# **West Sussex County Council**

#  **RISK ASSESSMENT FOR VISITS TO FOSTER CARER HOUSEHOLDS 2020**

**Names of Foster Carer/s:**

**Mosaic numbers:**

**SSW completing risk assessment:**

**PM signing off RA:**

**Overview**

In line with the Governments recent easing of lockdown restrictions it has been decided that wherever it is safe to do so – support visits to foster carer households by Supervising Social Workers should resume as of the 7th September. Face to face visits are integral to supporting and safeguarding foster carers, their families and the children placed with them but it is recognised that these visits can only take place once it has been evidenced that every effort has been made to assess risk factors and mitigate against them for all parties.

Therefore, it is an expectation that this risk assessment is completed by the SSW and signed off by the respective Practice Manager for each and every supervisory visit.

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|  **Guidance to be adhered to for all supervisory visits.** * The SSW should contact the foster carer on the day of the visit to ensure that no one in the household is symptomatic as well as to provide assurance that they are well.
* When weather conditions and allow and confidentiality can be maintained consideration should be given to the supervisory visit taking place in the carers garden area if they have one.
* If the visit is to take place indoors social distancing of 2 meters should be adhered to by all parties at all times, wherever possible, throughout the duration of the visit. Consideration should be given to how this will be managed with mobile children who may be too young to understand the need to distance themselves.
* SSW’s should either wash their hands at the carers home or use antiseptic gel upon arrival and exiting the property.
* Efforts should be made by SSW’s to avoid touching door handles, cups and mugs, pens, or any items that could aid cross contamination.
* Consideration should be given to all parties wearing masks -particularly when there is a concern about an underlying health condition by either party.
* Carers and SSW’s are obliged to inform all parties if they or a member of their household has tested positive for Covid 19 or asked to self-isolate as a result of coming into contact with someone who has.
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**RISK FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED**

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| **RISK FACTOR**  | **CAN THIS RISK BE MITIGATED AND IF SO HOW** |
| Is any member of the foster carer household including partners, birth children, children looked after in the clinically extremely vulnerable group? |  |
| Is the SSW or anyone within their household in the clinically vulnerable group? |  |
| Has any member of the carer household or visitor to the household been symptomatic in the last 14 days? |  |
| Does the carers property provide space to socially distance? Does consideration need to be given to how many people attend the supervisory visit? |  |
| Is the carer, child, or anyone within their household leaving the house on a regular basis e.g. to go to work/school/absconding and, if so, where?Does this elevate risk to any party?  |  |
| **Additional Risk Factors**  |  |
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| Making the supervisory visit happen Is there anything else that needs to be considered before the visit can be approved? |
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**Decision – to be completed by the Fostering PM**

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| Yes this visit can go ahead - please set out the reasons for this decision. |
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| No this visit cannot take place - please set out the reasons for this decision  |
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**Practice Manager Approval:**

Name:

Role:

Date: