

Safeguarding young people during the Covid-19 pandemic



Slide Pack for Participants

Session slides – click on title for slides

Safeguarding young people during the Covid-19 pandemic

This introductory session will explain the legal and policy context for the Covid19 pandemic in relation to safeguarding. Fusing this introduction with pragmatic guidance on implementing safer working in practice, the session will conclude with an open space for questions and answers.

Introduction - Isabelle King
Covid Law & Policy: Tom Burke
Practice Issues & Lessons Learnt: Clair Cooke

Reassessing your organisations' risks and updating policies & procedures Presenter: Tom Burke

As the Covid19 legal restrictions begin to lift; the pandemic continues. Organisations will need to consider how they recover from a period of rapid change and respond to a changing environment. Effectively managing risk will enable you to make informed and safer choices as the pandemic continues.

Safer recruitment practice and supervision

Presenter: Clair Cooke

An essential part of your ongoing safeguarding commitment is to follow a robust recruitment process and provide effective supervision for all your staff and volunteers. By reviewing and adapting processes and expectations organisations will be able to maintain good safeguarding standards.

Young people at risk of harm during the pandemic Presenter: Isabelle King

While any young person can experience abuse, neglect or harm, the pandemic is exacerbating existing inequalities of access to services and support. Those with the biggest barriers to support are likely to be most disadvantaged. This session will help you identify those who are particularly impacted by the pandemic or at increased risk of harm during this period.

About us

We have worked together as three independent consultants to develop this Seminar. Each of us delivers a wide range of services supporting voluntary organisations.

Clair Cooke

Clair is a practice improvement consultant and trainer with over 30 years' experience in the youth sector. She is committed to supporting organisations to engage safely, effectively and to role model values for young people to be inspired and motivated by. With a former background in law and youth work, she brings a fusion of analytical and pragmatic approach to her work. With prior senior management roles including The Children's Society and Girlguiding, Clair has a breadth of operational management and service improvement experience across a variety of service user groups and organisational structures.

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Connect on LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/clair-cooke

Isabelle King

Isabelle has over 30 years' experience in capacity building within the youth sector at senior management level. She specialises in organisational learning and development and is a notable leader in the youth safeguarding arena. Isabelle currently chairs the National Safeguarding Youth Forum (NSYF), delivers training, consultancy and public speaking around building a safeguarding culture. She is also a member of the NSPCC's Communities Advisory Board. She has worked in the voluntary and public sector as Head of Safeguarding at the Girlguiding Association and most recently as a subject matter expert for the Voluntary Police Cadets.

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Tom Burke

Tom is a leading authority on safeguarding in voluntary organisations working under the amplify.org.uk platform. Having grown up engaging with youth organisations, he moved from service user to professional, he now regularly delivers training, consultancy and public speaking on safeguarding law, policy & practice. He previously worked at the Children's Rights Alliance for England, held senior roles at Y Care International, the international development agency of the YMCA and led the implementation of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations Safeguarding Training Fund. He recently co-authored Safeguarding & the Law with BWB (forthcoming).

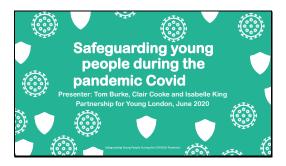
Email: tom@amplify.org.uk Connect on LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/tomwburke

Website: <u>www.amplify.org.uk</u> Follow on Twitter: @tomwburke

Safeguarding young people during the Covid-19 pandemic Presenters: Clair Cooke, Isabelle King and Tom Burke

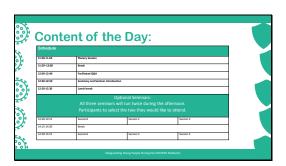
Introduction Isabelle King

Slide 1



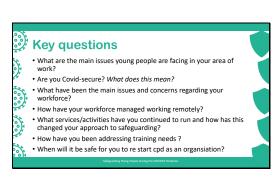
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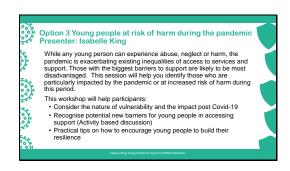
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Slide 8





Covid Law & Policy: Tom Burke

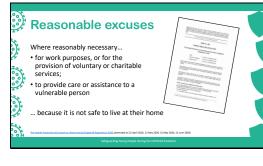
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Slide 2



Slide 3



Jp to June 1^{st:} → Applied for the area during the emergency period, no person may leave the place where they are living without easonable excuse.

