**Contact Agreement for the Contact Service Northamptonshire**

**During Covid 19**

**This Contact Agreement lists the expectations of everyone involved in the contact to ensure the child’s safety, welfare and wellbeing. Please ensure that you understand each point before signing this Agreement.**

Contact Agreement for the Contact Service must be signed by all parties to be put in place for the duration of the Covid 19 Period

Discussions must have taken place between Social Worker, Contact Supervisor, Parents and Foster Carers to inform them of the contacts arrangements and how these will be managed either face to face or Virtual

The Contact Supervisor / Social Worker must inform the parent that Face to Face Contact is offered on the agreement of all parties concerned adhering to guidelines and precautions set out in the risk assessment and contact agreement for the duration of the Covid 19 Period

The Contact Supervisor must support Parents, Carers and Child/ren to make the contact as positive as possible in this situation

**The Contact Supervisor**

A risk assessment needs to be undertaken to ensure safety requirements are met; Contact Supervisors must adhere to the risk around those parents who cannot take photos during face to face contacts and will not allow photos or videos to be shared.

**Parents**

Parents must inform the Contact Supervisor if they have or previously had any Covid 19 symptoms.

Parents will not be allowed to enter the venue prior to contact starting and must wait outside.to be collected by the contact supervisor

Parents must not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs and must be in a fit state to attend the session with their child/ren

Parent/s must not bring any other persons in the Contact session – unless agreed in advance with the Social Worker. Current guidelines will allow a maximum of 4 households and the contact supervisor is not included in this count

Parent(s) should attend on time no more than 10 minutes prior to the start of cotact A maximum of 15 minutes will be allowed for lateness before contact session is cancelled by the contact supervisor

Neither party should speak negatively about the other in front of the child. Neither party should discuss legal issues or complaints regarding their situation in front of the child (for example Court proceedings / alleged abusive adults / allegations of abuse / future plans, etc.).

There must be no whispering, no use of foreign language without an interpreter present, no swear words, no name-calling, no ridiculing, no loud talk and no note passing.

There must be no arguing in front of any of the children. Abusive or aggressive behaviour, racist or other offensive remarks will not be tolerated. If any of this occurs during the Contact session the Contact Supervisor will end the session.

There must be no verbal confrontation between supervisors, parents, carers during the contact session. While staff recognise that a party may have differences of opinion, it is not appropriate to discuss them in front of the child/ren.

There should be no prolonged goodbyes, and the parent/s must remain in the contact room whilst the child/ren are taken out at the end of the session. Timing of each session must be adhered to which is currently 1 hour.

During the course of Supervised Contact Session the Contact Supervisor may **terminate the session** if any of the above rules are violated, including removing of mask during contact.

No taking of photos of any Contact Supervisor is allowed.

**Prior to re-introducing face to face contacts we will need you to sign in agreement of the following statements:**

**HEALTH RISKS:**

**I will provide a current medical exemption letter to evidence that I am exempt from wearing a face mask.**

**If I do not supply this I will be advised that a mask will be worn for the duration of the contact session.**

**If I travel to the contact venue using public transport, car share or use a taxi I agree to wear a face covering along with other passengers in the same vehicle.**

I will notify my child’s social worker or the contact supervisor if I or a member of my household becomes unwell and the contact will be cancelled. If you have any of the symptoms of coronavirus, or if anyone in your household has symptoms you will be required to isolate for 10 days. You ill be required to book a test and wait for the results before returning to face to face contacts. Virtual contact will be offered instead.

The Contact Supervisor has the authority to cancel the contact if a parent/family member attends the contact and presents as being unwell. In this situation the parent or family and the members of their households will not be permitted to attend a contact centre for 10 days.

I understand that no parent/carer will be allowed into the buildings until told otherwise by the contact supervisor

I understand that parents/carers need to undertake as stringent practice as possible to reduce transmission of the virus and other illnesses. I will wash my hands once in the venue and use antibacterial hand gel during and after the contact session.

I understand that my child/ren may be brought to and from contact by NCC transport which have social distancing measures in place and staff wearing full PPE.

I understand that the contact supervisor will collect and return my child/ren from the transport vehicle and I will leave the venue straight away at the end of the session when the contact supervisors returns to the room and will remove my PPE for disposal by them.

I understand that the contact supervisor will try to maintain social distancing, but there may be occasions when they are closer than 1 metre plus to you and your child/ren

I understand that whilst the venue is regularly cleaned and rooms are cleaned after each session, and whilst I will engage in frequent hand-washing, the service are unable to guarantee a virus-free venue.

All toys used in the contact session will be cleaned after each contact and FC’s will be requested to provide toys for the session. Toys may be brought in for the child/ren to play with in the ssession and left in a lidded box, labelled in the regular venue

Any gifts, items of clothing and cards will need to be brought to the contact session in a black sack tied up. This will be given to the Carer who will take and store for 72 hours before being given to /used by the child/ren. This is to minimise the spread of the Covid virus in line with guidelines as in the risk assessment for the Contact Service. Child/ren who are transported by taxi will not be able to take these items back to placement. The SW/ Contact Supervisor will make arrangements for the collection/delivery of them.

**.**

I agree to wear PPE. Masks, mandatory, aprons ( where personal care of a child/baby is required ) and gloves will be provided at the contact centre at the start of the supervised contacts. If I refuse to wear PPE then the contact will not go ahead.
If I take my PPE off during the contact I understand that the contact will be terminated.

I understand that children aged 11 and above will be required to wear a face mask.

I will ensure that I have high levels of hygiene and cleanliness to reduce the risk of transmission by washing my hands on arrival and use hand gel during the session.

I agree that no food will be brought to the session / consumed in the session. Children will be provided with drinks/snacks by the Foster Carer if needed.

I agree that food/drink can be consumed in a community food outlet and that I will only remove my PPE to engage in this and will wear PPE at all other times during the contact.If I provide food and drink for my child this has to be wrapped and sealed and NOT prepared by me.

I agree that I will NOT remove my face mask to kiss my child/ren at the start, during and end of contact.

I understand that staff will wear items of PPE which include face masks.

I agree that I will not take any photographs of any member of staff / contact supervisor before,during or after the contact session.

I agree to place the used PPE in the bags provided and tie these up. The Contact Supervisor will place the PPE in a bin which is in a designated area in the contact centre at the end of the session.

To reduce the risk of spreading the infection I agree that contact sessions will be limited to a maximum of 1 hour.

**CLOTHING / PERSONAL ITEMS**

I will attend the contact venue and adhere to the guidelines of putting bags, coats and any other items that could potentially transmit the virus outside into a plastic lidded box which will be placed into the contact room for the duration of the session.

**ILLNESS**

I understand that no child will be brought to the contact if they are unwell. If they have any of the symptoms of coronavirus, or if anyone in the household has symptoms the child and the whole household will be required to isolate for 10 days if this is the case and you will be informed. A virtual contact will be offered in it’s place

I understand that if my child becomes ill during the time of the contact session the contact will be ended and the child returned to their placement immediately and placed in isolation in accordance with government guidance.

***I understand that the Contact Service Practices during the Covid 19 period are under constant review and that this could lead to changes in contact at short notice according to Government Guidelines***

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PARENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT SUPERVISOR NAME \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

SOCIAL WORKER NAME \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_