

**Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board**  
**Newsletter Issue 33: Spring 2020**



**Welcome to the  
Spring edition of  
the OSCB  
newsletter.**

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## 1. Introduction from the OSCB Chair

As ever it is my honour and privilege to introduce you to the Spring edition of the OSCB newsletter. However, this is the most difficult context that I have ever had to write the introduction and, may be, the hardest context I will ever write the introduction in.



I do want to make some comments regarding the Coronavirus, but I would like to firstly comment on some other matters. It seems a long time ago, but we had a very successful conference on 12th March regarding the Voice of the Child. I am indebted to the OSCB Team, and Carole and Kay in particular, for putting together such a great programme, securing Lemn Sissay as keynote speaker, but most of all for just how many children and young people we heard from, and were actively involved in the Conference.

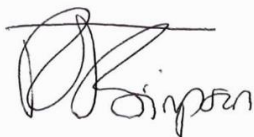
We also recently had the annual challenge day for those organisations who complete the Safeguarding Self-Assessment. Once again, we were impressed by the preparation and evidence organisations were able to provide, as well as their openness to challenge.

In terms of Coronavirus, can I firstly acknowledge the massive impact that it is having on you out there. This impact is not just in your work, where you will all be working differently and working hard to maintain as many of the protective and supportive services you all provide, but also in your personal lives. I never lose sight that in addition to the job that you do you are also spouses and partners, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters of others, many of which you will not be seeing right now and many of which you will be worried and concerned about. I want you to know that you are in my thoughts, in both your work and domestic contexts.

I have been so impressed at the speed in which the agencies have responded to the current crisis, be that coming up with innovative ways of providing training, ways to undertake Child Protection Conferences virtually and to plan for the multi-faceted medical care that we will need to provide. Obviously, it is vital that in providing these critical services, we all play our part in the reduction of the spread of the virus and I would urge you all to take personal responsibility for playing your part in this national initiative.

I will close by wishing you all well, urge you to keep yourselves and others safe.

Best wishes



Chair of Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board

## 2. Childline

During these unprecedented times, children will likely be feeling anxious, scared and confused and may be worrying about vulnerable friends and/or family members, about schools being closed or returning to school, and about things they have seen or heard on TV or online.

Like lots of organisations in the UK, Childline has been affected by the coronavirus and government advice about keeping people safe, with volunteers and staff unable to work their shifts as usual.

Children and young people **can** continue to access support, information and advice but some changes have been made to how this works currently. **For now, children and young people can only speak to a Childline counsellor online or on the phone from 9am – midnight.** To make sure they can answer everyone who's waiting, children and young people won't be able to join the queue for a 1-2-1 chat after 10:30pm. After 10:30pm, they will still be able to call Childline for free on 0800 1111 up until midnight and can also send a message from their locker any time, but messages won't be able to be read straight away.

The Childline website will still be available 24 hours a day and children and young people can keep getting support from other young people on the message boards and can still use things like your mood journal.

For further information and for access to advice and resources, please see the [Childline website](#)

## 3. Mental Health Awareness Week

Mental Health Awareness Week runs from 18-24 May 2020 and this year's theme is kindness.

Hosted by the Mental Health Foundation, kindness was chosen as this year's theme because it strengthens relationships, develops community and deepens solidarity, and as has been seen all over the world, kindness is prevailing in these uncertain times. We have learnt that amid the fear, there is also community, support and hope.

The added benefit of helping others is that it is good for our own mental health and wellbeing. It can help reduce stress and improve your emotional wellbeing.

**During Mental Health Awareness Week, the Mental Health Foundation are asking you to do three things:**

- Reflect on an act of kindness. Share your stories and pictures (with permission) of kindness during the week using **#KindnessMatters** and **#MentalHealthAwarenessWeek**
- Use their resources in your family, school, workplace and community to join with thousands in practising acts of kindness to yourself and others during the week
- Share your ideas on how you think we could build a kinder society that would support our mental health using **#KindnessMatters** and **#MentalHealthAwarenessWeek**

You can tag them across social media:

Facebook: [@mentalhealthfoundation](#)

Twitter: [@mentalhealth](#)

Instagram: [@mentalhealthfoundation](#)

Visit the [Mental Health Foundation website](#) to download a free supporter pack and access loads of tips, resources and suggestions on how to get involved.

