**Lancashire Childrens CSC Approach if there is a local lock down.**

Given the complex and changing nature of the Covid 19 risk the below has been developed to help clarify Lancashire Childrens Social Care response if areas within Lancashire County Council are subject to a significant local lock down. It also applies to other geographical area where Children Lancashire look after are placed or where staff employed by Lancashire may reside.

The specifics of the lock down will impact upon the nature of the approach taken. For example the local restrictions put in place in east Lancashire. However if there is a more extensive local lockdown below are the broad principles of our approach.

**Visits**

Children undergoing assessment, supported by a CIN or CP Plan and Children Looked After who reside in an area that is subject to local lock down. There will be no physical visit undertaken to addresses in the area that has been locked down, unless there are significant safeguarding concerns or a visit is required for a Section 47 enquiry. All children that live in the lock down area will have an updated Covid Risk assessment completed on LCS Forms to evidence this has been considered. This will be signed off by the Practice Manager and shared with the IRO in those cases an IRO is allocated. This will be reviewed and recorded weekly on the LCS Covid Risk Assessment form until the lock down is lifted. Virtual visits will be undertaken a minimum of weekly on those children who are not being physical seen.

**Family Time**

CLA, who reside in an area that is subject to a local lock down, or who have parents who reside in such an area will not have face to face Family Time. It may be in exceptional circumstances direct Family Time has to occur, however this has to be evidenced in the Covid Risk Assessment. This situation is to be reviewed weekly and recorded in the Covid Risk Assessment from until the lockdown is lifted. Virtual Family Time will occur a minimum of three times per week if direct Family time is not occurring.

**Child Protection Conferences**

No face to face Child Protection Conferences will be held if parents reside in an area that is subject to a local lock down. The IRO will evidence the rational for this in the LCS Covid Risk Assessment. This will be subject to weekly review and recording on LCS.

**Residential Units**

Residential units will develop a tailored approach to the local down given their unique situation and staffing needs.

**Staff**

Staff who reside in an area that is subject to a local lock down will be expected to work from home. However will be expected to undertake visits on those high risk cases where there is no safe alternative with the provision of PPE. Staff will be supported by their line manager on an individual basis around this.

**Buildings**

Any CSC building that is open within a lock down area will be closed and no staff will be allowed to access those buildings.