

**Update to partners on HDFT 0-19 Safeguarding arrangements, Review Health Assessments for Children who are Looked After and provision of Safeguarding Single Point of Contact 30th March 2020**

**SPOC**

Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust Safeguarding Team will continue to provide a Safeguarding SPOC service for all staff, and have taken actions to ensure this will be maintained if there is a reduction in staffing capacity, allowing the SPOC to be provided whilst staff are working at home or in self isolation.

This service has been extended to cover the hours from 8am – 8pm and will be open to the Multi Agency Assessment teams in all our contract areas, acute staff in HDFT, 0-19 staff working outside of usual hours and also to County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust. (CDDFT). We will also be providing the SPOC to 0-19 staff in City of York.

**SPOC can be reached on 01423 557788. The answer message will be updated with the contact numbers for the staff supporting the SPOC.**

**0-19 Safeguarding Contacts**

The 0-19 service will continue to prioritise safeguarding meetings including strategies, ICPCs and RCPCs and core groups, and will use digital methods to maintain representation.

Safeguarding contacts will be continued, on a face to face basis, observing social distancing or be deferred if any members of the household are symptomatic of COVID 19. In this case the contact will be via virtual methods and face to face contact rearranged following the period of isolation. If any member of staff is concerned re the safety/ welfare of a child or is denied access, they will contact the SPOC and the social worker.

Emphasis will be given to ensuring the “Voice of the Child” is heard whether contacts are virtual or face to face

The 0-19 team will undertake a minimum of weekly telephone calls to families with children subject to a safeguarding plan. The number of phone calls will be increased where this is indicated. For example, where there is known or suspected domestic abuse.

**Review Health Assessments**

Review Heath Assessments will be undertaken on a virtual basis unless a face to face contact is indicated, dependant on an assessment of cumulative risk which will include the shielding arrangements in place for foster carers with additional COVID risk factors.

HDFT 0-19 Practitioners will work with partners to develop an integrated approach to welfare calls. This response will vary according to local arrangements.

Guidance is reviewed daily with the progress of COVID 19 and new National guidance.



Suzanne Lamb

Head of Safeguarding, Lead Nurse for Public Health and Quality

Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust

30/3/20