## 4. OSCB Business Unit Update

The current outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) presents new challenges for everyone working with children, young people and families. We are looking at how we can best support you in your work during this time. We will be regularly highlighting helpful information and resources through our website and Twitter account as the situation progresses, please keep an eye out for news and Tweets at [www.oscb.org.uk](http://www.oscb.org.uk)

### COVID-19: Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) Executive Group Briefing

As you are all aware, the current situation is a challenge to all of our organisations and there are significant changes to the way we work and deliver our services, in particular Statutory Safeguarding duties and responsibilities to safeguard children in Oxfordshire.

The attached briefing document sets out the interim arrangements in place. This briefing note is based on current circumstances and arrangements, you will appreciate that this will inevitably be subject to change over the coming weeks, [MASA Briefing 07-04-20](#). Please disseminate the attached briefing within your agencies as appropriate.

### Training update

The Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board have postponed all face to face training courses until further notice due to the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

As a Board, we understand that this may lead to a situation where practitioners, paid or unpaid, working with children and young people are without the necessary training that is needed to adhere to national and local requirements to continue to have face to face contact with children and young people.

The OSCB is therefore providing the guidance below as a temporary measure in these extraordinary circumstances. This guidance will be in place for the Generalist, Advanced and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) mandatory courses only until face to face core safeguarding training is again being provided.

### [Temporary Guidance on training requirements](#)

The OSCB training team have been working hard to support front line practitioners during the current COVID-19 pandemic. There are currently 3 core safeguarding eLearning courses

available in the place of face to face courses, including a 'Level 3 - Advanced / Designated Safeguarding Lead' course for new DSLs or for those whose training certificate has expired.

We are very excited to announce that the second updated eLearning course, '**Level 1: Introduction to Safeguarding 2020**' will be going live on **Wednesday 27th May 2020 at 10:00am**.

This course is for anyone who may come into contact with children, young people and/or their families for short periods of time during the course of their work and is the recommended course for volunteers.

The content has been reviewed by colleagues from [Oxfordshire All In](#), the central hub for Community Support Groups and Organisations responding to the COVID-19 Crisis in Oxfordshire, and [Oxfordshire Youth](#), a Voluntary and Community Youth Sector organisation with over 70 years of experience. We believe that this overview has enabled us to ensure that we are delivering the most useful and up to date information that we can.

There is a strong commitment in all OSCB training to offer practitioners and training delegates with local knowledge, information and contact details for Oxfordshire, and this course delivers on all three aspects.

**We also want to make training delegates aware that the current 'Level 1 course' will no longer be available from the above date.** This means that everyone who is currently in the process of completing the course **must do so** by the **10:00am deadline** as they will not be able to do so after this has passed.

However, if you have already completed the current Level 1 course, you will still be able to download your certificate after this date and it will still be valid.

The '**Level 2 – Awareness of Abuse and Neglect 2020**' course is also currently being updated and will be launched on **Wednesday 3rd June 2020 at 10:00am**.

This e-learning course is aimed at any individual who works with children, young people and/or their families for long periods of time during the course of their work. It will give you a basic awareness of child abuse and neglect. It is at an equivalent level to the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board's generalist course which is run as a face-to-face multi agency event. However, anyone working with children and their families for 3 hours a month or more should attend the face-to-face course, when it is available. The aim of this e-learning course is for induction purposes, in cases where there is a delay before attending the face to face multi agency course or for those people who have completed the 'Introduction to Safeguarding' course and wish to extend their knowledge.

**Again, we would like to make training delegates aware that the current 'Level 2 course' will no longer be available from the 3rd June date.** This means that everyone who is currently in the process of completing the course **must do so** by the **10:00am deadline** as they will not be able to do so after this has passed.

Since the 1st of April, 909 new delegates have signed up to the training system and at least 320 delegates have completed the Level 3 e-learning course.

The next exciting development will be during early July 2020, when we will be introducing a webinar alternative for those practitioners who require the 'Level 2 – Generalist Safeguarding' training course. Look out for further announcements on this on the OSCB website.

### **Campaign: Domestic Abuse and Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

Domestic Abuse can affect anybody. The current need for household isolation and social distancing due to Covid-19 is having a direct impact on the people and families experiencing domestic abuse. Abuse may also be escalating with the increase in stress and uncertainty in households, and challenges in safely accessing help and support.

Reports across the globe have shown that incidents of domestic abuse increased significantly following the outbreak, and it's more important than ever that we stay connected and take care of ourselves, our loved ones, and our communities.

**How can you help?** It is crucial that people who need support know that services are there and able to help and support them. **If it's safe to do so**, please do share information about domestic abuse on social media, including routes to help and support, maintain contact via video call if possible, and if you're worried about somebody in an emergency always call 999.

