



## **Integrated Children and Family Services COVID-19 Briefing 3 - 03 04 20**

### **Looking After Ourselves and Each Other:**

In my briefing last week I referred to some wellbeing hints and tips. I want to start this and future weekly briefings in the same vein. I am impressed on a daily basis with the drive and commitment of all our Service to respond as quickly and as appropriately as possible to the range of issues we face as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.

I am also conscious that behind the committed professional front there is also a home and family life which has also been affected in many and various ways by this crisis; illness, distancing, financial uncertainty for family members, disruption to the usual education provision for our children and young people and in many other ways. If ever there was a time to draw on our professional skills of observation, compassion and empathy, then that time is now as we strive to work together and support each other during such challenging times.

These articles have helpfully been flagged up to me and I urge you to have a look at them:

- Scottish Attachment in Action have uploaded very helpful list of resources in managing anxiety in relation to Coronavirus. These are relevant in both the personal and professional context.  
<https://www.saia.org.uk/why-attachment-matters-more-than-ever.html>
- Scott Berinato's article "*That Discomfort You're Feeling Is Grief*" helps us to acknowledge the grief and loss of safety we are experiencing within this pandemic. The author supports us to have compassion for ourselves and others, and find meaning in our experiences of grief to help us form some level of control in our lives. It promotes us to find balance in our thinking, and live in the present rather than anticipating the uncertainties of the future.  
<https://hbr.org/2020/03/that-discomfort-youre-feeling-is-grief>

### **Other key messages from this week:**

- The Scottish Government has issued [Supplementary Child Protection Guidance](#). This requires a slight adjustment to the Contingency Arrangements issued last week and the updated document is embedded here. The main adjustment relates to the process for the deregistration of children from the Child Protection Register. The Scottish Government Guidance encourages the streamlining of IRD processes and the Child Protection Committee has this under immediate review.

- The Children’s Hearing arrangements are under constant review. The new [Coronavirus \(Scotland\) Act](#) passed yesterday (2 April) enables adjustments to these statutory processes and regular updates from SCRA are anticipated. Virtual hearings are being conducted and the statement below outlines their effectiveness and the proposals for their continuation on the weeks ahead. SCRA have issued an update in relation to S143 transfers of children:

From: Roma.BruceDavies@scra.gov.uk <Roma.BruceDavies@scra.gov.uk>  
 Sent: 31 March 2020 20:32  
 To: Graeme Simpson <GSimpson@aberdeencity.gov.uk>;

Subject: Update in relation to s.143 transfers

Good evening all,

An update in relation to s.143 transfers.

Now that we are having virtual hearings on different days throughout the week and have managed the volume of hearings down significantly, we will be aiming to have a s.143 emergency transfer hearing within the 3 working days required by the legislation. Where this is not possible, we will aim to have a hearing as soon as it is possible. This hearing would still be conducted as an administrative hearing without full participation at the moment (although we now inviting views to be submitted by parties in writing).

I am aware there were 2 s.143s that came in last week from Aberdeen City and I have asked reporters to get in touch with the social workers and schedule a review hearing as soon as possible to consider the move of placement

Thanks

**IMPORTANT – SCRA email addresses have changed. All addresses now use the domain – @scra.gov.uk. Please ensure that your records are updated.**

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Please see SCRA [Scheduling Hearings for Week Beginning 6th April and beyond](#)

A number of **support helplines** have come on stream this week and may be helpful resources:

- All COVID-19 Procedural Briefings for Integrated Children & Family Services are now available on [The Zone/Integrated Children & Family Services](#). Please use this link to access the most recent version of documents, which are changing on a frequent basis.
- Psychological Resilience Hub went live yesterday. This hub has approximately 200 “counsellors” offering support to the public. This includes staff who work in the CAMHS triage service to ensure escalated interventions should the risk to a child require it. <https://news.aberdeencity.gov.uk/grampian-coronavirus-covid-19-assistance-hub-launched/>
- Grampian Community Assistance Hub is now launched . The web link is [www.GCAH.org.uk](http://www.GCAH.org.uk) and the phone number is 0808 196 3384 (8am-8pm 7 days)
- Aberdeen City Crisis Support Line is linked with the Hub to prevent duplication in responding to need. It launched last week 0800 0304 713 and is available 24hours a

day, 7 days a week. It provides a triage point for welfare advice, emotional and practical support.

I expect another busy week next week as we continue to provide ongoing services, implement new supports for the most vulnerable and make sure our resources are allocated as best as possible to meet this crisis. Please take some time to refresh and refuel over the weekend.

With best wishes,

Graeme Simpson

Chief Officer IC&FS and CSWO

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