

**COVID-19:**  
**Interim additional arrangements for**  
**Safeguarding and Child Protection**

Author:	Julie Noble//Chris Major
Policy cycle:	As required
Policy Review date:	As required
Approved by:	Emergency implementation
Date of approval:	1 April 2020
Date of next review:	As required
Approved by chair:	In process

**1.Context**

From 20th March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response - who absolutely need to attend. Schools and all childcare providers were asked to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

This addendum of the Longdendale High School Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

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## Key contacts

Role	Name	Contact number	E mail
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Julie Noble	01457 764006	j.noble@lhs.aspireplus.org.uk
Deputy Safeguarding Lead	Jenny Willis	01457 764006	j.willis@lhs.aspireplus.org.uk
DSL Team Deputy Headteacher	Chris Major	01457 764006	c.major@lhs.aspireplus.org.uk
DSL Team Deputy Headteacher	Sally Ayre	01457 764006	s.ayre@lhs.aspireplus.org.uk
Headteacher	Andrea Jones	01457 764006	a.jones@lhs.aspireplus.org.uk
Chair of Governors	Tracey Saltsman	01457 764006	Through the school.

## 2. 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.

Those with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with parents and the Local Authority if required and, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school or college place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. Many children and young people with EHC can remain safely at home.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability. Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and Deputy) know who our most vulnerable children are. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support. The decision will be taken in the best interests of the individual child.

Longdendale High School will continue to work with and support children's Social Workers to help protect vulnerable children. This includes working with and supporting children's social workers and the Local Authority Virtual School Head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children. The lead person for this is: Julie Noble DSL.

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend an education setting, provided they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at risk.

In circumstances where a parent does not want to bring their child to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, the Social Worker and Longdendale High School will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, Longdendale High School or the Social Worker will talk through any issues raised with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Longdendale High School will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

Where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive enhanced pastoral support in school, they will ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person. Details of this communication will be recorded on CURA. The communication plans may include; E mail contact via the school E mail system, phone contact via the parent/carer,

Longdendale High School and its DSL will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan. The plan will be reviewed regularly (at least once a fortnight) and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate. The school will share safeguarding messages on its website. Longdendale High School recognises that school is a protective factor for children and young people, and the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers.

Longdendale High School has established a tiered system to aid with the grouping of students who are considered in some way as vulnerable. Each tier has an associated level of risk and response from the school in order to mitigate the assessment. Each child who is assigned to each tier has a named contact within school who will make contact at given intervals.

### **3. Attendance monitoring**

Local Authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance. Longdendale High School DSL and Social Workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school – Longdendale High School will then follow up on any learner that was expected to attend but does not.

Longdendale High School will also follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their child(ren) and the child(ren) subsequently do not attend. Any concerns will be shared with the LA Officer assigned to the school on the day by the Headteacher or assigned member of staff.

How this will look in school:

To support the above, Longdendale High School will, when communicating with parents/carers and carers, confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available. In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues the Designated Safeguarding Team will notify their social worker.

If Longdendale High School has any children in attendance (e.g. because they are vulnerable or their parent(s) / carers are critical workers) we will submit the daily attendance sheet to the DfE by 12

noon.<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-attendance-recording-for-educational-settings>

If the school has closed, we will complete the return once as requested by the DfE.

#### **4. Designated Safeguarding Lead**

Longdendale High School has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Julie Noble

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Jenny Willis

Within the staffing rota a trained member of the Designated Safeguarding Team will be available on site. In the extreme event of this not being possible, a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone or online video - for example when working from home. Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a senior leader will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

This might include updating and managing access to child protection online management system, CURA and liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and as required liaising with children's Social Workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments at the school or college. It is important that all Longdendale High School staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy).

On each day staff on site will be made aware of who that person is and how to speak to them. The DSL will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

#### **5. Reporting a concern**

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy, this includes making a report via CURA, which can be done remotely. In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access their CURA from home, they should email the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Headteacher and the Deputy Head for Inclusion. This will ensure that the concern is received. Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and

without delay. Once a concern is logged on CURA, staff will then send an Email to the DSL, Headteacher and Deputy Head for Inclusion.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should report to the Headteacher verbally and then follow up via an email to the Headteacher.

Concerns about the Headteacher should be directed to:

Chair of Governors: Tracey Saltsman.

The Multi-Academy Trust will continue to offer support in the process of managing allegations.

## **6. Safeguarding Training and induction**

DSL training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID 19 virus. For the period COVID-19 measures are in place, a DSL (or deputy) who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or deputy) even if they miss their refresher training.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part one of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). The DSL will communicate with staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child. Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter Longdendale High School, they will continue to be provided with a Safeguarding induction.

If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to our school, we will take into account the DfE supplementary guidance on safeguarding children during the COVID-19 pandemic and will accept portability as long as the current employer confirms in writing that:-

- the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check
- there are no known concerns about the individual's suitability to work with children
- there is no ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to that individual.