- [Help and support during the Covid-19 outbreak](#)  
This provides information around a range of help and support services, including specialist domestic abuse services, mental health support, and parenting. This is to be included in deliveries and care packages wherever possible, and in any contact we have through services and volunteers. Please also share this digitally and on social media
- [Relationship help and support during the Covid-19 outbreak](#)  
This document provides information about domestic abuse and routes to specialist support across Oxfordshire. This document is to be shared **only when it is safe to do so**. For example, broadly across social media, or in direct contact only when somebody experiencing abuse has the opportunity to keep this information hidden from the person or people causing them harm. If perpetrators of domestic abuse are aware of this information the risk (of serious harm and homicide) can increase significantly. However, safely getting this information to those that need it has the potential to save lives
- Women's Aid have published [COVID-19/Coronavirus: Safety Advice for Survivors](#) which can also be shared.
- Safe Lives have published information and resources on their website, including guidance from [Surviving Economic Abuse](#) on economic abuse while self-isolating, as well as practical issues including benefits and sick pay. There is also a parent pack full of useful ideas for activities to do with children, links to educational resources, and

helpful advice for helping children to talk about their worries. These can be accessed at <http://safelives.org.uk/news-views/domestic-abuse-and-covid-19>

Since movement restrictions began on 23 March, a domestic abuse Covid-19 multi-agency group has been meeting regularly to ensure that services are in place to meet the current and changing needs of people in Oxfordshire. The group has focused on:

- Ensuring services can offer help using more telephone or online support
- Monitoring referrals, incidents and disclosures across all agencies
- Developing targeted information to raise awareness of domestic abuse and tell people how to get help

Full details of the support and guidance available have now been published and can be found here:

- [Domestic Abuse Campaign and Support](#)

### **Revised Child Exploitation Pathway online now**

Following feedback and discussion at the Child Exploitation briefings in the Summer and the OSCB Learning Event in November, the Safeguarding Children at Risk of Exploitation Partnership Response document and Screening Tool have been updated.

The screening tool is designed to help identify possible risks of exploitation and should be used where there are such concerns about any child/ren. It is an initial screening tool and not a risk assessment.

Both documents are now accessible via the [OSCB Multi-Agency Toolkit webpage](#).

## **5. OSCB Learning and Improvement**

### **OSCB Annual Conference: Understanding My World**



On 12<sup>th</sup> March we welcomed around 200 practitioners, children and young people to the Kings Centre for our annual conference focused on hearing children's voices to better understand their lived experience.

The event was opened by Autumn Walsh from the Children in Care Council (CiCC) and Voice of Oxfordshire Youth (VOXY), who read her powerful poem titled 'Everything Happens for a Reason', in which Autumn reflects on her experiences, challenges and strengths.

Attendees heard from children and young people from CiCC and VOXY, Children Heard and Seen and Step Out Safer Together Youth Ambassadors, along with speakers from Children's Social Care, Autism Family Support, Mind of My Own, the Clinical Commissioning Group, Thames Valley Police, Youth Justice Service and keynote speaker Lemn Sissay.

All those who attended should now have received an evaluation form to complete. The OSCB will be collating these and in due course will send out the slides from the day. If you attended but have not yet received the evaluation form, please contact [Carole.Kinnell@Oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Carole.Kinnell@Oxfordshire.gov.uk)

A huge thank you to all the incredible children and young people who joined us, for their openness, honesty and for challenging us all. Thanks also to our practitioner speakers, to Lemn Sissay, our board members and training pool that facilitated discussion and activities, and to all of those who attended, engaged and shared their knowledge and experience with colleagues from across agencies on their tables. The success of the conference is down to you all and we hope to see you all at next year's conference.

## 6. Advocacy Services

### NYAS (National Youth Advocacy Service)



NYAS aims to ensure that the voice of children and young people can be heard in all matters affecting them. We provide the following services to Young People within Oxfordshire:

- Advocacy for children in care and those in need – including children subject to child protection plans, care leavers, children and young people with disabilities.
- The provision of independent visitors for children in care.

Young People can contact the free phone helpline directly or professionals can do so on their behalf. There is no age restriction for Young People to access the service.

If a professional wants to make a referral directly, this can also be done via the online Professional Referral form on the front page of the NYAS website.

### Contact Details

Telephone: **0808 808 1001** (Freephone helpline)

Website: [www.nyas.net](http://www.nyas.net)

E mail: [help@nyas.net](mailto:help@nyas.net)

Address: **NYAS Head Office, Tower House, 1 Tower Road, Birkenhead, Wirral, CH41 1FF**

### Looked After Minds campaign

NYAS' Looked After Minds campaign is calling for the Governments of England and Wales to take urgent action to protect the mental health and well-being of care experienced children



and young people. We need to move away from a mental health system that requires its Patients to be in crisis, towards one that is truly proactive: advocating on behalf of care experienced children and young people; supporting them through crucial times such as entering adulthood; addressing trauma at the earliest opportunity; and striving for childhoods that are full of positive experiences and love.

