

## **Number 4. Governance Update issued Tuesday 31 March 2020**

*We are sending this email to both clerks and chairs as we are aware that many clerks only work during term time, so may not be available currently to forward this update to the board. As you are aware we do not normally contact boards during holiday periods, but a great many schools are open through the Easter period.*

### **Safeguarding Appendix**

Over the weekend the Department for Education issued further advice on Safeguarding during Covid-19. The guidance states that “*It is important schools and colleges (led by a DSL or deputy, wherever possible) review and revise their child protection policy and keep it under review as circumstances continue to evolve*”. It also states that “*a COVID-19 annex/addendum that summarises any key COVID-19 related changes might be more effective than re-writing and re-issuing the whole policy.*” 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>

**To save time for all schools please note that the Safeguarding teams are currently drafting an appendix which schools can add onto their child protection policy as an appendix as described. This will be coming out in the Headteachers update on Thursday morning and then will be found on the Babcock website.**

The Key messages are already included in the attached safer working practice guidance.

Please find attached a letter from Jo Olsson (Chief Officer Children’s Services) and Cllr James McInnes (Cabinet Member for Children’s Services and Schools) which has been sent to headteachers.

### **Careers South West (CSW) – connections and advice for young people**

Devon County Council (DCC) has worked with CSW over the last few days to ensure that advice for young people is placed clearly on their website <https://cswgroup.co.uk/> during the current Covid-19 crisis.

If you have any helpful information you would like posted here, please send it to [verity.french@cswgroup.co.uk](mailto:verity.french@cswgroup.co.uk) and [gina.keith@cswgroup.co.uk](mailto:gina.keith@cswgroup.co.uk) and they will add it.

In addition, the CSW Facebook page is very active <https://www.facebook.com/CSWGroupUK/> and is another recommended source of advice, information and positive messaging for young people.

### **School Insurance Cover during Covid-19 – for maintained schools only**

Following enquiries from schools, the DCC insurance company has now confirmed that schools operating with an extended age range during the Covid-19 period, **will be covered** by insurance.

DCC has also asked about schools hosting children coming in from other schools, and are still awaiting a response.

## **Easter Holiday Provision**

The web link to the Easter Provision directory is <https://www.devon.gov.uk/schools/school-closures/latest-school-opening-details-for-easter-2020/>

It is also available as the 3rd item on this

page <https://www.devon.gov.uk/document/schools-and-families/> - Easter opening 2020.

## **National voucher scheme launched for schools providing free school meals**

The Department for Education has updated their information relating to the national voucher scheme.

Schools will receive an email from the Department for Education's chosen supplier, Edenred, explaining how to access and administer the voucher scheme locally. The email should be received today.

Full details of this scheme can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance>

## **Safe Working Practices during Covid-19**

Many schools have requested clarification for requirements for schools in relation to this topic so please find attached safer working practice guidance for schools.

Also attached is a helpful flow chart for school staff (supporting key workers doc) provided by Robinhood MAT. The partial opening check list it refers to was shared on Friday.

Kind regards

The Governance Consultancy Team