

*The Newsletter for everyone who works and volunteers in Slough*

## Partners,









Right now, we are all working together more than ever with compassion as our north star, helping us navigate through difficult times. This newsletter is a reminder for all of us that safeguarding children and adults remains a key priority for us all. While staying at home may be a novelty to some, an inconvenience to others, it can be a very challenging experience for those living with abuse, neglect, violence and/or exploitation or those living in poverty. Many vulnerable people will be feeling even more vulnerable now and we want to urge everyone to continue to be vigilant and to report safeguarding concerns in the same way as they always have. Large numbers of volunteers are coming on board now to help and Slough CVS is doing a fantastic job working with the Local Authority on this and will ensure that volunteers are vigilant too.

Thanks to members of the Slough Safeguarding Partnership communications sub-group who worked hard to contribute very quickly to bring together all the information on COVID19 that is related to safeguarding Slough residents. Our new vice chair, Jatinder Matharu and the safeguarding partnership team have collated the information into 3 main categories for you: Public Health, a special page for volunteers, Safeguarding Adults including domestic abuse and Safeguarding children. There is also an additional supplement specifically for schools to assist those who have closed or partially closed due to coronavirus (COVID-19), followed by a list of helpful resources.

News and changes come in very frequently and we will update you as often as possible with a single newsletter like this.



## Content:

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## Got any information for the next edition?

Please contact Shakir Hussain:  
[Shakir.hussain@slough.gov.uk](mailto:Shakir.hussain@slough.gov.uk)

Please print a copy for any staff that do not have access to an email.





# Message from Local Police Commander



## Message from Superintendent Gavin Wong, Thames Valley Police Commander for Slough LPA

I understand the significant adjustments that everyone is making in order to follow the measures that have been set out by the government. It is important to remember that these have been put in place to stop the spread of the virus, protect the NHS and save lives. I want to take this opportunity to thank our colleagues in the NHS in particular who are doing such a magnificent job. Thank you and our thoughts are with you and your families. My thoughts are also with those directly affected by the virus.

Everyone will be aware that the police were given new powers to help reinforce these measures and whilst these are an option to us, we will only use them as a last resort. Officers will routinely be stopping members of the public and vehicles to ensure the Government's advice is being adhered to so please don't be alarmed if you are stopped and work with us if you are told to return home.

I appreciate that the current climate offers up a lot of uncertainty which may make people feel anxious, unsettled and fearful but I want to reassure you that my team and I are still policing your communities, responding to emergencies as well as effecting the Government's restrictions to stay inside and only go out in very specific circumstances.

I do however want to say a huge thank you to all of you who are staying inside and keeping our streets clear. There have also been many messages of support for my team over the last few weeks which I am grateful for. I would also like to add my thanks to my team for their sterling efforts. They are prepared to put themselves at risk in order to ensure we continue to provide the best service we can and I am very proud of them.

By continuing to stay home, you can protect the NHS and save lives. Thank you again for your co-operation during these challenging times.

## Useful information and advice

For more information on the Government's restrictions, please visit the [GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk).

You can find a number of frequently asked questions and a message from Chief Constable John Campbell on our [website](#).

If you need to report anything to us that is not an emergency, you might experience some delays calling 101 so where possible report through the Thames Valley Police [website](#). In an emergency always call 999.





For the latest update from Public Health click on this link: <http://www.slough.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/coronavirus-guidance-for-the-public.aspx>

Specialists from Public Health England (PHE) are working with Slough Borough Council and NHS colleagues following confirmed cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19). We would like to reassure people we are working with health colleagues to do everything we can to stop the virus spreading and ensure the people of Slough are protected. The government advice is - you must stay at home only leaving your house for:

- 👤 shopping for basic necessities, as infrequently as possible
- 👤 one form of exercise a day - for example a run, walk, or cycle, alone or with members of your household
- 👤 any medical need, to provide care or to help a vulnerable person
- 👤 travelling to and from work, but only where it is absolutely necessary and cannot be done from home.

These four reasons are exceptions - even when doing these activities, you should be minimising time spent outside of the home and ensuring you are 2 metres apart from anyone outside of your household.

