

### **Guidance for School Nurse Weekly Telephone Calls to Schools for Vulnerable Children**

During this unprecedented time we need to ensure the most vulnerable children and young people in our County do not become invisible to the services that would usually protect them. This will require a multiagency response and may necessitate working outside current boundaries of the school nurse role.

Contact each school weekly to discuss all children/YP who are subject to CPP, CiN, LAC or an EHA in place (even if they are not known to you or you are not currently actively working with them). Ask the school:

Are those children in school?

- If yes, clarify if the school has any cause for concern. If no concerns are identified no further action is required.
- If no, ascertain why they are not in school and if this gives cause for concern (Consider that non-attendance at school could be parents avoiding services). If still no concerns are identified, no further action is required.

For children whom concerns are identified, or where there is a lack of information to know if there are concerns from the school conversation:

- Liaise with any other professionals that might be involved, ask if anyone else has had contact with the family, gather as much information as possible
- Attempt contact with the family - explore how they are feeling, what is their current situation? Are they are well? Are their needs are being met? What support do they need?
- If concerns remain seek supervision from the Safeguarding Team to inform next steps
- A home visit may be required if it becomes clear nobody is able to get contact with the family and other services are not able to visit – a home visit should be agreed through a supervision plan and PPE used if required

For situations where you are unable to get through to a particular school/ or their website indicates they are closed/ school not sharing information:

- Review your level 3, 4 and safeguarding caseload and identify children who should have been attending this school and make contact with those families to establish what provision, if any is being accessed. Raise any concerns with Social Care and seek support from our safeguarding team if further action is required.
- Attempt contact with the family - explore how they are feeling, what is their current situation? Are they are well? Are their needs are being met? What support do they need?

Note: There will be complex cases where it is not clear what the school nurse should do. If there is any uncertainty please seek supervision. Record all discussions and actions in the child's S1 record