After June 1st → No person may, without reasonable excuse, stay

overnight at any place other than the place where they are living [F2or where their linked household is living].



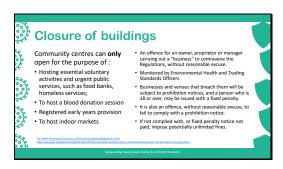
ines

Fines differ depending on which country you are in. People who do not pay a fine could be taken to court, where they could be fined an unlimited amount.

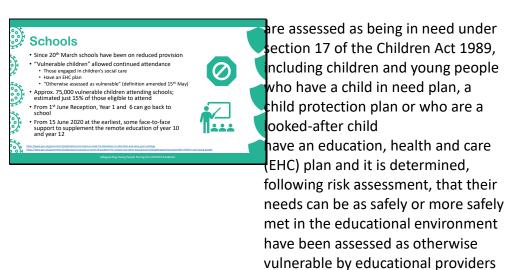
England

People aged 18 or over can be fined: £100 for the first offence, lowered to £50 if paid within 14 days £200 for the second offence, then doubling for each further offence up to a maximum of £3200

Slide 5







or local authorities (including

continued attendance.

children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from

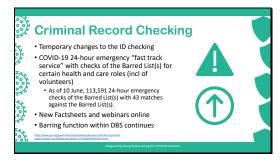




Slide 10







Slide 13







Slide 16





Practice Issues & Lessons Learnt: Clair Cooke

Slide 1



Slide 2







Slide 5



Platform: Make sure it is not a barrier

Policies: set clear expectations and how policy applies to digital engagement

Checks and measures: reciprocal code of conduct; monitor professional boundaries; regular supervision; quality assurance; how service users contact you about concerns; let service users know how they can expect you to contact/work with them; invite feedback/facilitate service user discussion; safer recruitment

- Protocols: sessions are scheduled in diary/case notes and written up; check-in with young person – are they able to talk freely?
- Training & Support: space to reflect, review and share lessons learned
- Check security features: set protocols for use; checklists
- Consent: Children aged 13 or over can legally provide their own consent; competence; must understand what consenting to.
 Assess and record decisions for seeking/not seeking parent/carer consent

 Working online: time, boundaries.
 Set expectations about breaks and amount of online meetings

Slide 6



Increased vulnerabilities: relationship abuse; substance misuse; online bullying; trauma; anxiety and fear; health conditions

Barriers: shame; not realising being abused/cannot accept; lack of trust etc; AND may have less opportunity to tell someone; fear of consequences

- Update information: review and update regularly
- Checking how to engage: adapt and blend to facilitate access eg be flexible, offer different ways eg phone, online platforms
- How to contact information: –
 websites; discuss during session,
 if appropriate; digital leaflet ..
- Be aware of indicators; risk factors; barriers. Be curious and ask questions, clarify – don't assume. Be accountable follow up appropriately with actions

Increased demand/pressure on service

- Skills and knowledge audit
- · Audit of partners
- \bullet Check for opportunities of additional funding or changes to contracts
- Risk assess what you can reasonably and safely manage eg if you have waiting lists how will you assess changes in need/priority?
- Log it record the demand, needs and issues to inform future bids and forward planning

Audit internal: are there skills/experience that are not being used or could be re-routed, even temporarily; re-prioritise work Audit external: new and existing; how can you work together; who is taking referrals, process etc

Slide 8

Dealing with increase in low level concerns

- \bullet Continue to follow the 4 R's Recognise; Respond; Record; Refer
- Consider triage/escalation process to DSO so that they can focus on more complex or serious concerns
- Chronology and risk assessment
- Strengthen processes for monitoring and reviewing cases eg case management; 1-1 supervision; group supervision; action plans
- Are there any other professionals supporting the young person?
- Equipping the young person with information and building resilience