Slough Public Health has published an important resource for Slough residents. [Health at Home](#) is a bespoke online resource with guidance and advice on how people can look after themselves whilst spending time in isolation or extended periods of time at home.

Further quick read guidance on Health & wellbeing (looking after your feelings and body) during COVID-19 can be found here:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-public-on-mental-health-and-wellbeing?utm\\_source=f4fe9d0e-2e25-4f75-acc1-64ceb6d0f3a4&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=immediate](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-public-on-mental-health-and-wellbeing?utm_source=f4fe9d0e-2e25-4f75-acc1-64ceb6d0f3a4&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)



**East Berkshire**  
Clinical Commissioning Group

## Update from Clinical Commissioning Group:

New parents, with babies under 12 months and those who have children with disabilities may be undergoing particular stressors at the moment which is linked to reduced wider family and friend support. This directly increases specific safeguarding risk for babies and children and vulnerable adults: Please Share these resources to parents of children under 12 months and to parents/adults who are caring for children or adults with disabilities.

- Risk of shaken baby: please see this attached NSPCC guide to distribute to parents.  
<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/leaflets/handle-with-care/>

👤 Risks of unsafe sleeping:  
<https://lifthethebaby.org.uk>.

👤 Risks of parents/carers not seeking medical assistance when their baby, child, young person or adult they are caring for is ill; especially if a baby under 3 months of age has a high fever: Please reassure families that they must seek advice from their GP, health professional, 111 should they be worried about ill health.

👤 Resources for parents in managing crying babies <http://iconcope.org/>





# Safeguarding Children

## Update from Slough Children's Services Trust:



Slough Children's Services Trust will continue to provide our statutory functions and partners are asked to follow the normal procedure for making a contact / referral through the Front Door by emailing [Sloughchildren.referrals@scstrust.co.uk](mailto:Sloughchildren.referrals@scstrust.co.uk). All contacts will continue to be screened against the thresholds and will progress any cases that meet the statutory threshold for social care intervention. It is a difficult and challenging time for everyone and we would ask that partners consider the contact carefully to ensure that they meet the threshold and that you are able to provide as much information as you can to inform any initial screening. When a S47 request for information is sent the SCST would appreciate these being completed as fully as possible to inform the multi-agency analysis of risk to any child or children.

Where possible the SCST will make greater use of technology that will allow us to avoid face-to-face contact. It is accepted that conference call facilities may not always be appropriate and should that be the case we will assess our options. SCST have reviewed all open cases and will undertake appropriate visiting levels and will also maintain contact with children and families using alternative methods.



**The Early Help Hub continues to maintain a full service whilst observing social distancing protocols as set out by Central Government.**

### **Targeted Family Support and Family Services:**

Referrals continue to be accepted and allocated to members of the Family Support team via SCST Front Door Hub, with step up and step down processes remaining in place between the EH Hub and SCST. This service continues to be offered via telephone, email and facetime (where available), with children and young people being spoken to directly where possible. For families in need, the team continue to support with provision of items through local charities which are delivered directly to their doorstep. Urgent home visits will continue to take place if necessary, where children may be seen at the door if necessary. Once PPE is available for staff, short visits may take place within the family home where required. Liaison and information sharing continues with our key partners as part of the Team around the Family process.

### **Family Information Service**

FIS continue to provide information, advice and guidance to families via the following options; Telephone: 01753 476589 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) | Email: [FIS@slough.gov.uk](mailto:FIS@slough.gov.uk) (Email manned Mondays to Friday, 9am to 5pm) | Online: [www.sloughfamilyservices.org.uk](http://www.sloughfamilyservices.org.uk) (available all day, every day).

We continue to endeavour to update information on the Family Information Services website as and when it becomes available to reflect current services available and COVID 19 updates. If you have any information that you would like us to add please contact

[Neesha.Moultou@slough.gov.uk](mailto:Neesha.Moultou@slough.gov.uk)





# Safeguarding Adults

## Safeguarding Adults During the Coronavirus Outbreak

Adult Social Care will continue to undertake Safeguarding Enquiries, seeking the contribution of partners where needed. We encourage everybody, whether in a formal role or as part of the voluntary community response to support vulnerable adults to report any concerns about abuse to Adult Social Care. We are working hard to ensure that we continue to deliver services effectively and safely during the Coronavirus outbreak. We are acting on Government guidance to balance the need to provide key services to adults with care and support needs as well as maintaining safe practices alongside our residents and partners.

