**What we are doing**

Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) would like to update you on how we are responding to coronavirus (COVID-19) and how we will maintain our service delivery in these most challenging of times. We are trying to work closely with our partners and are continually monitoring the latest government advice and responding accordingly.

As a Safeguarding Adults Board, we will consider the three questions below as part of assurance sought:

**1.**     Under Civil Contingency Act business continuity planning processes, what safeguarding impact assessments have been made locally as part of the process, both within single organisations, but also the impact on the multi-agency statutory requirements.

**2.**     What assurance is it possible to gain about the local response to safeguarding concerns? For example, what is the extent of s42.1 activity around emerging, societal and safeguarding issues from Covid 19 – particularly the role of volunteers and keeping adults safe who have care and support needs / or who have vulnerabilities are in self isolating groups?

**3.**     What is emerging in your area around Care Act assessments in light of the Emergency Powers Bill?

SSAB statutory partners to maintain regular virtual contact with each other (frequency to be determined)

**SSAB Business Team Assurance**

**Working from home**

The SSAB Business Team members are all working from home in accordance with government and Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) guidance.

All business-critical meetings are undertaken virtually using Skype, telephone conferencing and/or email. Business-critical meetings are identified as those that reflect statutory functions and where significant decisions are required.

Daily team briefs are undertaken by Skype and tasks and priorities are reviewed daily with a workplan agreed weekly in advance.

Daily briefs also have a focus on team welfare with staff having the opportunity to talk to one another about non-business matters. Staff are encouraged to take virtual coffee breaks (i.e with one another) and spend some time looking after each-others wellbeing.

**Business-Critical Activity**

* Maintaining effective links with Sub-Groups with a focus on maintain partnerships, agreeing key messages, sharing information and agreeing priority work areas.
* Progressing Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR) where possible. Challenges to this are, partners availability to participate in activity effectively as they are responding to other responsibilities and redeployment. However, SSAB Protection Lead is in regular contact with assigned authors reviewing all activity. The ability to progress SAR’s is subject to weekly review.
* Learning and Development prioritising a comprehensive e-learning offer.
* Ensuring effective communications are developed and shared linking with communications plans and officers.
* Liaising with data colleagues to agree key data and assurance without adding inappropriately to existing pressures.

**Assurance meetings**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of meeting** | **Areas covered** |
| Fortnightly Meeting with Operational Safeguarding Lead | Number of current concerns, location and type of abuse |
| Weekly Meeting with all Statutory Board Managers | Commonalities  Trends  Assurance during Covid-19 |
| Flexible contact with SSAB Independent Chair and offer of virtual meeting | Agreeing priorities  Sharing regional, local and national messages |
| SSAB Business Team Daily Brief | Tasks and Priorities  Workplan  Welfare |
| Monthly MARAC Meeting | Risks relating to domestic abuse |
| Weekly SMBC Senior Managers Covid-19 Meeting | Covid-19 update regarding the impact of the borough |
| Weekly Meeting with Principle Social Worker | Looking at key messages and systems  Assuring SSAB can add value during crisis |
| West Midlands Regional Leads Meeting Bi-Monthly and informal weekly contact | Discussing critical business across the region  Publicity  Risks  Covid-19 specific assurance |

**Examples of further current assurance and guidance**

**West Midlands Fire Service;**

WMFS COVID-19 Communication to partners

**Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership;**

Respect Covid19 Guidance for Practitioners March 2020

WM Domestic Abuse leaflet COVID19 31.03.2020

Respect Phoneline Covid\_19 Campaign

**Sandwell Children Safeguarding Partnership**

Sandwell Children Safeguarding Partnership v1

**Ongoing Actions**

SSAB Business Team continuing to develop in partnership posters highlighting the potential for SCAMS and abuse and how to stay safe.

[Covid Resilience Portal](https://my.sandwell.gov.uk/service/COVID_19_form)

Work continues to identify the most vulnerable citizens within the borough as of 03.04.20 over 700 food parcels have been delivered to individuals and households with plans for a second visit to look at alternative support arrangements where possible.

Letters have gone out to identified households asking people to contact if they need support and ASC HWB are focusing on contact people on the vulnerable list and on 03.04.20 called around 800 vulnerable people and aiming to make 1500 calls a day ongoing.

Details of further promotional and safeguarding materials plus assurance and priorities to follow.

**We urge our partners to continue referring those most at risk and vulnerable to abuse in the usual way. For anyone unsure how to refer here are the links:**

**Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board**

www.sandwellsab.org.uk

**Emergency help from Sandwell Council**

<https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200354/coronavirus_advice/4458/emergency_help_from_the_council>

**Report abuse**

<http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200216/adults_and_older_people/2209/report_adult_abuse>

**Adult Safeguarding Concern Form**

<http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/downloads/file/24273/pan_1_safeguarding_concern_form_doc_version>

**Other Useful Links**

<https://www.bihr.org.uk/coronavirusbill-20march>

<https://www.39essex.com/the-coronavirus-bill-schedule-11/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/>publications/covid-19-ethical-framework-for-adult-social-care/responding-to-covid-19-the-ethical-framework-for-adult-social-care