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Chronology – a list of dates of significant events. Updating and reviewing risk and chronology will help draw together crucial information/patterns and new information to aid decisions and actions



Recording standards eg timely, up to date; fact/opinion; young person's voice; young person centred. Check your local authority who will have recording standards

Referrals - think about what information is most crucial and set out clearly so the person on duty can quickly see the risks and reason for referral. Eg what you are referring for and most recent incident; give information about any previous concerns/referrals; summarise your concerns with facts; detail risk factors as well as potential areas for strength (eg relationships, partner organisations, interests); state the outcome you would like; include the young person's voice (and parents/carers)

Slide 10



Check existing guidance to get a sense of how this may impact your service eg https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/guidance-for-schools-coronavirus-covid-19. Check local authorities, voluntary organisation networks and other relevant activity or professional guidance. Most bodies are monitoring the situation and

 Capture information: identify and address risks; canvas your young people, parents, partners and workforce to create a service that is accessible and still meets needs

regularly to help people get ready

issuing advice and guidance

 It's okay to remind young people, parents/carers and other organisations that you are following government guidance.

In some areas you may not be able to put firm plans in place until you have more information eg if you deliver from partner venues like schools and community centres, you will need to see their protocols and policies. Keep your stakeholders informed and where possible keep in touch



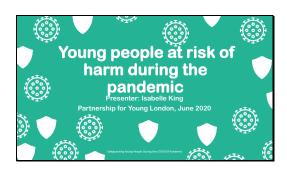
Young people at risk of harm during the pandemic Presenter: Isabelle King

While any young person can experience abuse, neglect or harm, the pandemic is exacerbating existing inequalities of access to services and support. Those with the biggest barriers to support are likely to be most disadvantaged. This session will help you identify those who are particularly impacted by the pandemic or at increased risk of harm during this period.

This workshop will help participants:

- Consider the nature of vulnerability and will this be different post Covid-19?
- Recognise potential new barriers for young people in accessing support (scenario based discussion in break out rooms)
- Practical tips on how to encourage young people to build their resilience

Slide 1







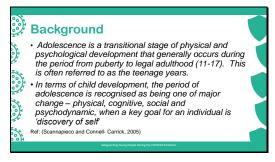
Answers

Over 1.5million children (13.5%) in England live in families where one parent or carer has a severe mental health problem True There are an estimated 102,000 young carers in England, what actual number of young people is known to Local Authorities:

35,000

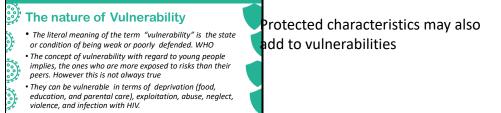
- 380,000 children in England live in homes where domestic abuse has taken place in the last year. True
- Over 10,000 children known to children's services were identified as being in gangs. True
- Across England 2 million children are living in poverty, and 1.22 million claim free school meals this roughly equates to 15% of all children. False - 4.1 million children are living in poverty
- 8% of British households do not have access to good internet access. True
- What makes up the Toxic Trio? Abusive environment/Alcohol/Poverty

Ref: We're in this Together - Report of local area profiles of child vulnerability 2020 April – Children's Commissioner



Slide 5



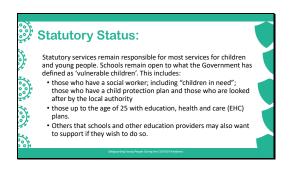


Vulnerability is defined around 3 fundamental aspects of depency:
 Material aspects — money, food, clothing, shelter, health care and education;
 Emotional aspects — care, love, support, space to grieve and containment of emotions;
 Social aspects — absence of a supportive peer group, of role models to follow, or of guidance in difficult situations, and risks in the immediate environment

Maslow Hierarchy of Needs

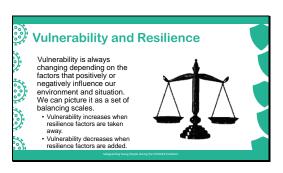
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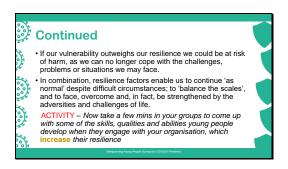






Slide 11







Slide 14



Slide 15



Cross-cutting groups

hose in contact with perpetrators of harm

The National Crime Agency believes there are a minimum 300,000 ndividuals in the UK posing a sexual threat to children, either through physical 'contact' abuse or online.