For movement within the Trust, schools should seek assurance from the school DSL that the member of staff has received appropriate safeguarding training. Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of the receiving setting's child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

## **7. Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff**

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children. When recruiting new staff, Longdendale High School will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) (KCSIE) and our Longdendale Safeworking document.

In response to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has made changes to its guidance on standard and enhanced DBS identification checking to minimise the need for face-to-face contact.

Where Longdendale High School utilise volunteers, we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in paragraphs 167 to 172 of KCSIE. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

Longdendale High School will continue to follow the legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult. Full details can be found at paragraph 163 of KCSIE. Longdendale High School will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 166 of KCSIE and the TRA's 'Teacher misconduct advice for making a referral. During the COVID-19 period all referrals should be made by emailing [Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk](mailto:Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk)

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current National emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any school is aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in the school or college, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, Longdendale High School will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

## **8. Online safety in schools**

Longdendale High School will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the continuing use and monitoring of our online filtering system.

Where learners are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

During this time it is highly likely that children will be spending more time online at home and that this time may be less supervised than might normally be the case. All learners have received lessons in school which cover E-Safety and we would ask that parents remain vigilant about the risks that exist in the virtual world. Parents may wish to raise concerns of a safeguarding nature with the school but should also be aware that the Child Online Exploitation and Protection group will also take your concerns at any time of day or night. Please visit [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk) for further details.

## **9. Children and online safety away from school**

When supporting children not in school, Longdendale High School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people.

It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt in line with the Child Protection Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to Children's Social Care and as required, the police. Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in our safe working document and advice set out by the Headteacher.

Longdendale High School will ensure any use of online learning tools and system is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Teachers at Longdendale High School are aware of this in setting expectations of learners' work where they are at home. Longdendale High School will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them. This will be bespoke to each child and recorded on CURA should any concerns arise.

### **10. Supporting children in school**

Longdendale High School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students. Longdendale High School will continue to be a safe space for all learners to attend and flourish. The Headteacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to learner ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

Longdendale High School will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement social distancing and continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID19. Longdendale High School will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them. This will be bespoke to each child and recorded on CURA where there are any concerns.

Where any member of Longdendale High School staff has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – they will be discussed immediately with the Headteacher.

### **11. Peer on Peer Abuse**

Longdendale High School recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims. Where a school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, they will follow the principles as set out in part five of KCSIE and of those outlined within of the Child Protection Policy. The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multiagency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person. Concerns and actions will be recorded on CURA and appropriate referrals made.



## 12. Sources of support

<b>Helpline</b>		<b>Helpline</b>	
<b>Samaritans</b> 116 123 This number is free to call 24 hours a day Papyrus Helpline ; prevention of suicide 0800 068 4141		<b>Childline</b> 0800 1111 Free confidential advice. This number is free to call 24 hours a day	
<b>Websites</b>		<b>Helpline</b>	
www.kooth.com Free, safe and anonymous online support for young people <a href="http://www.togmind.org">www.togmind.org</a> – MIND charity youngminds.org.uk healthyyoungmindspenine.nhs.uk		<b>NSPCC</b> 08088005000 Advice and guidance for adults  Change Grow Live ; Drugs/Alcohol Teens/adults ; 0161 672 9420	
<b>Food banks</b>		<b>Helpline</b>	
<b>Hollingworth Food Bank</b> St May's Hollingworth	<b>Tameside South &amp; Longdendale Food Bank</b> Hattersley Baptist Church, Melandra Crescent, Hyde, SK14 3RB	<b>Domestic abuse helpline</b> 08082000247 Support for women and children Pennyappeal.org  Domestic Abuse helpline 0808 802 3333	
<b>Phone apps</b>		<b>Helpline</b>	
www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/for-me/ Headspace Calmzone <a href="http://www.meetwo.co.uk">www.meetwo.co.uk</a> calmharm ; app SAM anxiety app DAYLIO low mood app		<b>Early Help Access Point</b> 0161 342 4260 Information and advice for families in Tameside	
<b>Counselling ; phone/zoom</b>		<b>Websites</b>	
The Talk Shop – The Antony Seddon Centre 0161 376 4439 <a href="http://www.tasfund.org.uk/talk-shop-children-young-people">www.tasfund.org.uk/talk-shop-children-young-people</a> 'Off The Record ' Phone counselling 0161 355 3553		www.mind.org.uk www.thinkuknow.co.uk www.childmind.org.uk	
<b>Bereavement support</b>		<b>Online safety support</b>	
www.winstonswish.org <a href="http://www.childbereavementuk.org">www.childbereavementuk.org</a> <a href="http://www.cruse.org.uk">www.cruse.org.uk</a> www.nhs.uk		<a href="http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk">www.thinkuknow.co.uk</a> CEOP – online child protection www.childnet.com	