# **West Sussex County Council**

# **DIRECT CONTACT RISK ASSESSMENT FOR SOCIAL CARE**

**Names of child(ren):**

**Age of child(ren) and DOB:**

**Mosaic numbers:**

**If supervised by LA, preferred location for contact: Crawley / Worthing / Bognor**

**Child’s Social Worker completing risk assessment:**

**Supervising Social Worker completing risk assessment:**

**Overview**

The primary aim of this document is to enable direct face to face contact to go ahead where possible and to ensure that contact arrangements are arranged in accordance with the current regulations adhering to current Government Guidance.  The Local Authority is under a statutory duty to arrange reasonable contact between parents and other connected persons and the children it has responsibility for. However, all parties need to be aware that during this current national health crisis the provision of face to face contact may be altered from that provided prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Contact plans will need to consider the provision of direct face to face contact, virtual and indirect contact and will need to be kept under regular review.

**Initial Information**

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| Where are the children placed?  What is the legal status of this placement and are there any statutory orders in place?  Are the children currently the subject of care proceedings? |
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| 1. What type of contact is being considered? e.g. Supervised by LA in contact venue / Supervised by LA in community / Supervised by family member / Supervised by foster carer. 2. Who is the contact to take place with? 3. What were the direct face to face contact arrangements pre-lockdown? 4. Are there any court orders in place in relation to contact? 5. How many children will be present during contact? 6. Is this a Final Contact? YES / NO |
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**Risk assessment – Face to Face Contact**

**Likelihood Key**

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| RISK WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY HAPPEN | 5 |
| RISK COULD EASILY HAPPEN | 4 |
| RISK MIGHT HAPPEN | 3 |
| RISK UNLIKELY TO HAPPEN | 2 |
| RISK NEVER OR ALMOST NEVER LIKELY TO HAPPEN | 1 |

**RAG Rating**

**Rag Red where is assessed that cannot happen**

**Rag Amber where is assessed that support / further work needed**

**Rag Green where is assessed that can go ahead**

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| **RISK FACTOR** | **LIKELIHOOD KEY** | **CAN THIS RISK BE MITIGATED AND IF SO HOW** | **DETAIL/FURTHER COMMENTS** | **IMPACT OF RISK FACTOR** | **OUTCOME – RAG RATING** |
| Can social distancing be followed by parent/carer during contact? |  | Is support required to enable the parent to socially distance? If so, what type of support is proposed |  |  |  |
| Can social distancing be followed and understood by the child(ren)? |  | Is support required to enable a child or children to socially distance? If so, what type of support is proposed |  |  |  |
| Does the child have any additional emotional, behavioural or physical needs that impact on contact arrangements and/or their ability to maintain social distancing? |  | If yes, what are the additional needs and what adjustments are required? |  |  |  |
| Is the carer of anyone within their household in the clinically extremely vulnerable group? |  | If yes, what is the health condition and what medical advice has been given? |  |  |  |
| Is the carer or anyone within their household in the clinically vulnerable group? |  | If yes, what is the health condition and what medical advice has been given?  Is the carer in agreement to the child leaving the home to attend contact? |  |  |  |
| Is the child in the clinically extremely vulnerable group? |  | If yes, what is the health condition and what medical advice has been given? |  |  |  |
| Is the child in the clinically vulnerable group? |  | If yes, what is the health condition and what medical advice has been given? |  |  |  |
| Is the parent or anyone within their household in the clinically extremely vulnerable group? |  | If yes, what is the health condition and what medical advice has been given? |  |  |  |
| Is the parent or anyone within their household in the clinically vulnerable group? |  | If yes, what is the health condition and what medical advice has been given? |  |  |  |
| Is the carer, child, parent or anyone within their respective households leaving the house on a regular basis e.g. to go to work/school and, if so, where? | Yes / No | If yes, where are they going and how often? |  |  |  |
| Are there any additional risk factors in the parent’s circumstances e.g. will they need to attend via public transport, are they living in a multi-occupancy home? |  | If yes, what are the additional risk factors and what can be done to mitigate them? |  |  |  |
| Are there any additional risk factors to the parent attending contact e.g. violence, risk of abduction etc? |  | If yes, what are the additional risk factors and what can be done to mitigate them? |  |  |  |
| Will the child need to be transported to contact? | Yes / No | If yes, is the carer able to facilitate this or will this need to be done by the contact supervisor? |  |  |  |
| Will the parent follow hygiene and /or PPE advice? |  | If no, can support be provided to enable the parent to follow hygiene/PPE advice? |  |  |  |

Making the contact happen (see guidance)

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| Is there anything else that needs to be considered when assessing risk around resuming face to face contact? |
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| What, if any, support is required in order to facilitate the contact?  If this includes PPE what type of PPE is required and will supply this? |
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| Will the parent sign a written agreement regarding expectations at the contact session to include specific reference to actions to be taken before the contact session in the event the parent, carer or anyone within either household develops Covid-19 symptoms or is contacted by the Track and Trace system? |
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| Is a Contact Supervisor required? If yes what is their proposed role? |
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| Is physical contact between parent/carer and child(ren) acceptable? Please set out the reasons for this decision.  (consideration to be given to photographs in the context of an adoption goodbye for now contact session with birth parent(s))  If physical contact is acceptable how will this be managed safely? |
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| In the event of physical contact taking place, which was not agreed, what is the contingency plan?  (what is the impact on carers and contact supervisor?) |
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| Details of Contact Proposal for each parent/carer (face to face, virtual and indirect) |
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| Are there any particular issues that require legal advice - if so please set those out and provide separately the legal advice given  If the child/children are currently the subject of care proceedings legal advice should be sought |
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**Decision**

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| Face to Face contact can take place - please set out the reasons for this decision. |
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| Face to Face contact cannot take place - please set out the reasons for this decision  Where face to face contact cannot resume now parents need to be made aware of the reasons and what steps need to be put in place to mitigate risks and advise that the decisions will be reviewed in partnership with them every 14-days |
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Name: Name:

Role: Children’s Social Worker Role: Supervising Social Worker

Date: Date:

**Senior Management Approval:**

Name:

Role:

Date:

If Face to Face can take place, please **send the risk assessment** with the **date of the contact planning meeting** to:

BSD Supervised Contact Coordination Team: [supervised.contact.coordination.team@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:supervised.contact.coordination.team@westsussex.gov.uk)

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| **Review / Contacts / References** |  |
| Document title: | Risk Assessment for SW and SSW |
| Date approved: | 24 July 2020 |
| Approving body: | Policy and Practice Steering Group |
| Last review date: | 25 July 2020 |
| Next review date: | August 2022 |
| Related internal policies, procedures, guidance: | CLA guidance  Legal Proceedings guidance  Guidance for SW and SSW Resuming contact |
| Document owner: | Deputy Director |
| Lead contact:  Author: | Ann Watkins |