

## VERSION CONTROL

<b>Title</b>	<b>Review of the Guidance re: face to face visits to Children and where virtual visits can be used.</b>
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<b>Approver &amp; Date:</b>	SLT [12.01.21]
<b>Review Date:</b>	Fortnightly

## Guidance:

# Face to Face & Virtual Visits to Children

Following the updates from DfE in relation to face to face visits to children, please see reviewed guidance below:

### Principles:

- All **non-statutory** visits can be virtual and should be, including FGC's at this time. Visits between Statutory visits can be virtual.
- There is **NO** blanket decision about statutory visits – each one will be made on a child by child basis.
- For Statutory visits, Sec 47, Child Protection, Looked After Child, Child in Need -assessment of risk of the child and the protective/risk factors will inform the decision about face to face/virtual visits. Each child will be **RAG** rated.
- If the child is attending school this is a primary protective factor as the child will be seen face to face by a partner agency that know them well and this should inform the risk assessment.
- All visits will be risk assessed with the family beforehand and PPE will be utilised (minimum in line with guidance, please use a level that you are comfortable with.)
- Where possible, see a child outside and the inside of the house virtually.

### RED, AMBER, GREEN RATING:

It is not possible to give definitive guidance that is used across all children, but as a guide and starting point the following can be used to assist in making assessments and decisions, professional judgement and understanding of the risks in the family and to the child are key:

#### RED

#### **RED -Significant Risk of Serious Harm, Injury or Death**

For looked after children – placement with parents on ICO, Reg 24, or placement at risk of breakdown).

Where referrals are new into the service and risk is unknown / unassessed. Child is not in school and no other agency is visiting, and we are concerned by the child not attending school.

All initial sec 47 visits will see the child face to face.

#### AMBER

#### **AMBER- Moderate Risk of either Emotional or Physical Harm or Neglect.**

May include some face to face, at Team Managers discretion.

May require increased virtual contact to manage the concerns.

For looked after children- children looked after in 1<sup>st</sup> 3 months or placement has some vulnerabilities.

Child is not in school / seen by another professional, but we are not concerned by this and it is in the child's best interest.

#### GREEN

#### **GREEN- Low Risk of Harm or Neglect.**

Parents working with the social worker, to a plan and progress is being made. Risk of harm is reducing.

For looked after children-looked after over 3 months & stable placements.



- **Please make sure RAG ratings are updated on the spread sheet and the case summary – clearly dated.**
- **Risk assessments are updated and uploaded onto LCS.**
- **Rationale for decisions are recorded. Clear rationale as to what would change the RAG rating / concerns increased.**
- **Let schools know if we are not visiting and make it clear that if the child stops attending the social worker needs to be notified.**

This will be reviewed in 2 weeks, and fortnightly thereafter.

If you have any questions, queries, worries, concerns or good examples of where/how this works please do let us know. Siobhan Hughes PSW is doing a weekly drop in to answer questions, raise issues with me etc -

My sincere thanks to all of you that are continuing to deliver face to face services. I do not underestimate, in any way, the worry and concern you will have for your safety and wellbeing as well as that of your families. These are difficult times, we as public servants we have a statutory role to undertake and continue to keep children safe, whilst balancing our own lives, needs, fears and circumstances. Keep talking to us, we will do what we can to keep you as safe as we can. Please think through logically though, a face to face visit in PPE is considerably safer than a visit to a supermarket. In addition, we are working with Public Health and HR to get all of you that are front line / face to face with children and young people/ families prioritised to be offered the vaccine (voluntary). I will keep you updated on this.

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