is happening right here in Enfield and it needs to be stopped. An advice line is available to provide information and support for those that have any concerns or general questions regarding modern slavery. If you would like to discuss your concerns please contact us on:

020 3821 1763 (Mon-Fri 10am-2pm), or you can

email us at: ModernSlavery@enfield.gov.uk



Care Act easements

There have been changes to the Care Act 2014 to help local authorities prioritise care and support during the COVID-19 outbreak if needed.

There have been no changes to statutory safeguarding duties (but emphasis on the importance of proportionate responses); the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) remains in force. The Mental Capacity Act (2005) is not impacted by the easements. Please note: Enfield has not enacted the Easements and does not anticipate doing so at present. To view the Care Act Easement Guidance please [click here](#).



Geraldine Gavin:-
Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board and Independent Scrutineer Safeguarding Children's Partnership.

Independent Scrutineer and Chair

We have been adapting the ways in which we carry out our safeguarding partnership responsibilities. Using video conferencing technology, we have held an extra-ordinary Safeguarding Adults Board, and recently held a Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive meeting. At both these meetings we focused on assuring ourselves that our safeguarding responses were effective during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the coming weeks, we will be continuing to meet with a focus on practice improvement work, ensuring we are well placed to learn lessons and improve, based on reviews and from experiences during this crisis. **If you have any feedback or suggestions about areas that might need exploring, please contact me at: SafeguardingEnfield@enfield.gov.uk**

New ways of working

Many teams have been using video conferencing software to meet online while we are social distancing.

If you have come across any excellent online training that you feel would benefit other partners, please let us know.

To contact the team at:
SafeguardingEnfield@enfield.gov.uk



Safeguarding Ambassadors

We have been working with our Enfield Youth Leaders to develop a Safeguarding Ambassador role, where young people can co-produce much of our key safeguarding partnership work. This includes scrutinizing the Safeguarding Partners' audits (Section 11) and helping us with our new website (now coming in June 2020).

Private Fostering

Private Fostering is when a child aged under 16 years (or under 18 if disabled) is cared for, on a full time basis, by an adult who is not their parent or an immediate relative, for a period of 28 days or more. This is a private arrangement made between the parent and the carer.

There is a legal requirement to notify Children's Social Care about Private Fostering arrangements.

Please use the Enfield Children's Portal to refer:

[Click here for Children's Portal](#)

If you're worried about a child...

Please let us know using the Children's Portal. [Click here for Children's Portal](#)

If you're worried about an adult at risk...

Please contact the Adult MASH team at: TheMASHteam@enfield.gov.uk or

call on 020 8379 3196

Always call 999 in an emergency