Safeguarding During a Pandemic

The coronavirus pandemic has seen some devastating statistics for the safeguarding of children. During these times, children are less visible to professionals and the pressures of the pandemic take their toll on emotional and mental health.

- Reports of sexual abuse dropped by 25% between April and August compared to the same period in 2019, as children were not seen regularly by professionals. This was followed by a sharp 50% rise in referrals in September when lock down eased and children returned to school.

- 16% increase in offenders accessing online child abuse images for this same time period last year.

- 90% of domestic abuse survivors say the lockdown has significantly worsened their abuse.

- The 1st lockdown saw a 20% rise in babies being harmed or killed compared to the same time last year.

Keep your eyes and ears open and if in doubt always report your concerns to your Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Your Designated Safeguarding Lead is;