## Safeguarding Reports can be made via the following routes

**Email:** [Safeguardingadults@slough.gov.uk](mailto:Safeguardingadults@slough.gov.uk) or [safeguardingsloughadults@slough.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:safeguardingsloughadults@slough.gcsx.gov.uk) (for secure emails from partners)

**Telephone:** 01753 475111 where a team member will be able to record the information and advise a Social Worker.

## In an emergency situation please seek medical or Police help via 999

If you would like to know more check out the Safeguarding Partnership Website:  
<https://www.sloughsafeguardingpartnership.org.uk/sas/p/sasp/report-abuse/worried-about-an-adult>

## Care Act 2014

The government has issued new guidance describing the Care Act 2014 and easements

Click on the link below for more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-changes-to-the-care-act-2014/care-act-easements-guidance-for-local-authorities#annex-d-safeguarding-guidance>



Health Watch are running surveys to ascertain where residents are getting their information from, if they feel well informed about how to take care of themselves and if there is any additional support they need. Please circulate links to your networks to help us target our resources accordingly.

**Carers Survey:**

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/covid-19carers/>

**Over 50s who live alone:**

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/covid-19over50/>

**Under 25s:**

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/covid19under25/>

## Wash your hands of coronavirus scams!

Friends Against Scams aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams.

### Be aware of people offering or selling:

- Virus testing kits - these are only offered by NHS.
- Vaccines or miracle cures - there is currently no vaccine or cure.
- Overpriced or fake goods to protect yourself from coronavirus such as anti-bacterial products.
- Shopping or medication collection services.
- Home cleaning services.

### Protect yourself and others:

- Don't be rushed into making a decision. If it sounds too good to be true it probably is.
- Only purchase goods from legitimate retailers and take a moment to think before parting with money or personal information.
- Don't assume everyone is genuine. It's okay to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- If someone claims to represent a charity, ask them for ID. Be suspicious of requests for money up front. If someone attempts to pressurise you into accepting a service they are unlikely to be genuine. Check with family and friends before accepting offers of help if you are unsure.

Be a good friend, help to protect your family, friends and neighbours from scams.

**Read it. Share it. Prevent it.**

#Coronavirus #ScamAware



### Contact

For advice on scams call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on **0808 223 11 33**  
To report a scam call Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040**  
Contact your bank if you think you have been scammed.

**NATIONAL TRADING STANDARDS**

Scams Team

**Beware of scams about Covid-19!**





# Domestic Abuse & Covid-19

## To all frontline staff and managers

It is essential in these unprecedented times we recognise the potential increased risks of domestic abuse, economic abuse and coercive control which could be exacerbated during times of self isolation or restricted movement.

From Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020 the Hestia Slough Team will be working remotely and will still be fully operational supporting those affected by domestic abuse.

### Telephone Referrals:

The following numbers have been diverted to:

 **Main Line – Hestia DA Service** – 01753 477352

 **Professional Referral Line** – 01753 476807

 **DA Outreach Line** – 01753 875620

### Email Referrals:

The referrals received via email – [Slough.IDVA@hestia.org](mailto:Slough.IDVA@hestia.org) will be monitored and allocated to three IDVA's.

If you have specific need for IDVA's to accompany clients to court or are worried about the safety of individual families or concerned about the behaviour of existing/potential perpetrators during illness or isolation please contact me on **07786 676167** to discuss immediate risk assessment and action planning on an individual basis.





