

COVID-19 school arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at Sands

End Adventure Playground

1. Context

From 20th March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response - who absolutely need to attend.

Schools and **all childcare providers** were asked to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

From 1st June 2020 schools were asked to extend their provision to Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children.

This addendum of the Sands End Adventure Playground Safeguarding and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas

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10. Supporting children at SEAPIA
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2. Key Contacts

Designated Safeguarding Lead	Lucy Lee	Lucy@seapia.org
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Julie Cavanagh	Julie@seapia.org.

3. Vulnerable children

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.

Those who have a social worker include children who have a Child Protection Plan and those who are looked after by the Local Authority. A child may also be deemed to be vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputy) know who our most vulnerable children are. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support.

SEAPIA will continue to work with and support children's social workers to help protect vulnerable children. This includes working with and supporting children's social workers and the local authority for looked-after and previously looked-after children.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, SEAPIA or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

SEAPIA will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend the sessions at Sands End Adventure Playground, as long as it is safe to do so. Alternatively, they will be encouraged to participate in the home arts and crafts activities we will provide.

4. Designated Safeguarding Lead

SEAPIA has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Lucy Lee

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Julie Cavanagh

The second Deputy Safeguarding Lead is: Neda Anderson

The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. Where this is not the case a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone or online - for example when working from home.

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a senior leader will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

This might include updating and managing access to child protection online management system, and liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and as required liaising with children's social workers where they require access to children in need.

It is important that all staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). On each day, staff on site will be made aware of who that person is and how to speak to them.

The DSL will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

5. Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the Safeguarding Policy, this includes making a report, which can be done remotely and email the DSL.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children at SEAPIA, they should report the concern to the DSL. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the DSL whilst away from SEAPIA, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the DSL.

Concerns around the DSL should be directed to the Chair of Committee: Luke Marlow.

6. Safeguarding Training and induction

DSL training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID 19 virus.

For the period COVID-19 measures are in place, a DSL (or deputy) who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or deputy) even if they miss their refresher training.

All existing staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). The DSL should communicate with staff about any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter SEAPIA, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to our organisation, we will take into account the local authority supplementary guidance on safeguarding children during the COVID-19 pandemic and will accept portability as long as the current employer confirms in writing that:-

- the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check
- there are no known concerns about the individual's suitability to work with children
- there is no ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to that individual

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of SEAPIA's safeguarding and child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

7. Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children. When recruiting new staff, SEAPIA will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes.

In response to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has made changes to its guidance on standard and enhanced DBS ID checking to minimise the need for face-to-face contact.

SEAPIA will continue to follow the legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult.

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current National emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any childcare setting is aware, on any given day, which staff will be in SEAPIA, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity.

8. Online safety

SEAPIA will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system.

Where children are using computers/iPads, appropriate supervision will be in place.

9. Supporting children not at SEAPIA

SEAPIA is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people.

Where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, they should ensure that a robust communication plan with the relevant school is in place for that child or young person.

Details of this plan must be recorded, as should a record of contact have made.

The communication plans can include email and phone contact.

SEAPIA and its DSL will work closely with all relevant parties to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

This plan must be reviewed regularly where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate and then inform the relevant social worker.

SEAPIA recognises that its childcare provision is a protective factor for children and young people, and the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of children and their parents/carers.

10. Supporting children at SEAPIA

SEAPIA is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its children.

SEAPIA will continue to be a safe space for all its registered children to attend and flourish. The Manager (Julie Cavanagh) will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to children ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

SEAPIA will refer to the Government guidance for youth settings on how to implement social distancing and continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID19.

SEAPIA will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

Where SEAPIA has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Leads or first aiders – will discuss them immediately with the Local Authority.

[See SEAPIA Risk Assessment](#)

11. Peer on Peer Abuse

SEAPIA recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims.

Where SEAPIA receives a report of peer on peer abuse, they will follow the principles as set out in those outlined within our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multiagency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person.

Concerns and actions must be recorded and appropriate referrals made.

12. Support from the Local Authority

The Local Authority Safeguarding Team will provide support and guidance as appropriate to enable the DSL to carry out their role effectively.