**Out of hours cover/lone working policies**

* A strong risk assessment process underpins this
* General consensus that knowing how to access duty Social Work/police is key to underpinning the check in/check out process.
* Organisations generally have an on-call rota for out of hours cover.
* Most have a check in/check out system for mentors
* Those organisations with no out of hours rota/cover need to consider how will they support mentors meeting out of hours. Nobody should be on call (even informally) 7 days a week and into evenings
* Guardian 24 is a tech solution to the check in/out problem for mentors but was described as too expensive
* Volunteers need to be sufficiently trained to deal with nearly all situations that could arise, so out of hours escalations shouldn’t be needed i.e. it is either a child protection issue to be referred to social work, or something that can be handled by the volunteer, although with reference back to the co-ordinator the next day.
* Suggestion that volunteers could buddy up in pairs/in groups, or a WhatsApp group should be created.