# General Safeguarding



Working with **Slough** Borough Council  
www.slough.gov.uk

There are many volunteers coming forward during this time to support the vulnerable residents in Slough, which is really wonderful. Slough CVS (Community for Voluntary Services) are working very closely with SBC to ensure that the volunteering efforts are co-ordinated and targeted at the most vulnerable. It is essential that any volunteers are kept safe as well as ensuring the vulnerable residents are safeguarded. If anyone is looking to volunteer, they can contact SCVS on <https://sloughcvs.org/>


SCVS are ensuring that any volunteers having virtual contact with vulnerable residents are volunteers who are already DBS checked through known groups and agencies. New volunteers are termed "Helpers" to differentiate and are equally important as they are providing lots of "backroom" roles e.g. packing food parcels.


To ensure that all volunteers and helpers are aware of safeguarding responsibilities, there are a number of very short YouTube clips to raise awareness. Please click on the links at the side of the headings below.

1. **Safeguarding for volunteers** <https://youtu.be/HHQG8CJROhU> It


This is a very short video specifically produced for the current period. It is 3 minutes long and gives a simple message of:-

 **if you see something say something**

 that as volunteers you have a safeguarding role

 flags that some people may volunteer for the wrong reason and what to do if a fellow volunteer is behaving inappropriately

 tells volunteers we want them to be safe too

 *This is very useful if volunteers have English as a second language and do not read English very well.*

2. **Safeguarding Slough** - [Safeguarding Slough](#)

This is a short animation highlighting those who may be vulnerable and gives some ideas of what to look out for.

3. **General COVID 19 Safe Volunteering tips** - [COVID 19 Safe Volunteering](#)

This is a short animation with lots of good general volunteering tips including the importance of passing on concerns.

4. **Supporting volunteers in Slough** - [Supporting Volunteers Slough](#)

This animation highlights the value of volunteers and how important it is to ensure that they are supported during these difficult times.

5. **Telephone befriending support** - [Telephone Befriending Slough](#)

This is a very short presentation specifically designed to help those who are supporting isolated residents over the phone.

**Please share this information as widely as possible to ensure that all volunteers are reminded of their responsibilities for safeguarding even in these unprecedented times**

**Slough Food Bank:**

Slough Food Bank provides 3 day food parcels for families in food poverty. Agencies supported these families can contact the food bank here: <https://slough.foodbank.org>. Please if you have access to your vouchers fill them in as usual but scan them, and copy in [manager@slough.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:manager@slough.foodbank.org.uk).

**Please remember - The mission of Slough Foodbank is to feed people in food poverty because they do not have enough money to buy food.** NOT to feed people who are self isolating or cannot find what they need. For those people direct them to Slough CVS. Jamie Green <[jamie@sloughcvs.org.uk](mailto:jamie@sloughcvs.org.uk)> or [Sloughcovid19mutualaid@protonmail.com](mailto:Sloughcovid19mutualaid@protonmail.com)





# Resources & Contacts

## Coronavirus Posters for people with disabilities

People with a learning disability often have health issues that make them particularly vulnerable.

The clear writing company, Photo symbols, have created a series of posters that can easily be printed out and put on notice boards. The three photo posters are free to download and use. The basic message of the information is about the symptoms, what to do and give simple advice to avoid spreading germs. The [Photosymbols](#) here:

[Photosymbols](#)

## Remote Learning & Online safety

Keeping safe on line has never been so important than now with the whole nation working from home. As UK schools close, or run at a limited capacity as a result of COVID-19, we know managing a child's use of technology and help them learn remotely can feel overwhelming. The LGfL tips and guidance on live streaming and delivering lesson plans can be found here:

<https://coronavirus.lgfl.net/safeguarding>

With guides to help everyone think about some of the positive steps they can take to establish and keep good mental wellbeing and keeping safe online including safety on the latest apps (house party). As part of their campaign they have launched

#WakeUpWednesday campaign, where they add a new platform guide every week for schools to share with parent. [National Online Safety](#)

NSPCC remote working guidance can be found here: [NSPCC Remote Teaching](#)

General online safety tips for parents: [THINK U KNOW Online safety](#)

Video guide for parents about You Tube and how to use parental controls and filters:

[U Tube Parents guide](#)

## Remote Learning guides for parents, teachers and pupils:

[Teachers Guide](#)

House Party App Safety Guide for Parents: [Parents Guide to House Party App](#)

The **UK Safer Internet Centre** bring you the latest updates from the three partners in the UKSIC: Childnet International, The IWF (Internet Watch Foundation), and SWGfL (South West Grid for Learning).

