



27 April 2020

As a country we are facing a challenge that is simply unprecedented in our history.

We know that despite this collective challenge, our dedicated social workers on the frontline are continuing to support vulnerable adults, children and families every day. We owe you all a debt of gratitude for continuing to operate with such professionalism at a time that will be difficult for you and your own families.

We wanted to thank the entire sector, including those returning to it, for stepping up to this challenge with such dedication and determination. Over the recent weeks we have been struck by extraordinary examples of social workers responding to these unparalleled circumstances.

This will obviously be a difficult time for you and your loved ones. On top of this, you will naturally be anxious about the wellbeing of both your colleagues and the longer-term impact this crisis will have on the people who depend on your care and support.

In order to alleviate some of these professional worries, we recently published initial guidance for local authorities and those working in local safeguarding partnerships to keep all social workers safe whilst promoting the welfare of children and adults in your area.

Similarly, we also published guidance on Care Act easements to enable local authorities to relax some of their duties, where absolutely necessary, so that they can focus their resources on meeting the most urgent needs of adults.

We want to assure you that we will continue to do everything in our power to support you in your work, which is needed now more than ever.

And once again, on behalf of the Prime Minister and the entire Government, we want to thank you for your work.

Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP
Secretary of State for Education

Rt. Hon Matt Hancock
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care