



24th March 2020

Dear **Safeguarding Partners, Boards and, Local Authorities**

London Ambulance Service (LAS) safeguarding actions during COVID19

We are writing to advise you of immediate changes to the LAS safeguarding function in light of the impact of Covid – 19.

The LAS continues to remain committed to continue to protect and support those most at risk of abuse and neglect. This position does not change as a result of the current situation. However this will be a difficult time for all health and social care services and it is vital we prioritise our resources to the essential requirements to support those with the greatest need and greatest risk of abuse.

Staff from across our corporate services including the safeguarding team have been required to support core frontline duties whilst we maintain essential corporate functions. Due to these changes on the workload of our staff discussions have been held with NHSE, commissioners and a number of partner agencies that have informed our decision making outlined below.

We have therefore made the decision to prioritise supporting our external partners in their work to help those at immediate risk of abuse and neglect. We will therefore be suspending our input into external partner investigations for historical cases or recent deaths of children or adults at risk due to abuse and neglect.

We will prioritise responding to urgent requests from partner agencies for information to protect those who are being or at risk of being abused. Including responding as promptly as possible to all child protection concerns.

Below is a list of what we will continue to focus on and what will cease doing during this period.

Task	Continue to support/ contribute	Unable to support/ contribute
Child Deaths	Continue to complete Child Death Notifications. (formally Form A) Continue to be part of the Joint Agency Response Meeting via Dial in facility	Form B
Safeguarding Practice Reviews (Children formally SCR)	Any initial high level request for information regarding LAS involvement with child (i.e. number of visits)	Chronology Individual Management Reviews SPR submissions
Safeguarding Adult	Any initial high level request	Chronology



<p>Reviews (SAR) Inc Domestic Homicide Reviews</p>	<p>for information regarding LAS involvement with the adult subject to the SAR (i.e. number of visits)</p>	<p>Individual Management Reviews SAR submissions</p>
<p>Requests for urgent information on conveyance or reason for attendance MASH enquiries include</p>	<p>Continue to provide</p>	
<p>Safeguarding Referrals for children</p>	<p>Continue current process making referrals 24/7 for as long as possible. If staffing reduced clear guidance will be provided to staff on immediate notifications for significant risk cases and ensuring safety netting to protect the child at all times. Introduce a RAG rated risk approach for managing this process dependent on situation.</p>	
<p>Safeguarding Concerns for Adults</p>	<p>Continue current process making referrals 24/7 for as long as possible. Ensure adults are safety netted. If Staffing levels reduce clear guidance will be provided to staff on process to protect those adults most at risk. Introduce RAG rated risk approach for managing this process dependant on situation</p>	
<p>Safeguarding Adult Care/Welfare concerns</p>	<p>Continue with current process. If staff levels reduce Introduce RAG rated risk approach for managing this process dependant on situation i.e. invoke process for all adults to make direct contact with the local authority themselves or a relative or friend to assist.</p>	



	Ensure safety of patient hand concern over when discharging patient to another professional.	
Requests for further information following safeguarding referral or concern	Continue to provide information via the Safeguarding.las@nhs.net email account to support decision making for those at risk.	
Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)	We will answer requests on a specific date /incident to aid MARAC decision making.	Providing detailed information on our contact with a patient or family over a prolonged period to all MARACS
Safeguarding Reports		THE LAS will provide a reduced report to commissioners in our quarterly return. The trust will continue to produce an annual report however this may be delayed due to current situation. All other historic reporting will cease

We appreciate that these are challenging times and the risk of abuse and neglect has the potential to increase during this period. We also recognise that we are going to be one of the only agencies who will continue to have access to people's homes and the opportunity to recognise the signs of abuse and neglect. We therefore will continue to focus on raising safeguarding awareness with our "frontline" workforce and continue make the relevant and appropriate referrals in relation to concerns.

As you may be aware we have also requested ex members of staff and volunteers to come and support the LAS. We have a standing operating procedure in place for "Safer Recruitment" and a risk on the Trust risk register.

As a Trust we are a member of the NHSE Safeguarding Covid 19 cell, along with having regular telephone conferences with National Ambulance Safeguarding Leads and the National Ambulance Quality Directors group. These changes will be reviewed on a regular basis and we will continue to update if we make any further changes or once we are able to revert back to our usual functions.

Please be assured that the safeguarding of our most vulnerable public is at the forefront of our decision making.



If you have any concerns please raise them to Alan Taylor Head of Safeguarding & Prevent via the following Alan.Taylor@lond-amb.nhs.uk or call Telephone 07748770969.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Alan Taylor'.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Bain'.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Diane Jones'.

Alan Taylor
Head of Safeguarding &
Prevent (LAS)

Trisha Bain
Executive Lead for
Safeguarding (LAS)

Diane Jones
Executive Lead for NWL
CCGs