In light of the current situation, SWGfL are now offering support across the nation by donating Whisper to all new schools whilst closures are in effect. Schools can now continue to support their children whilst working from home, safely.

[Whisper](#) provides everyone in your school community a safe place to talk, report or highlight issues and concerns.

A fantastic range of support for online abuse including peer on peer abuse can be found here at the UK Safer Internet Centre. [Safer Internet - Coronavirus](#)

Don't forget if you're a professional working with young people you can contact the Professionals Online Safety Helpline (**POSH**) for further advice and support: [helpline@saferinternet.org.uk](mailto:helpline@saferinternet.org.uk)







# Resources & Contacts (Continued)

## Local Agencies:

Across the country services are working differently and remotely to reduce the spread of the virus and adhere to the social distancing guidelines. Please note the changes and contact numbers for a range of services across Slough:

👉 **Hestia DA Service** – 01753 477352 | 07772 592 750 |  
Slough.IDVA@hestia.org | Professional Referral Line – 01753 476807 | 07384 546 278 | DA Outreach Line – 01753 875620 | 07817 036 875



👉 **Turning Point** – Our services across the country are operating quite differently from normal in order to keep people safe. This includes temporary suspension of all non-essential face to face services including group work, social activities, drop-ins, outreach etc., moving to remote counselling and coaching either via phone or video calls. 01753 692548 | <https://www.turning-point.co.uk/covid19>



👉 **Victims First** - The service provided by Victims First is continuing to accept referrals and make contact with victims before assessing their support needs and referring them on to appropriate services.  
We ask that any referrals to Victims First be made using the on-line referral form which can be found at [www.victims-first.org.uk](http://www.victims-first.org.uk) rather than the Freephone number. The Victims First Counselling Service has temporarily stopped taking new referrals whilst we liaise with the counsellors to determine current availability and communication methods they are able to utilise i.e. online and telephone counselling.



👉 Our confidential Stop It Now! Helpline is available to anyone with questions or concerns about child sexual abuse prevention, including parents and professionals – call 0808 1000 900 (9am-9pm Monday-Thursday, 9am-5pm



👉 Child line <https://www.childline.org.uk/> | 0800 1111



👉 NHS 111 - <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19>



👉 SCST Front Door – 01753 875362 | Out of Hours: 01344 786543 | [sloughchildren.referrals@scstrust.co.uk](mailto:sloughchildren.referrals@scstrust.co.uk)



👉 Police 101 or 999 in an emergency | [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)





# Education Supplement

This special supplement brings together the key documents for schools during COVID-19 times. Guidance and national policy is constantly changing and evolving. If you wish to be kept abreast of the changes please register here for the latest Gov.uk updates: <https://www.gov.uk/email-signup?link=/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

The Government issued new guidance for how the temporary school closures should be implemented on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 and further updated on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Most schools are either now working remotely with a few open for key worker and vulnerable children.

**The full guidance can be found here:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing>. A parent and carer version can be accessed here: [Closure of educational settings: information for parents and carers](#)

**Early years and childcare settings information can be found here:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

Leaders of educational settings and designated safeguarding leads know who their most vulnerable children are and will have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edges of receiving children's social care support. Definition of 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.

**Supporting vulnerable children: (guidance dated 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020) guidance:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people>

Further guidance on vulnerable children can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people>

**Attendance: Recording the attendance of vulnerable children**

Educational settings need to temporarily change their attendance recording practices inline with DfE guidelines, which took effect from 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020. 'Local authorities and schools do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance. Schools should, however, ensure they have a process in place to check on the welfare of any child in need who does not attend on any day.'

As an LA we have been in constant communication with the Slough Education Partnership Board of representative heads and with the DfE. Part of our coordinated effort is to ensure we know which children are in school so we can understand numbers, trends and categories of pupils in schools e.g. Key Worker, EHCP etc.

