

WSSCP Email Bulletin March 2020



COVID-19

With advice changing daily it is important to adhere to the latest advice from the Government. To read more about social distancing, what to do if you have symptoms and other useful and informative information click on the link below

[Covid-19 - Advice and Information](#)

The situation relating to this pandemic has obviously had an impact on the WSSCP Training Programme and all training is currently suspended until further. We will naturally be governed by advice from the Government so please keep an eye on the website by clicking on this link [Useful information about COVID-19](#)



RESOURCES

The WSSCP **Neglect** Working Group have completed some vital work to support the children and young people's workforce in identifying and tackling neglect.

The WSSCP strategy, tools and resources are for children's social care staff, family support workers, early help workers, schools, community and acute health practitioners, early years workers, police and any other practitioner or manager who is responsible for supporting vulnerable families, where there are signs of emerging or chronic neglect.



Resources

To ensure that workers are aware of the **new strategy and tools**, seven events were planned around the County, all of which we received an excellent response to. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing situation regarding COVID-19 three events had to be cancelled. Feedback from those workers who attended the first 4 events was extremely positive and they valued the opportunities provided to use the new tools during the session. Feedback included that they felt the new tools would be really useful in helping them in their everyday safeguarding work, with some professionals saying that the new tools and resources would support their current conversations with parents and children and enable them to analyse the information they already had and have a conversation about next steps to take.



You can find the mandatory tools and resources for Children's Social Care and additional tools for the Wider Children's Workforce on the website using the links below. Here you will also find the Neglect Strategy and other information designed to support your work.

We are currently working on new ways to bring you this information in a more interactive way online due to COVID-19, so watch this space for more information on how to access this.

[WSSCP Neglect Strategy 2020-2023](#)

[Tool and Resources to Support All Workers with Neglect](#)
[Other Useful Information on Neglect](#)



The Government published their 1st Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Report on 4th March 2020. This document provides patterns in practice, key themes and messages relating to Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. You can read this report by clicking on the link below: [Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Annual Report 2018-2019](#)



The WSSCP have been working hard to launch ICON across West Sussex. An original and then rescheduled Launch Event had to unfortunately be postponed due to COVID-19, however it is important to ensure workers and parents have access to this really key information about keeping babies safe, particularly during this time where families are all spending a lot more time together due to having to stay at home. This can sometimes cause tensions in a family where tempers can increase, and families often struggle to cope with a crying baby for sometimes long periods of time.



Abusive Head Trauma (AHT), previously known as Shaken Baby Syndrome, is a devastating form of child abuse.

The ICON Programme is a preventative programme, based around helping parents cope with a crying baby. The word 'ICON' represents the following message:

- I – Infant crying is normal**
- C – Comforting methods can sometimes soothe the baby**
- O – It's OK to walk away**
- N – Never, ever shake a baby**

There is lots of useful information on the WSSCP website which you can view by clicking on using the links below:

- [ICON-LEAFLET](#)
- [The Crying Curve](#)
- [ICON Factsheet](#)
- [ICON Short Video – Talk to Other Dads – You are not alone](#)
- [Link to the ICON Website](#)

If you have access to families with a baby or are working with expectant parents, please share this information with them. The ICON Factsheet can also be shared with colleagues and team members, and the short video aimed at Dads and male carers is an excellent way to share this information.

The Crying Curve is a particularly visual tool to support your conversations about a crying baby; what is normal in relation to their age and development and to show that baby is not crying simply to annoy or "wind up" the parent.

If you are currently linking with families via emails or through your organisation's website or Twitter feed, then why not simply copy these links by cutting and pasting them to your newsletters or messages.



Modern Slavery Information:

Please promote across your respective services and teams that the digitalised National Referral Mechanism (NRM) form should now only be used by all First Responders to submit NRM *and* Duty to Notify referrals via the link below;

<https://www.modernslavery.gov.uk/start>

First responders in the UK can use this service to:

- refer potential victims of any age to the National Referral Mechanism
- help potential victims receive support and medical care
- notify the Home Office of potential victims (Duty to Notify)

Also please do refer to the safeguarding thresholds and referral guidance (see p.15 for Modern Slavery) [West Sussex County Council Safeguarding Thresholds \(Safeguarding Adults Board\)](#)

If you have any questions or want to find out more about Modern Slavery you can contact Guy Pace at Guy.Pace@westsussex.gov.uk



How much do you know about **private fostering**?

A private fostering arrangement is when a child or young person aged under 16 years (under 18 if the child is disabled), is living away from home for 28 days or more or is being cared for by an adult who is **NOT** their:

- Parent
- Grandparent
- Person with parental responsibility
- Stepparent (by marriage or civil partnership)
- Aunt
- Uncle
- Sister
- Brother

We have just updated our Private Fostering page on the WSSCP website and a Bitesize Briefing is also available. Click on the links below to find out more.

- [Information about Private Fostering](#)
- [Bitesize Briefing - Private Fostering](#)



Pan Sussex Procedures Update

Please note the Information Technology Procedure within the Pan Sussex Procedures has been reviewed and updated. The following minor changes have been made:

1. Link to a briefing on [Police action in response to youth produced sexual imagery \(sexting\)](#)

2. Changes to language around unlawful material & clarification of 'images':

For the purposes of child protection, abusive images of children can be divided into:

- Those which are unlawful (indecent or prohibited images of children) and*
- Material, which although lawful, would give cause for concern and indicate that the person possessing it may pose a risk to children (also referred to as indicative images)*
- Abusive images material may be found in the possession of those who use it for personal use or distribute to others and this may include distribution to children. They may also be used as part of the grooming process with children during online contact with perpetrators.*

3. A new paragraph referencing Section 62 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, regarding offence of possession of a prohibited image of a child.

4. Inclusion of how technology can be used for the exploitation of children and reminder to make a referral to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) if there are suspicions that a child is being exploited and is a victim of modern slavery

To read this procedure in full click on the link below:

[Updated Information Technology Procedure](#)

Please ensure your staff are made aware of the updated changes and that any training is updated, where appropriate.

Ways to stay up to date!

There are several ways to keep your knowledge up to date, particularly as face to face training is not currently available due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation. These can include;

[Weekly Email Alerts from the NSPCC](#)

[NSPCC Learning Podcast](#)

[WSSCP Monthly Email Bulletin](#)

[Follow the WSSCP on Twitter](#)

[National Institute for Health and Care Excellence \(NICE\) Updates](#)

A graphic consisting of a white cloud shape with a black outline, set against a black background. Inside the cloud, the words 'Keep up to date' are written in a purple, sans-serif font.



If you have any information you would like to share in any future editions of this email bulleting please do not hesitate to contact me directly at Lucy.Short@westsussex.gov.uk

Kind Regards,

Lucy



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