**CMAT RA of risk to Children and Young People not Attending School due to Covid-19 Pandemic**

The Children’s commissioner has recently published a document titled: Briefing: Tackling the disadvantage gap during the Covid-19 crisis April 2020. This document talks clearly about pupils who at risk of falling behind but also those who are vulnerable for other reason. (it is well worth a read)

Although the Government’s has a definition of disadvantage and this will capture many of the children affected by issues such as overcrowding, lack of internet access and ability of families to parent, it will not capture them all. The Government’s focus so far has perhaps missed too many children including those at an educational disadvantage.

We agree that there needs to be a drive to increase attendance among vulnerable children to ensure that these children are properly safeguarded. This will involve much clearer messaging for children, parents/carers, social workers and teachers about the need for this and assurances about safety. We know that some of our schools have been very active in reaching out to parents of vulnerable children and encouraging them to send their children in, but there is capacity for schools to serve a greater range of pupils than they currently are.

We are asking all heads to complete this assessment tool to help inform decision making around vulnerable pupils, we are also asking that you consider if there are other pupils who might gain from attendance in school at this time, or from additional support via telephone or e mail. What can our schools do to ensure that any additional support pupils were in receipt of is not lost. Can we be creative and reimagine not only their education but their pastoral support too?

Please ask staff to complete the attached RA if they have any concerns about pupils and during the consideration of attendance or additional support, There is a separate RA for pupils with EHCPs, which meet the requirements set out for risk assessing pupils with plans. We must make informed decisions which best meet the needs our of pupils.

This assessment should be completed with the young person and family as part of a 'check in' conversation to see how the child and family are coping and feeling. It is always best if this conversation is with someone the family know and trust. If it is not possible to contact the child and family, this should be seen as an additional worry.

If the child has a current assessment or plan (Child in Need, Child Protection etc), any relevant information from this tool should be shared with the keyworker; and the support offered amended accordingly.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** |  | **Person completing this assessment (including contact details)** |  | **Type of Plan (CP, CIN)** |  |

**Section1: Family and Network Details**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Child's(Childrens) Name(s):** |  | **Date of Birth** |  |
| **Family Address:** |  | | |
| **Who currently lives with the child?**  **Who else is important in their life?** |  | | |
| **Who are the professionals currently involved with the child and family?** |  | | |

**Section 2: Vulnerability Assessment**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Overview of reasons for not attending school** | | | |
| **What are we worried about?** | **What is going well?** | **What needs to happen?** | |
| What are the issues we are worried about while the child is not coming to school? And why?  What are the things that make life hard being at home all of the time? And how do we know? | Who or what is supporting or helping the child while they are not in school? How do we know that this is keeping them safe and well?  Who or what else could help the child and family cope with the current situation? How will we know that this is working? | | Does the child need to come to school?  Does any additional support need to be put in place? What does this look like? |
| **Scaling - Having discussed what life is like for this child right now, how worried are we?**  **0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10**  **Extremely worried No worries** | | | |
| **Reasons for scaling** | | | |

**Date to be reviewed: By whom:**