

Risk Assessment - Reference Number: Central COVID-19 – Contact Visits

Reason for Assessment / Area Assessed (Why do we need to do something?)

COVID- 19 (Coronavirus)

Managing Contact with family - 'Real Time'

Managing Contact with family - 'Virtual'

Risk Description (What am I doing that is not safe?)

COVID-19 is now in the UK. Government guidance is in place to manage this.

Typical symptoms of Coronavirus include fever and a cough that may progress to severe pneumonia causing shortness of breath and breathing difficulties.

Generally coronavirus can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease.

Unable to adhere to the Social Distancing guidance as per government guidance

Increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 from a household self isolating

Increased risk to family members identified as 'HIGH' risk as per government guidance

Increased anxiety if NO family contact

Increased risk of emotional / physical behaviours if NO contact

Increased risk of Physical intervention

Manage incidents of challenging behaviour and unable to maintain social distancing

Risk Categories / Groups (Is it more than one thing?)

Professionals supporting young people.

Residential Staff

Residential Children and Young People

Foster Carers and their support group

Initial Level of Hazard and Risk (High / Medium / Low)
(If we do nothing is it very dangerous, dangerous or not very dangerous?)

Residual Level of Risk After Control Measures (High / Medium / Low)
(If we do what we've agreed, will it still be very dangerous, dangerous or not very dangerous?)

Moderate to High Moderate to Low

Existing Controls (What we've agreed to help make me safe)

Policy - organisation briefing and assessment of risk provided to all fostering households, Residential Homes and Education areas by Agency 27th February 2020 which notes:

Respiratory Etiquette –

Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze/or alternatively use your forearm.

Remember, bin the tissue, and again to kill the germs, wash hands with soap and water.

Where this facility isn't available use a sanitiser gel

Remember that germs live on hard surfaces so should be regularly cleaned

Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after using public transport.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

Currently person's identified at risk have recently returned from one of the identified areas of increased risk or have had direct contact with an individual returned from these areas (self-isolate for 7/14 days).

Business Continuity Management Policy in relation to COVID-19 issued to the organisation (CT/PP) 12/03/20. In addition all LA's provided with copy of business continuity plan

All staff to complete the online training provided through training hub on coronavirus.

Quality manger or their deputy to ensure that this information is passed down to the quality visitors

Government guidance to be followed in terms of managing any symptoms and the organisation (CT/PP) will ensure all staff / carers are kept up to date with any changes. As of 16/03/20 Government guidance is NOT to ring 111. Advice is to self isolate for 7 days if persistent dry cough and fever/high temperature develops. 14 days if within a household as per the guidance.

Registered homes need to update their line manager immediately if any symptoms are noted with our service users or staff. The current guidance for a service user within the home will be to self isolate within their bedroom, if possible dedicated bathroom, dedicated towels and eating utensils. If staff display symptoms the current 7 / 14 day guidance will be adhered to at their home address.

Managers or their deputy to ensure that this information is immediately shared within the organisation (first point of call Liam Fitzpatrick / HR) and with all relevant professionals.

To seek medical advice if symptoms remain in place beyond this time to consider if self isolation needs to be extended to 14 days or beyond or if further medication or medical intervention is required.

Social distancing protocols to be followed

Confirm relevant Local Authority Policy on maintaining contact during COVID-19 – ALL FACE TO FACE CONTACT STOPPED or ADVICE TO SUSPEND ALL FACE TO FACE CONTACT.

The homes manager to risk assess the emotional and physically wellbeing of the child / young person and impact if face to face contact is stopped. Discuss any guidance or policy from LA SW and impact to the wellbeing of the placements

Consider use of technology to support / maintain contact – Skype / Whats app etc

The age and cognitive understanding of the child / young person MUST be fully assessed

Where a home has an allocated therapist seek further advice and guidance in relation to impact of having no face to face contact or virtual contact

Ensure all placements have updated behaviour management plans which should identify relevant triggers and appropriate preventative strategies, de escalation strategies.

Ensure staff / carers work within an agreed structure for the household and ensure a consistent approach in working with the child and young person. **Ensure clear communication is adhered to with the children and young people**

Staff and carers to have an understanding of the individual needs of their placements

Physical Intervention is a 'LAST RESORT' and must be in adherence to the Fostering Regulations / Children Home Regulations or the Education

Act Staff to be first aid trained and completed Behaviour Management Training

Behaviour management advice / support can be obtained from Liam at any time during the day / night

Further Controls Required (including any further training or support that staff may need) (Any other ideas to help make me safe (the staff as well))

Take cognisance of social distancing protocols within the home if facilitating virtual contact

ensure confidentiality during any virtual contacts

Confirm in risk assessment if contact requires to be supervised as per LA SW guidance or legal notice.

Identify potential safe areas within the home which can support virtual contacts and any incidents of challenging behaviour

If it has been assessed that contact should continue ensure key questions are asked:

1. Has anybody in the family home required to self isolate in the last 14 days?
2. Is anybody in the home displaying any relevant symptoms at this time?
3. Do you understand the social distancing protocols?
4. Are you practising enhanced hygiene in the home?
5. Direct contact will not be facilitated during the contact?
6. How many people will be present during contact?
7. Can you ensure that the young person remains within the home and cannot visit other family members or friends during their contact visit?
8. If there are any safeguarding concerns following the contact, future contacts may only be facilitated via a virtual call.

When involved in an incident which requires close contact to support a placement or a physical intervention, staff / carers should as soon as practical apply the enhanced hygiene protocols and wash their hands etc.

Consideration may also be given in relation to changing outer clothing

Incidents which involve spitting by a child or young person, staff / carers to asap decontaminate surfaces – remove outer clothing, wash hands and face asap

Incidents which involve biting by a child or young person, staff / carers to asap clean affected area with sanitiser or soap and water. If skin is broken staff / carers to asap apply an anti-bacterial cleanser / wipes etc at the site of the bite, thereafter ensure the area is kept clean and covered with a plaster / bandage

Staff / carers if involved in a physical incident to be aware of the body's natural function of producing 'sweat' when energy is generated, increasing the bodies core temperature.

Its important that staff / carers apply the enhanced hygiene to both themselves and the child.

Where available have possession of personal hand sanitiser.

Individual risk assessments to be added to all young people's files in relation to contact cross referencing this generic risk assessment.

Staff / Carers to ensure that they have access to bacterial sprays / gels.

Hard surfaces to be regularly wiped down.

Each home to ensure they have sufficient paper towels or similar. A stock of black bags or similar.

Approved By (Agreed) (Me, and my Manager) Date Agreed Date Reviewed (Date to look at it again) Liam Fitzpatrick, Operational

Director 27/03/2020 04//04/2020 or earlier if required