Children and young people experiencing neglect

Evidence from Government is that nearly half of children with a child protection plan were initially categorised as experiencing neglect (48%) in 2018-19. Approximately 3 out of every 100 children in England will be known to children's social care as being a child in need of

support in 2018-19. These families will likely be under significant stress at this time. Many more children will be experiencing harm and will not be known to children's services.

Children and young people in poverty

Statistics show that before the pandemic, 30% of children live in poverty. Lone-parent families and Children in large families are at a far greater risk of living in poverty. 70% of children growing up in poverty live in a household where at least one person works. Many of these children will be at increased risks of poverty due to parents being furloughed on a reduced wage or no wage due to self-isolation or redundancy. Some will face higher risks of food insecurity with the demand for food banks escalating. You should check whether the family's circumstances have changed and if they know how to access support.

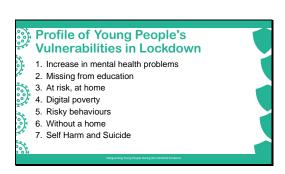
BAME young people

<u>CharitySoWhite</u> has compiled evidence of how Black, Asian and other Minority Ethnic people may be particularly adversely affected by Covid-19. For example, the disproportionate burden experienced by BAME people of poverty, overcrowded housing and unequal access to health services.

Disabled people

Many disabled children and young people – or those with disabled parents or carers – will be particularly affected by the pandemic. Government statistics show that nearly two-thirds of disabled people said coronavirus-

related concerns were affecting their wellbeing, from loneliness and problems at work, to worsening mental health. Many disabled people will be "shielded" and been advised not to leave their homes for many months. Barriers to accessing information, care and support can be particularly affected as rights to access statutory services are removed or services change how they operate. There is a huge variety of care, support and information needs amongst disabled people and these can often be condition or impairment specific. There are also significant changes in support available in each local area and local disabled people-led groups being heavily hit.





Slide 18







Slide 21









Safer recruitment practice and supervision Presenter: Clair Cooke

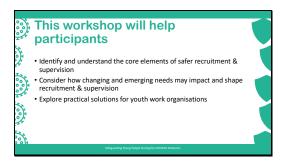
An essential part of your ongoing safeguarding commitment is to follow a robust recruitment process and provide effective supervision for all your staff and volunteers. By reviewing and adapting processes and expectations organisations will be able to maintain good safeguarding standards.

This workshop will help participants:

- Identify and understand the core elements of recruitment & supervision
- Discuss how changing and emerging needs may impact and shape recruitment & supervision
- Explore practical solutions for youth work organisations

Slide 1





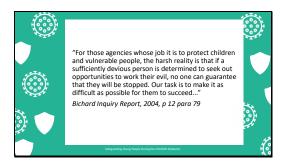


- 1 in 5 adults experienced at least one form of child abuse, whether emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, or witnessing domestic violence or abuse, before the age of 16 years source The Crime Survey for recorded and Vision STORIUM
- Approx 330,000 enhanced DBS certificates are processed each month. 0.01% of DBS applications have a barred list match (33)source: DBS May 2019
- Victim studies suggest that 1 in 9 sexual offences are committed by a woman source: NSPCC 2013

There is no source providing the current prevalence of child abuse. The Crime Survey for England & Wales provides an underestimate of child abuse as abuse against 16- and 17-year-olds is not included. Abuse perpetrated by children aged under 16 years is also only included for sexual abuse.

