

# Covid-19 Risk Assessments

## SOCIAL CARE

During the Covid-19 pandemic, we must balance the need to protect, support and supervise children and their families, with the need to reduce virus transmission.

Since the outbreak, we have continued to proactively identify levels of risk and have assessed the risk posed to each child and young person using a traffic-light system:



**RED** Level of risk is **HIGH**  
**AMBER** Level of risk is **MEDIUM**  
**GREEN** Level of risk is **LOW**

These risk levels are used to determine the frequency of contact our services will have with children and young people, and if it will take place in-person or virtually.

### Key Messages:

- All cases rated **RED** must have in-person contact as frequently as necessary to keep children safe.
- All cases rated **AMBER** can be seen through a reduced rate of in-person visits or through virtual platforms.
- All cases rated **GREEN** can be seen via virtual platforms.

### KEY PRINCIPLES

*Based on guidance from the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS)*

- In-person visits and Family Time are essential for child welfare.
- Virtual arrangements are to be implemented by exception only.
- Decisions to implement virtual visits/Family Time must occur on a case-by-case basis.
- Travel by CSC staff can continue for essential service delivery.

### RISK ASSESSMENTS ARE CREATED...

- When allocated to the SW and following commencement of the initial assessment.

### HOW THIS LINKS TO SCHOOLS/SETTINGS...

- Every vulnerable child and young person will also be given a RAG rating by their school or setting.
- This RAG rating will determine the approach used to 'keep in touch' with pupils/for blending learning.



### ASSESSING RISKS & PRIORITISING NEEDS DURING COVID-19

### RISK ASSESSMENTS ARE UPDATED WHEN...

- Assessments are completed.
- The child's circumstances change.
- Any significant event takes place.
- Prior to Core Group/CiN meetings, CP Conferences and LAC reviews.

*They should also be considered following home visits and in monthly supervisions.*

### QUALITY IS ASSURED THROUGH OVERSIGHT

- RED - weekly oversight.
- AMBER - fortnightly oversight.
- GREEN - monthly in supervision.

*Requests for in-person visits for cases rated Amber and Green should be made to your line manager.*

### RISK ASSESSMENTS CONSIDER THE...

- Level of risk if no professional was able to have face-to-face contact.
- Impact of Covid-19 on the child, his or her family and the existing risks.
- Protective factors, support needs and any safeguarding measures.

<b>RAG-RATING OF CASES OPEN TO CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE</b> All RAG-ratings will be made in accordance with the following descriptors.		<b>METHOD &amp; FREQUENCY OF CONTACT BY CSC</b>
<b>RED</b>	<b>Urgent safeguarding concerns about a child, requiring immediate action to ensure their safety.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children who are at risk of immediate harm.</li> <li>Children who are exposed to chronic neglect and conditions where it is necessary to have in-person contact in order to maintain a safe level of oversight.</li> <li>Children about whom there is reasonable cause to believe may be at risk of immediate harm and in-person contact is required to make the necessary enquiry.</li> <li>Children who will experience any form of placement disruption without in-person contact.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contacts will be in-person/face-to-face.</li> <li>The frequency of in-person contact will depend on the level of assessed risk and progress of the plan.</li> <li>Statutory visits will be completed in timescale.</li> </ul>
<b>AMBER</b>	<b>Significant welfare concerns about a child who is in need (of care and support).</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children who are exposed to long-term neglect and the situation can be monitored through a reduced rate of in-person contact and/or methods of virtual contact.</li> <li>Children for whom it is assessed that the situation will escalate into risk of immediate harm and in-person contact is required to mitigate the risk.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be determined by the assessed level of risk but all statutory visits will be in timescale and the child will be seen.</li> </ul>
<b>GREEN</b>	<b>Concerns that a child will benefit from additional support or intervention.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance cases where a safe oversight can be maintained through virtual contact.</li> <li>Children who are looked after away from home and reside in a safe and stable environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statutory visits will be conducted via virtual platforms and within timescale unless there are any significant changes in circumstances when the child needs to be seen.</li> </ul>



### Using Your Professional Judgement

- Different circumstances will warrant a different approach based on assessed risk, environment, the purpose of an in-person visit, and the needs of the child. A blanket approach should not be undertaken and it is imperative that the voice of the child continues to be heard.
- Travel into other LAs is permitted to ensure workers can fulfil their duties in protecting children.
- Cases rated Amber and Green can be visited when it is deemed to be in the best interest of the child. In-person visits for Amber and Green cases must be authorised by your line manager.
- All risk assessments should be sanctioned and agreed in consultation with your line manager.