Mental health services and support in the UK must cope with pressures, overcome obstacles and meet real needs, but always in a way that preserves our commitment as a country to children's rights. That is the basis of the principles set out in the Looked After Minds campaign. To find out more about our campaign visit [www.nyas.net/campaigns/looked after minds](http://www.nyas.net/campaigns/looked-after-minds)

### Can you or someone you know help?

NYAS are currently recruiting **Volunteer Independent Visitors** within Oxfordshire for children and young people within the looked after system. Please visit our website <http://www.nyas.net/volunteering> for further information and application packs.



POhWER works in partnership with NYAS to deliver the Oxfordshire Advocacy Hub, delivering a range of statutory and non-statutory advocacy services to the residents of Oxfordshire. We support vulnerable adults to speak up and be heard.

Our services include:

- Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA)

including Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and Relevant Person's Paid Representative Service (RPPR)

- Independent Mental Health Advocacy (IMHA) including an IMHA Prisoners service supporting prisoners with issues around their mental health and associated care and treatment within HMP Bullingdon and HMP Huntercombe
- Independent Care Act Advocacy
- NHS Complaints Advocacy
- Community Advocacy

To make a referral to the advocacy services in Oxfordshire, you can download the forms from our website: <https://www.pohwer.net/oxfordshire>

For more information please can contact us on 0300 200 0082 or email [oxfordshireadvocacyhub@pohwer.net](mailto:oxfordshireadvocacyhub@pohwer.net)

## 7. Young People's Supported Accommodation Services

From 1 October 2020 there will be new Young People's Supported Accommodation Services. Some of the key service changes are that no more than four young people will live together in the shared provision and there will be separate provision for the under and over 18-year olds so that young people live with other young people of a similar age. The new

service will also offer more intensive support to young people to equip them to live independently and provide outreach support for up to a year once they have left their supported accommodation.

Oxfordshire County Council and the City and District Councils reviewed current service provision, with extensive input from young people and professionals during 2018/19- thank you to those of you who supported the councils with this. This helped them develop the necessary changes to enhance services designed to prepare young people for living independently.

Oxfordshire County Council has brought services for 16 and 17-year olds in-house to be delivered by a new team within the Residential and Edge of Care Service (REoC), and re-commissioned the other services required for 18-24 year olds with the City and District Councils to meet existing and future needs. There will be more beds and more support for young people than there are currently, while the referral process and eligibility to access the service will remain the same.

This will mean there will be lots of change over the coming months ahead as the County begin to phase in the in-house service for 16 and 17-year olds from August 2020 and prepare for contracts to start with the new providers who have been commissioned to deliver services from 1 October 2020. Referrals will continue to be made via the Brokerage team and service eligibility will remain the same.

Please see [here](#), for further information on the providers who will be delivering new commissioned services.

Response has been commissioned to provide the accommodation the County Council need for the in-house service for 16 and 17-year olds. The changes may be challenging for young people and staff impacted over the months ahead and the County Council will be working with individuals and organisations to identify what the changes may mean for them and their future options.

For specific information for young people on the changes and new providers, please see [here](#).

For further information about the changes and why they are being made visit: <https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.tj/YPSHP/consultationHome>

## **8. Safeguarding in Education**

### **Safeguarding Distance Learners – Cyberbullying and E-Safety**

For information and support for parents/carers on keeping children safe and developing their understanding of respectful online relationships amid increased online activity, visit the following websites:

- [Anti-Bullying Alliance](#)
- [Bullying UK](#)
- [Internetmatters.org](#)
- [Kidscape](#)

- [National Bullying Helpline](#)
- [NSPCC](#)
- [Oxfordshire County Council](#)
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

For information and support for young people on keeping safe amid increased online activity, visit the following websites:

- [Anti-Bullying Alliance](#)
- [CEOP Thinkuknow](#)
- [Childline](#)
- [Kidscape](#)
- UK Safer Internet Centre [3-11yrs](#) [11-18yrs](#)

Please share the above links with teachers, parents/carers and children (where possible).

