

19<sup>th</sup> August 2020

## To all practices in Surrey and Sussex LMCs

Dear Colleagues

### Shielding List: Children and Young People

I am writing to remind colleagues of the latest advice from NHS England in relation to children and young people who were placed on the shielding list when it was originally created. This relates to an advice letter sent by NHS England on 8<sup>th</sup> July, and in particular, Annex 3 of that letter. It followed a review by the Royal College of Paediatricians and Child Health [RCPCH] regarding the impact

Covid-19 infection has on children and young people with other comorbidities. The conclusion was the risk of serious illness for children and young people is generally low; NHS England therefore requested all such patients' status on the shielding list should be reviewed, in preparation for the start of the new school year in September 2020.

More recently NHS England has asked that local regions update centrally the progress being made on this review; you may therefore have received an email from your CCG about this issue.

The RCPCH expects specialists to be in regular contact with many of the children and young people who were put on the shielding list, and to proactively review their status, in conjunction with their families. If it is decided that the patient no longer needs to be considered clinically extremely vulnerable, the specialist will remove the patient from the shielding list: by following this process the patient's GP will automatically be informed, and can adjust the code on the patient's notes noting the hospital data set will also have been changed.

There may be a small number of children and young people who have been identified as clinically extremely vulnerable and on the shielding list who are not currently receiving specialist care: GPs should identify these patients via a search, using information provided at: <https://digital.nhs.uk/coronavirus/shielded-patient-list/guidance-for-general-practice>

If GPs are uncertain whether or not such patients are clinically extremely vulnerable, they should contact the relevant specialist; this can be by using the 'Advice and Guidance' route if available.

If GP colleagues are approached by children or families who are under specialist care, GPs can advise they contact their specialist directly.

Local Medical Committees for  
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GPs can, using RCPCH advice, make their own decision whether or not children who are not currently receiving specialist care should remain on the shielding list, although they should not be removed from it without a discussion with the patient and their family. There is a template letter available at the website above to send to patients to confirm they are not on the shielding list. Once this decision is made, the code should be changed in the patient's record. Data on this coding is extracted from GP systems on a weekly basis.

I hope this background is helpful.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' and 'P' followed by a long horizontal line.

**Dr Julius Parker**  
Chief Executive