

Appendix 1

Safeguarding Children and Families following a Terrorist Attack and/or Incident

(To be read in conjunction with Greater Manchester Procedure for Safeguarding Children and Young People, Assessment Framework for Violent Extremism guidance and usual safeguarding procedures)

Key Principles

- Usual safeguarding legislation and processes should be followed as in any other safeguarding strategy meeting and investigation
- The welfare of the child is paramount and holistic assessments need to be undertaken
- Joint working with Counter Terrorism Unit and multi agency colleagues is key from outset, and specialist knowledge from all partners is needed to make effective decisions

Guidance

Initial Notification:

- In first instance of an investigation of this nature beginning Safeguarding Team of Counter Terrorism Unit will contact Director of Children's Services to alert him and to make some initial plans around a safeguarding strategy
- DCS will nominate a Service Manager to coordinate the response across the district teams and ensure consistency; consideration to be given at this point as to how resources will be allocated to manage this
- Contact Centre to be alerted and ensure all referrals are sent straight through to district - should Contact Centre receive referrals prior to official notification, they will send an alert to their senior manager to escalate to DCS

Strategy Meetings:

- Initial strategy meetings to be chaired by the nominated Service Manager - key attenders to be CTU, PPIU, relevant schools or colleges, Housing, appropriate Health representatives and allocated social worker
- The agreed investigative 'form of words' will be shared with all at the meeting, however CTU will provide an additional privileged briefing to the allocated social worker
- Within strategy meetings decision made by Chair with multi agency input as to whether the case requires S47 enquiry or a CIN level response and for this to be clearly recorded
- Consideration will be given within the strategy meeting to joint visits where possible between social workers and Channel police officers
- The strategy meeting needs to consider and clearly record any safety issues for staff and requirements around visiting, ie in pairs.
- Signed records of meetings to be provided to all attendees on the same day

- Review dates for review strategy meetings/ CIN meetings to be set within the strategy meeting dependent on level of risk
- Initial strategy meetings to be held in succession on same day; service manager then to complete brief on all families for DCS on same day

Displaced Families

- This refers to those households who are asked to leave their properties as they become a scene of interest for CTU. They are asked so a search can be conducted and also for their own safety. They will be accommodated in a hotel or can nominate family or friends to stay with. The duration of this can be variable depending on the the investigation. In some cases some family members may have been arrested.
- The impact of the displacements and of any arrests should be considered at the strategy meeting including psychological impact on children, the practical arrangements, and impact within the community.
- Social workers should visit families where they have been moved to as soon as possible to establish a relationship and check immediate need. Children to be spoken to alone as far as is possible at this stage.
- Prior to families returning PPIU will undertake a Community Impact Assessment and may issue Threat To Life notices. The property may be target hardened by Police and implement a patrol plan. PPIU to share this with allocated social worker prior to the families return. Due to method of entry used, repairs and cleaning will be required prior to the families return.
- If families feel unsafe due to threat from community or media intrusion, a move will be considered by Housing informed by information from multi agency partners.

Assessment

- There will be ongoing and dynamic risk assessment occurring throughout the course of the investigation. If at any point information suggests that there could be an immediate safeguarding risk to children usual processes should be followed and a strategy meeting convened and immediate action taken to ensure the safety of the children. This may involve the use of police powers and court orders.
- Social workers will carry out a Child and Family Assessment using the usual process and template. In addition, the assessment needs to consider the impact of displacement, possible bereavement, separation and loss, impact of community response, impact of ongoing police investigation, link into school's strategy around support and also protection as well as assessing vulnerability for radicalisation.
- The child will have an allocated Channel police officer who the social worker should liaise with throughout the assessment process. The Channel police officer will complete a Vulnerability Assessment Framework assessment which is a multi agency document and will be shared with the social worker. This will consider 22 factors which are vulnerability indicators for involvement in violent extremism. The Channel police officer will attend all social work meetings. The Channel officer will also provide specialist guidance to contextualise risk.
- Social workers should refer to the guidance on Triax to inform their case planning.

- Using Signs of Safety there should be clear danger statements formulated which are shared with the family and safety goals formulated. Channel need to contribute to this.

Other Considerations:

- Contact between children and parents that have been arrested can be facilitated in a planned way in a secure facility. This needs to be coordinated by CTU.
- Named people to be identified in key departments to be immediate contact points in the event of an attack or incident
- Specialist team to be available to put in place if there is an attack or to be a point of contact and specialist knowledge across the service (Op Dovetail)
- Training is required for frontline social workers around joining vulnerabilities for violent extremism within the assessment framework
- Should there be future investigations of this nature, Children's Services to be involved at an earlier point to ensure maximum support for families
- Recognition there has been an impact on resources both staffing and financial
- What do we want our legacy to be - to learn from this, to make real changes to practice, to improve our understanding, approach and joint working

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