## 9. Voluntary and community sector news

### OSCB Online Training for Volunteers

The OSCB's 'Introduction to Safeguarding' eLearning course has been recently updated to include some additional content which is particularly relevant to volunteers who have contact with children and young people. The course is called 'Level 1: Introduction to Safeguarding (recommended course for volunteers) and is free to complete via

<https://training.oscb.org.uk/elearning-list>

### Vulnerable Young People – NYA Report

The National Youth Agency (NYA) have released a report identifying concerns for vulnerable young people. Within the report they highlight the number of vulnerable young people, the expectation that this will rise considerably due to the pandemic and why youth work is essential in supporting these young people:

- One million known to have needs which will be amplified by the pandemic
- An estimated two million young people with emerging needs triggered or caused by COVID-19
- Many more with hidden or unforeseen consequences caused by the coronavirus pandemic
- Over 448,000 young people from vulnerable families are unknown to services but are likely to be known by a youth worker

Areas of vulnerability are also identified, some of which will be amplified by COVID as well as those that will newly emerge due to the pandemic. Concerns they identify include:

- Young people living in overcrowded accommodation
- Young people living in unsafe households
- Homelessness
- Exploitation (both during lockdown and coming out of it)

- Economic and social costs for the next generation (mental health, financial and employment concerns)

Services pre-lockdown were already stretched so coming out of lockdown there needs to be an investment in support for young people. The report calls for the government to:

- Recognise that youth services are an essential and key service offering a lifeline to vulnerable young people
- Deploy youth workers to support schools as well as continued outreach and detached youth work
- Invest in training and upskilling professionals and volunteers in response to COVID-19 in areas such as safeguarding, mental health, trauma and bereavement
- Listen to young people and include their voices in decision making
- Ensure there is a clear exit strategy for young people coming out of lockdown that is not limited to schools reopening

Read the full report here: [Out of Sight? Vulnerable Young People COVID-19 Response](#)

## 10. Useful information

### CP Conferences during COVID 19

Oxfordshire County Council has issued the following, [Practice guidance for remote child protection conference during COVID-19 period due to restrictions on movement](#), to clarify the current arrangements for Child Protection Conferences.

Please take the time to read the guidance to ensure you are aware of the current approach.

### NSPCC Safeguarding and Child Protection during the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19)

The NSPCC have added the following resource to their website, [Coronavirus: safeguarding and child protection](#).

The pages provide a list of services and resources to support practitioners working with children, young people and their families during this challenging period.

Resources available for practitioners include safeguarding information and guidance, guidance for social workers, undertaking remote teaching safely and guidance for sports clubs and organisations. Additionally, there are specific resources for supporting children and for supporting parents and carers.

As things are changing rapidly they will be updating and adding to the information regularly.

### Spotlight on the Neglect Practitioner Forum

The Neglect Practitioner Forum was established in 2017 following the Serious Case Review on Child Q and Neglect Pilot undertaken across Oxfordshire. The forum ensures that front

line staff and managers across all key agencies influence the planning and direction of travel in response to neglect. As such, the role and purpose of the forum is to:

- Establish a network of frontline staff and managers who will act as champions of the work to tackle neglect
- Ensure that front line staff contribute ideas and are influential in the planning and embedding of this work
- Act as a sounding board and provide opportunities to comment on the procedures and guidance that are being developed and specifically on the value of the Practitioner Portal, which will be the new repository for all guidance on the OSCB website
- Tell us what would be helpful for front line staff to improve practice and what may be missing in the work we are developing
- Highlight and showcase good practice so that the learning can be shared across partners and teams
- Act as ambassadors within local teams and services for this work
- Advise the Learning and Improvement Group on the development of training opportunities

The next meeting is on Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of June from 09:00-12noon on **Microsoft Teams** and will focus on the impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on children in neglectful situations, and how agencies are working to support and protect children during these challenging times.

The forum is open to any practitioners/front line managers from within the safeguarding partnership. If you would like to attend, please contact Tan Lea, Strategic Safeguarding Partnerships Manager: [Tan.Lea@Oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Tan.Lea@Oxfordshire.gov.uk)

### **24/7 Mental Health Helpline for children, young people and adults**

Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust have launched a helpline available across Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire for anyone wanting mental health advice and support during the coronavirus pandemic.

The helpline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and offers non-emergency mental health advice and help with emotional wellbeing. to get the right advice they need for their mental health. Please see the attached poster below.



For further information, click on [this link](#) and / or visit [Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust](#)

- **Children and young people: 01865 904 998**
- **Adults: 01865 904 997**

If someone is seriously ill or injured, or in an acute confused state, call 999.

