

Safeguarding Policy Annex Z



Community Inclusive Trust – Mainstream Primary Schools

For use during partial of complete closure of schools due to national pandemic

This document is based on the latest documentation as found of the DfE updates webpage - <https://www.gov.uk/government/latest?departments%5B%5D=department-for-education>

Definition of Vulnerable Children:

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

Those who have a social worker include children who have a child protection plan and those who are looked after by the local authority. A child may also be deemed to be vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

Potential Issues

This section describes the potential issues during the national pandemic and the way in which mainstream schools within the Trust will respond:

1. Not all Children with EHCs are attending:

The DfE guidance is clear that children with EHCs can “safely have their needs met at home”. Schools within CIT will carry out a risk assessment to decide if this is the case. The risk assessment will consider the following:

- The potential health risks to the individual from COVID-19, bearing in mind any underlying health conditions. This must be on an individual basis with advice from an appropriate health professional where required
- The risk to the individual if some or all elements of their EHC plan cannot be delivered at all, and the risk if they cannot be delivered in the normal manner or in the usual setting
- The ability of the individual’s parents or home to ensure their health and care needs can be met safely
- The potential impact to the individual’s wellbeing of changes to routine or the way in which provision is delivered

Should the risk assessment state that a child cannot have their needs met at home, then the school will expect the child to attend school each day. If a child should be attending school (as based on the risk assessment) and is absent then the school will follow usual safeguarding procedures. In the first instance the school will contact the family/carers to discuss the situation. Following this conversation, should concerns remain, the school will contact social care for advice.

2. Vulnerable children currently known to social services are not attending:

In this instance the DSL or Deputy DSL should contact the named social worker to discuss the correct response. Where possible emails to confirm the actions agreed by each party should be exchanged. This should also be recorded on the schools electronic safeguarding system (CPOMS or My Concern).

3. Those children who do not have a social worker but are in the process of being assessed:

The latest guidance states

A child may also be deemed to be vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

Children meeting this criteria should have the same provision as those who already have a social worker.

4. Vulnerable pupils or pupils with EHCs who are self-isolating:

In this case the DSL/Deputy DSL should contact the named social worker on the first day of the isolation. Where a child is undergoing an assessment of need or already has social services involvement the social care team should be informed via the usual channels.

The DSL or deputy DSL should contact these families at least 2 times a week during the isolation via phone in order to check that the family has the support that it needs. The isolation should last for 14 days.

5. Pupils who are vulnerable or have EHCs who also have an underlying health condition:

Those pupils with an EHC and an underlying health condition will have been risk assessed and a decision made in order to ensure that the pupils is safe.

Should a child have a social worker (this may be the case for pupils with EHCs) then the risk assessment should be undertaken in discussion with the social worker. This should be recorded in the same way as outlined in point 2.

6. When transport is not available for a pupil who should be attending school as they are vulnerable

Again the attached social worker should be contacted and the decision reached recorded as stated in point 2. All reasonable considerations for transport should have been considered.

7. Maintaining attendance records for vulnerable pupils

All mainstream schools within the Trust will record absences using the government's online system. They will contact any vulnerable children who are not in attendance on the first day of absence in line with the schools attendance policy. The social worker will be contacted should the child still be absent following the phone call. This will be recorded as in point 2.

8. Children whose Parents/Carers have said they will attend and then don't

Each school will contact the Parent/Carer of any child, who was registered to attend school, on the first day of absence. For non-vulnerable children the reason for the change should be recorded on the school's electronic safeguarding system. Vulnerable pupils' absence should follow the protocols already set out in this document.

9. Children who rely on free schools meals

Each school will initially use local arrangements to ensure that all pupils eligible for free school meals receive a meal each day or a voucher each week (or at other timely intervals) in order to maintain this provision. Once the government has produced a national voucher scheme then the schools will transition to this based on the length of time for which previous vouchers have been issued.

10. When the DSL or other DSL level staff are absent

KCSIE 2018 shows that schools can accommodate this by ensuring that the DSL or other DSL qualified staff are immediately available on the phone should they not be present at the school site in person. School will hold a briefing each morning to state (for that day) who is:

- DSL – including phone number if needed
- Leader on site
- First aider
- Fire procedures for the day

This annex will be updated based on government guidance and shared with all Mainstream Headteachers via email immediately and then discussed at the next Headteacher's meeting (currently daily at 10am). It can also be adapted to ensure that it fits with each individual school's needs. Any adaptations must be checked with the Primary Lead before sharing with staff.