

SCHOOLS' PROCEDURE FOR ENGAGING SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOLLOWING A CRITICAL INCIDENT (V 2)

A critical incident is any incident or sequence of events which overwhelms the normal coping mechanisms of the school. (NEPS, 2016) Such events may cause significant distress to pupils, staff and parents/carers.

01

SCHOOL'S FIRST ACTION

School to contact LCC or SIL as per the SEMP

Please do not contact individual service practitioners at this stage. LCC will signpost to SIL or direct to the WSA.

SIL Lead (in the case of bereavement) or school SEMT Lead to complete the WSA Critical Incident Support Proforma*

* Mental Health support may not be required straight away, but the alert should be raised so that services are aware of the situation

02

SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH TEAM BRIEFING

SEMT Lead to brief the school's internal Mental Health Team (Senior Mental Health Lead/MH Lead/SENCO/ Pastoral Staff) of the situation. This team will lead the school's wellbeing aftercare response.*

*In step 1 school need to determine who will be the key contact for the CIT incident lead. This will be added to the WSA Critical Incident Proforma. The Key contact will usually be the Senior Mental Health Lead.

03

FIRST RESPONSE SUPPORT <72 HRS

The Schools' Team Critical Incident Lead/s will attend the school at the earliest convenience (within 72 hours of request) to meet with the key contact (SEMT and/or senior mental health lead). They can offer advice and support to staff.

We would recommend that initial support for pupils be provided by school staff. Additional Schools' Team staff can be available if needed, but only to support staff.

04

DEVELOP SUPPORT PLAN WITH CIT LEAD

The Schools' Team CIT Lead/s will schedule regular meetings (over a 4-6 week period) with school mental health lead/s to formulate a plan of support for the school. This could include staff training, workshops and after a 6-week (trauma-based guidance) period some therapeutic support may be offered if appropriate.

05

FURTHER SUPPORT OFFERED >4-6 WEEKS

Trauma-informed support plan actioned by Schools' Team, SIL and other relevant partners

Clear boundaries and timelines will be given be for this.
Appropriate consent and safeguarding in place, including safe spaces.

Support could include:
Workshops
1:1 Support
Advice & Guidance
Consultation
Parenting Support
Staff Training

06

DEBRIEF

CIT Lead and/or WSA Development Lead (Liverpool Learning Partnership) to arrange a debrief meeting with school lead/s. Other agencies involved may join for this meeting.

The debrief will officially conclude the plan of support. Opportunities for future support, such as marking the anniversary of the critical incident may be agreed during the debrief.

MH Schools' Teams = Multi-agency Mental Health Schools' Teams
SIL = School Improvement Liverpool
LCC = Liverpool City Council
SEMT - School Emergency Management Team (internal school staff)
YPAS = Young Person's Advisory Service
MHST - Mental Health Support Team (Alder Hey)
CIT = Critical Incident Team
IAG = Information Advice & Guidance

WSA Critical Incident Support Proforma



Critical incident mental health toolkit: <https://liverpoollearning.padlet.org/admin/critical122>