Vulnerable Children Risk Assessment Process: Children's Services process to support and enhance safeguarding of vulnerable children:

As part of the LA duty for safeguarding children, and supporting schools to safeguard children during the COVID-19 school closures, Children's Services have worked together to create a new fortnightly process to support:

• The assessment and management of risk for vulnerable children during COVID-19 school/college/training provider closures
• Improved systems of sharing information and utilising resources to monitor at-risk children during school/college/training provider closures
• Identification of barriers to vulnerable children attending school and working together to resolve these so that schools college/training provider are able to prioritise the right children to attend

The process commenced this week and work has begun today (Friday 3rd) to analyse the returns sent in by schools and colleges about the safety and welfare of vulnerable children. Thank you to the majority of settings that have made their returns, and many more are making them today. With any new process there are often initial practical challenges, and many settings have returned vitally important updates on the dataset in terms of new school place, or the current status of individual children, so that central records can be updated.

It is clear that settings are working very hard to implement plans for safeguarding children either in school or remotely and this involves essential liaison with other services. The aim of this new risk assessment process is to consider where the risks are escalating and what further actions can be taken to mitigate these situations.

All urgent and escalating risks will be reviewed by a strategic group by the end of Wednesday 8 April, so schools/colleges/providers will be involved in these further discussions as appropriate.
Thank you for your continuing efforts to safeguard the most vulnerable children during these very challenging times.