In the year ending March 2019, the CSEW estimated that approximately 8.5 million adults aged 18 to 74 years experienced abuse before the age of 16 years. This is equivalent to 20.7% of the population aged 18 to 74 years

Slide 4







Slide 7



Stress test policies against new ways of working eg increased risks of emote workng: ie code of conduct, professional boundaries, ecruitment, supervision, safeguarding, consent, digital protocols with yp, checking in with p or carers about satisfaction of service and how to complain Review the role: does the JD reflect what the person will be doing? Can activities still be safely managed? Is there adequate resource to support this role in line with safeguarding? Remote working - including those working at home. Risks include no immediate supervision or line management support; less opportunity for observation; potential for sense of feeling isolated and impact on wellbeing Support and building resilience: dealing with own and other's trauma, de-escalation

 As we flex and adapt our ways of working, test this against policies and resources to safeguard



Safer Recruitment

- Promote your safeguarding policy and procedures from outset eg advert, website, send policy
- Application form: gaps, reasons for leaving, supporting statement; declaration
 Shortlisting – scrutinise against criteria;
- Interview motivation, values, commitment to safeguarding, address inconsistencies

See NSPCC for fuller guide on Safer Recruitment

Promote – prospective candidates should be aware from the outset and throughout the process of your commitment to safeguarding. This needs to be demonstrated by applying procedures consistently at each stage

Application form – candidate should be demonstrating suitable for role which includes their understanding of safeguarding appropriate to role and their commitment to it

Shortlisting – at least two people should scrutinise against the criteria and note any areas for clarification at interview

Interview – if conducting remotely, try to do online with video. Add non scored questions giving opportunity for them to let you know about anything on references or DBS that may come up.

Slide 9



Safer Recruitment core

- Check identity
- References
- Proportionate DBS checking
- Induction (& post interview contact)
- Training
- Regular Supervision

n person, you would usually ask to bring in ID docs so you can ask to see hese online. Originals can be posted by registered post in the event you wish to make an offer References: try to get one from previous employer; ask specifically about suitability for role and working with young people; you may want to add questions specifically reflecting their working remotely; follow up with at least one reference by phone to verify information. Bland/basic references will need to be followed up by phone to ask for details DBS: make sure you are clear on the activities and eligibility. See DBS

website for current changes in processing

Post interview contact: think about how you will maintain contact with the candidate between being offered and starting. Things may change during pandemic so good to keep in touch and reassure them.

Training: getting essential training done (see Safeguarding Young People during Covid-19 guidance, link on final slide); identify other specific training needed so they are up to speed to do their role eg Zoom training; lone working etc

Slide 10



Induction

- Connects staff/volunteer into organisation
- Establishes core & other identified training/support
- Set objectives and expectations
- Probation period organisation & staff/volunteer

connects staff: particularly important during work from home/period of uncertainty/change to make sure people feel a part of the organisation. This helps support and reinforce the commitment to safeguarding and following policies and procedures

Training: you are still communicating your commitment to safeguarding here. Think about how you will deliver core training and ways you may be able to strengthen good practice. You may arrange shadowing of sessions with young people (with prior consent); online group sessions like action learning sets. A good way to address new ways of working and issues/learning Objectives – need to reflect what is realistically achievable over the next weeks and months; may be a good time to create resources, do an audit of partners and referrals procedures, internal audit of skills and experience. Still needs to be SMART but think about how new

staff/volunteers can connect with their colleagues
Probation: Depending on the situation, you may need to do a longer probation period – provided the rationale is fair. Principle of not confirming in post if in doubt still very much applies. Get HR advice where needed

Slide 11



Safeguarding concerns: this includes updates, discussion, and decisions Manage workload: workload may look and feel different while working remotely and online; check emotional wellbeing and any impact of work.

Management: ensuring competency and accountable performance; understands roles and responsibilities
Engagement: supervision should check in on and support the individual with feeling a part of the organisation and it's values, policies etc

Development: make sure you link all other areas above with identifying new or ongoing training and support needed



Supervision Outcomes

- Keeps focus on the young person
- Supports reflective practice patterns, trends, self awareness
- Promotes impartiality and fairness
- Informs and improves organisational practice
- Accountability service, decisions and actions
- · Support for staff/volunteer

These are good practice outcomes for supervision. They are particularly important at the moment due to added pressures on individuals and organisations. Supervision should support the staff/volunteer holistically and can help them carry out their safeguarding responsibilities effectively.