We need all schools to **return their registers (excel sheet), including nil returns to us by 12pm every day to COVID-19 School Attendance** [COVID-19.SchoolAttendance@slough.gov.uk](mailto:COVID-19.SchoolAttendance@slough.gov.uk). To minimise the burden on educational settings and ensure that only the most important information is submitted.



# Education Supplement (Continued)

This spreadsheet will help to notify the Department for Education about your status regarding COVID-19. Full details can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-attendance-recording-for-educational-settings>

## Safeguarding in COVID-19 times

The DfE issued the latest guidance, **COIV 19 - Safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers** on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020. All DSL's were sent a synopsis of the guidance and a checklist to capture activity in their settings on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

The guidance applies to all schools and colleges to make adjustments accordingly to your roles, functions, policies and interaction to keep children safe while at home. The full guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>

A document with key areas for consideration has been developed with Penny Earle at UCG and will be circulated to schools to adapt and use as an annex to their CP policy in school. It will cover the key areas the guidance references.

## Support for pupils who have to stay at home: Free school Meals (Guidance 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020; further updated 31.03.2020)

Under normal circumstances, schools are not expected to provide free school meals to disadvantaged children who are not attending due to illness or if the school is closed. The DfE expect schools to continue to provide support to these pupils if:

- 👤 they/or a family member are affected by coronavirus (COVID-19)
- 👤 your school is only open for certain groups or is closed temporarily

Schools can now provide every eligible child with a weekly shopping voucher worth £15 to spend at supermarkets while schools are closed due to coronavirus. Schools can continue to provide meals for collection or delivery themselves, but where this is not possible, the scheme will allow schools to provide vouchers to families electronically, or as a gift card for those without internet access

This guidance explains what schools should do to make sure eligible pupils have continued access to free school meals where: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools>

## Record keeping:

Schools are suddenly faced with having to track vulnerable students in disparate locations with pastoral teams not readily able to access key information. CPOMS are offering schools who currently use paper based records **free** access to the system to track and monitor children until September 2020. To find out ore please contact: <https://www.cpoms.co.uk/>. You can directly contact Karl Lodge at **t:** 01756 797766 / **e:** [karl.lodge@cpoms.co.uk](mailto:karl.lodge@cpoms.co.uk)





## Safer recruitment updates:

### Identity checking guidelines (DBS) (Guidance issued 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020)

Due to current measures that have been put in place as a result of the coronavirus outbreak, the DBS have made temporary changes to the ID checking guidelines. The changes came into effect on 19th March 2020. The DBS says, 'whilst it is best practice to carry the examination of ID documents face-to-face, a live video link could be used as an alternative method'. Full details can be located here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-changes-to-dbs-id-checking-guidelines>

### Volunteers (guidance issued 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020)

An national effort is required to tackle the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), and we understand that people want to help others who are already ill or at particular risk. We wholeheartedly welcome such efforts and want to assist volunteers and the people receiving support in ensuring that help is provided safely. Whilst things are stressful and chaotic, another pair of hands might be useful. However, don't forget safer recruitment processes and remember that you will need a risk assessment. Further guidance can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-factsheet-community-volunteers-during-covid-19-outbreak>

### Update on Mental Health Support Team (MHST) in Slough and Early Intervention (Getting Help) Teams across East Berkshire

The Early Intervention Team – Getting Help Service and MHST will be up and running by September 2020. The Team Leader and a Project Manager will work across both the MHST and EI (Getting Help) Teams to ensure that there is synergy between the two programmes.

If you have any queries or would like further information, please email:

[CAMHSGettingHelpEast@berkshire.nhs.uk](mailto:CAMHSGettingHelpEast@berkshire.nhs.uk) | <https://cypf.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/>

Our Local Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Mental Health group – a partnership of organisations working with children and young people, is currently delivering on a series of changes to transform children and young people's mental health support and services across East Berkshire. To stay informed about this transformation work, you can receive a quarterly newsletter from East Berkshire CCG. Sign up by emailing: [cypmhtraining.eastberks@nhs.net](mailto:cypmhtraining.eastberks@nhs.net).