The Mental Health Helpline adds to the range of local mental health services and resources people can access directly, as follows:

- Their own GP
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services: Oxfordshire 01865 902515
- Adult Mental Health Services: **TalkingSpace** Plus in Oxfordshire, **Oxford Safe Haven, Banbury Safe Haven**

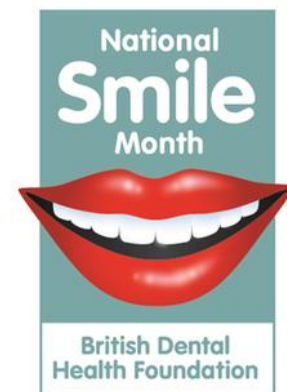
Other helplines, information and advice include:

- Oxfordshire Mind Information Line – (01865) 247788 open 9.30 am to 4.30 pm Mon – Friday
- NHS 111 – dial 111 – open 24 hours
- Samaritans – Freephone 116 123 – open 24 hours
- Saneline – 0300 304 7000 – 4.30 pm to 10.30 pm daily
- Rethink – 0845 456 0455 – 10 am to 2 pm Monday to Friday
- FRANK – 0800 77 6600 – open 24 hours
- No Panic – 0844 967 4848 – 10 am to 10 pm
- **Young Minds**
- **Stay Alive** Suicide Prevention Mobile Phone App
- The **Oxfordshire Mind Guide**
- **Mind** UK's national mental health charity
- **Elefriends** safe online space to listen, share and be heard

## National Smile Month

National Smile Month will be taking place this year between 18th May – 18th June. Community Dental Services (CDS) have compiled a **[list of toothy tips](#)** for you to send out to your families during this period and to remind them of the importance of caring for their teeth and their smile!

Sending out a daily tip, or even a group of tips once a week, will hopefully encourage the community to develop and maintain a healthy mouth. We know from the most recent 2019 survey that there are still 21% of 5 year olds living in Oxfordshire with some decayed, missing or filled teeth. Please visit **<http://www.nationalsmilemonth.org/>** for more information and activity ideas.



CDS also have a great page of downloadable resources and activities for families related to teeth and healthy eating on our website: **[www.communitydentalservices.co.uk/oral-health/family-fun](http://www.communitydentalservices.co.uk/oral-health/family-fun)**.

Finally, please get in touch with CDS at **[ohimp.oxfordshire@cds-cic.co.uk](mailto:ohimp.oxfordshire@cds-cic.co.uk)** if you would like a copy of an Oral Health Resource Pack that has been created for schools, to help you embed oral health into the Key Stage 1/2 curriculums.

## Oxfordshire Trading Standards warns about Coronavirus scam



There have been reports that criminals and scammers have been exploiting the coronavirus situation and Oxfordshire's Trading Standards team has received reports of scams targeting people via emails, text messages, and on the doorstep.

There are, of course, many genuine community efforts, but unfortunately, not everyone is trustworthy, and some people are taking advantage of this unprecedented situation.

Action Fraud has reported that coronavirus-related fraud reports increased by 400 percent in March and these scams came in many different guises, so we advise that before taking any action or agreeing to an offer: **Stop, 'take five', and discuss with a trusted friend or family member.**

#### **Examples of scams Trading Standards is aware of...**

Remember, criminals come in all shapes and sizes and can contact you at the door, by phone, post or online:

- Be aware of people offering miracle cures or vaccines for coronavirus – there is currently no specific treatment for coronavirus (COVID-19).
- People impersonating healthcare workers, claiming to be offering 'home-testing' for coronavirus – this is a scam and these kits are not currently available to buy.
- Emails offering a refund on council tax, utility bills, or similar are usually bogus and they are just after personal and bank details.
- There are lots of fake products available to buy online that say they can protect against or cure coronavirus. These will not help and are designed to take your money.
- There are new mobile phone applications that claim to give updates on the virus, but instead they lock your phone and demand a ransom.
- People offering to do shopping or collect medication, asking for money upfront and then disappearing.
- People offering home cleaning services.
- Remember: Banks or the police will never ask for account details over the phone.
- Claiming to be collecting money for charities.

#### **Tips to avoid being scammed**

- Be cautious and listen to your instincts. Do not be afraid to hang up, bin it, delete it, or shut the door.
- Take your time; do not be rushed into making a decision that you will probably regret.
- If someone claims to represent a charity, ask them for ID. Be suspicious of requests for money up front. If someone is trying to tempt you into accepting a service, they are unlikely to be genuine.
- Check with family and friends before accepting offers of help if unsure.
- If online, be aware of fake news and use trusted sources such as .gov.uk or NHS.uk websites. Type-out email addresses. Don't click on links in emails.
- Only purchase goods from legitimate retailers and take a moment to think before parting with money or personal information.