Known patterns/issues with those who are in "positions of trust" and abuse include:

- Poor appreciation of professional boundaries
- Breaches of policy & procedures "in best interests of the child"
- Lack of awareness of impact of behaviour on others
- Dutiful/over committed

These do not necessarily indicate someone who is abusing/has intention to but it is important for both manager and staff/volunteer member to understand why policies and procedures are in place; the expectation that they will be followed and any concerns/issues are discussed and agreed with line manager; potential consequences of not following policies



Slide 14



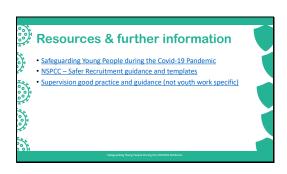
Prioritise: meet regularly – keep a rhythm and availability
Agenda: keep on track & apportion time for each area Individual needs: style, platform, time

Adapt: find out what worksgroup supervision, peer, frequency

 Review: new/increased risks; planning







Reassessing your organisations' risks and updating policies & procedures Presenter: Tom Burke

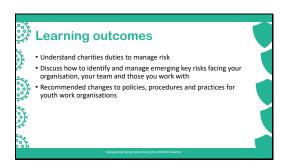
As the Covid19 legal restrictions begin to lift; the pandemic continues. Organisations will need to consider how they recover from a period of rapid change and respond to a changing environment. Effectively managing risk will enable you to make informed and safer choices as the pandemic continues.

This workshop will help participants:

- Understand charities duties to manage risk
- Discuss how to identify and manage emerging key risks facing your organisation, your team and those you work with
- Recommended changes to policies, procedures and practices for youth work organisations

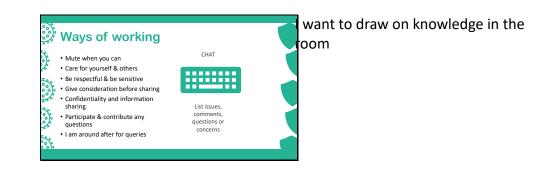
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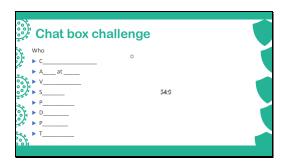






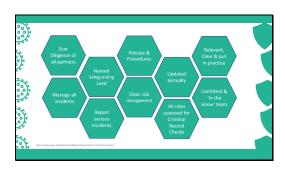
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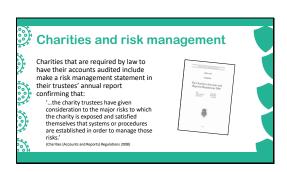
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Slide 13

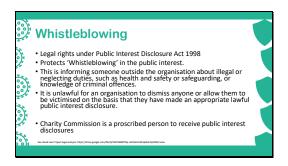






Slide 16







Slide 19

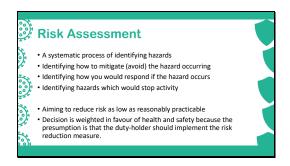


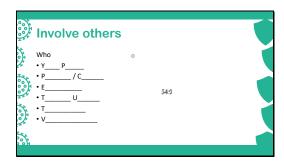




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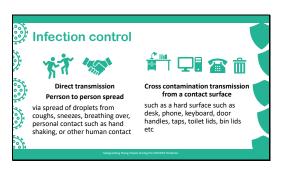
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Slide 28



Slide 29



- (Eg. Skin conditions made worse by anitser gels; Crohn's disease equiring priority acess to toilet acility; Known mental health problem).



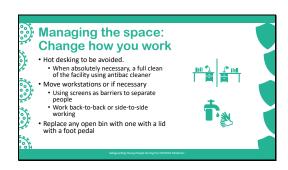
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Slide 34







Slide 37



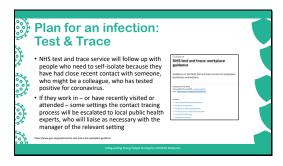




Slide 40







Slide 43