- Protect your financial information, especially from people you do not know. Never give your bank card or PIN to a stranger.
- Know who you are dealing with. If you need help, talk to someone you know or use contact numbers provided below (scroll down).

### **Contact information**

If you suspect you are a victim of a scam ...

- Report any scammers to Action Fraud: **0300 123 2040**.
- **If you are in immediate danger, contact the police on 999.**
- Contact your bank if you think you have been financially scammed.

To learn more about different types of scams and how to protect yourself and others, visit [www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk](http://www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk) and complete the free online training

## **11. National news**

### **Coronavirus: child mental health**

NSPCC Learning has pulled together resources to help people who work with children support children's mental health during the coronavirus outbreak. Topics covered include: child mental health, what children are talking to Childline about around coronavirus, how to have difficult conversations with children, supporting children and young people through the coronavirus outbreak and resources to support parents and carers whose children are experiencing mental health issues. NSPCC Learning has also published information about children and young people's mental health. Topics covered include: risk and vulnerability factors, recognising when a child has mental health issues, responding to mental health issues, the types of mental health issues children talk to Childline about and mental health legislation and guidance.

**View the news story:** [Supporting children and young people's mental health](#)

**Visit the webpage:** [Child mental health](#)

### **Coronavirus: updating safeguarding policies and procedures**

NSPCC Learning has published information to help organisations keep their safeguarding policies and procedures up to date during the coronavirus outbreak. Topics covered include: adding a coronavirus addendum or annexe to existing policies and procedures, identifying children and families in need of additional support, reporting concerns and safer recruitment.

**Read the news story:** [Coronavirus: 5 steps to update your safeguarding policies and procedures](#)

### **Coronavirus: safeguarding in sport**

The NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) has updated its website to include information and resources on: mental health and wellbeing in sport: coronavirus and safeguarding in sport: and remote teaching and coaching during the coronavirus crisis.

**Access the resources:** [Mental health and wellbeing](#)  
[Covid19 and safeguarding in sport](#)  
[Remote teaching and coaching](#)

**NSPCC library reading lists: domestic abuse, bereavement**



In response to the coronavirus crisis the NSPCC Library and Information Service has created a reading list showcasing resources from the library collection around domestic abuse and bereavement.

**View the reading list:** [Domestic abuse](#)

**View the reading list:** [Bereavement](#)

### **Coronavirus: school attendance in England**

The Department for Education (DfE) has published a summary of how many children and teachers attended education and early year settings in England between Monday 23 March and Friday 17 April 2020. Figures show that: around 84,000 children attended an educational establishment on Friday 17 April, representing 0.9% of pupils who normally attend; and attendance has gradually fallen over time.

**Read the news story:** [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): attendance in education and early years settings](#)

**Read the summary of returns:** [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) attendance in education and early years settings – summary of returns \(PDF\)](#)

**Read the Guardian news article:** [Just 5% of vulnerable children were in school in England last week](#)

### **Coronavirus: additional support for vulnerable children in England**

The Department for Education (DfE) has announced that more than £12 million will be spent on 14 projects across England to tackle the increased risk some children and young people are facing as they stay at home to reduce the spread of coronavirus. This includes: money to pay for individual support for families at risk of domestic abuse; community volunteers to work with families; and continued support for teenagers at risk of exploitation.

**Read the press release:** [Multi-million support for vulnerable children during COVID-19](#)

### **Coronavirus: staff health and wellbeing**

The Public Health Agency for Northern Ireland has published a framework for leaders and managers to help support the wellbeing of health and social care staff during the coronavirus crisis.

**Read the news story:** [Staff health and wellbeing](#)

**Read the framework:** [Supporting the wellbeing needs of our health and social care staff during COVID-19: a framework for leaders and managers \(PDF\)](#)

### **Coronavirus: virtual and digital interventions**

The Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) has published a report following a rapid review of the evidence relating to the virtual and digital delivery of interventions for children and young people. The report focusses on evidence relating to interventions focused on: mental health and wellbeing; substance misuse; crime, violence and antisocial behaviour; and child maltreatment. Findings include: virtual and digital interventions can be effective in improving outcomes for young people across a wide range of intervention types and outcome measures; there is little evidence to suggest that virtual and digital interventions are more effective than face-to-face approaches; and when comparisons are made, typically, virtual and digital interventions are found to be less effective, or equally as effective.

**Read the news story and download the report:** [Covid-19 and early intervention: evidence, challenges and risks relating to virtual and digital delivery](#)

### **Coronavirus: impact on children in the UK**

UNICEF has published a report looking at the impact of coronavirus and lockdown on children and young people's lives in the UK. The report covers: protection from violence, abuse and neglect; loss of education; children's health and access to health services; and children's mental health.

**Read the news story:** [Children's lives across the world have been turned upside down by coronavirus](#)

**Read the report:** [Children in lockdown: what coronavirus means for UK children \(PDF\)](#)

### **Coronavirus: child mental health**

The Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families has published a blog exploring the impact of coronavirus on children and young people receiving psychological treatment and therapeutic interventions. The blog discusses what opportunities exist to continue to provide support to these children and young people.

**Read the blog:** [Coronavirus #1: maintaining the lifeline for children receiving treatment](#)

### **Coronavirus: disadvantaged children during school closure**

The Children's Commissioner for England has published a briefing looking at the how schools can be supported to adapt to and improve access to meaningful educational opportunities for disadvantaged children while schools are closed during the coronavirus crisis.

**Read the news story:** [Tackling the disadvantage gap during the Covid-19 crisis](#)

**Read the briefing:** [Tackling the disadvantage gap during the Covid-19 crisis \(PDF\)](#)

### **Coronavirus: children's experiences of lockdown**

The Children's Commissioner for England has published a series highlighting the experiences of children and young people living in lockdown in England. The series includes the experiences of children with autism and children living in foster care.

**Read children and young people's experiences:** [Lockdown experiences: children with autism](#)

[Lockdown experiences: What being in isolation is like for children](#)

[Lockdown experiences: children in foster care](#)

### **Coronavirus: care leavers**

The BBC Radio 5 Live Nihal Arthanayake programme broadcast on 23 April includes a one-hour interview with journalist Ashley John-Baptiste and care leavers discussing their experiences of living in lockdown.

**Listen to the radio programme:** [Nihal Arthanayake](#) (Listen from 17.01)

### **Coronavirus: co-parenting**

Family Law has published an article offering advice to parents of children who are the subject of a Child Arrangements Order (CAO) made by a family court. The article provides advice and tips to help manage contact arrangements during the coronavirus crisis.

**Read the news story:** [A practical guide to co-parenting during the COVID-19 Crisis](#)

### **Child sexual abuse in custodial institutions**

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) has published findings from research into child sexual abuse in custodial institutions in England and Wales. The report explores the experiences of survivors of child sexual abuse from the 1950s - 2010s who shared their accounts with the Inquiry's Truth Project. Findings include: a culture of punishment contributed to a brutal environment; the power and control exerted by the perpetrators meant they did not need to groom their victims, who could not escape the abuse; survivors suffered extensive, long-term harm to their education and employment prospects, mental health, social and sexual relationships.

**Read the news story:** [New Truth Project research finds children sexually abused in custodial institutions faced extreme violence and sadism](#)

**Download the report:** [Truth Project thematic report: child sexual abuse in custodial institutions](#)

### **Children's social care services**

Researchers at Kingston University and St Georges University of London have published findings from research looking at patterns of demand for children's social care services in England, using national data from the Department for Education, Cafcass and the Office for National Statistics, and a study of six local authorities in England. Key findings include: children's social care is undergoing a shift to late intervention, with more money spent on child protection and public care while preventive services are cut or closed down; more deprived local authorities had higher demand and experienced greater financial pressures; there were significant differences in provision for children depending on their gender, age, ethnicity and socioeconomic status.

**Read the news story:** ['Tiered' approach to child safeguarding needs reform to tackle inequalities in provision, says study](#)

**Read the report:** [Identifying and understanding the link between system conditions and welfare inequalities in children's social care services \(PDF\)](#)

### **Inquiry on white disadvantaged pupils**

The House of Commons Education Committee has launched an inquiry to look at white disadvantaged pupils in schools in England. The inquiry will examine the extent of the achievement gap between this group and their peers and how it is measured, as well as looking at the effects of the coronavirus outbreak. The deadline for submissions 5 June 2020.

**Read the news story:** [Inquiry on white disadvantaged pupils launched](#)

### **Online sexual abuse**

**Source:** Internet Watch Foundation

**Date:** 12 April 2020

The Internet Watch Foundation has released a podcast series bringing together global experts, victims, industry leaders, and criminals to explore how children are being exploited by online predators who share images and videos of their sexual abuse on the internet.

**Read the press release:** [Pixels from a crime scene: fears new generation of young British](#)

[men is driving demand for videos and images of child sexual abuse](#)

**Listen to the podcasts:** [Pixels from a crime scene](#)

**Virtual International Dyslexia Conference**

This virtual conference organised by the Dyslexia Institute UK takes place on 29-30 July 2020.

**Further information:** [Dyslexia Institute UK](#)