**Guidance Note**

**Covid-19 Pandemic RAG\* Rated Risk Assessment for Children’s Social Care**

**Context**

In the early stages of the pandemic, Social Workers were instructed to complete an initial Covid-19 risk assessment for all children and young people open to them. As the strict regulations the Government introduced to ensure we and the families we work with remain safe and well, it is inevitable that processes that were put in place quickly in response to the pandemic are now being reviewed and strengthened. This guidance has been produced as a result of a review of the Covid-19 risk assessment process.

**Covid-19 Pandemic RAG rated risk assessment**

A Covid-19 Pandemic RAG rated risk assessment form has been developed for Children’s Social Care use. This form can be found in the FORMS section of Liquid Logic. It is important that the most recent version of the form is used not the original form created. The latest form will be entitled:

Covid-19 – Version 2 - Pandemic RAG Rated Risk Assessment

**Frequency of updating the Covid-19 Pandemic RAG Rated Risk Assessment**

All children and young people who have an allocated Social Worker should already have an initial Covid-19 risk assessment created. However, these now need to be reviewed periodically to ensure they are accurate for the child or young person’s current circumstances. The risk assessments need to be updated as follows:

* During a CIN review
* During a Core Group
* During a Care Team meeting
* During the CWD CIN review process
* At the point that a case status changes and concerns either increase or decrease
* Or 8 weekly as a minimum standard if none of the above apply (excluding those children in the CWD CIN review process)
* Or 12 weekly for CWD CIN (open to a Social Worker)

The Social Worker will lead the discussion regarding the risk assessment, but must be very clear with parents/carers and partner agencies that the risk assessment is for Children’s Social Care purpose only. The decision regarding which rating to give is also a decision for Children’s Social Care as the risk rating will be made by the Social Worker in conjunction with the Team Manager. Please be aware that partner agencies are developing their own RAG rating processes for the children they are involved with.

**How to update the Covid-19 Pandemic RAG Rated Risk Assessment**

During a CIN review, Core Group, Care Team meeting or CWD CIN review the Social Worker will already be discussing the individual needs of the child or young person with Health and Education colleagues. However, during this pandemic, the Social Worker must discuss the specific health and education needs of the child or young person during this pandemic, and how these are being managed between those agencies involved.

Please refer to the form for details regarding questions that need to be considered during these discussions.

If there has been a change of circumstance but no CIN review, Core Group, Care Team meeting or CWD CIN review is scheduled within 5 working days, the Social Worker must contact Health and Education colleagues to discuss their views regarding the child or young person in order to update the risk assessment.

If there is no Care Team meeting planned within an 8 week period, the Social Worker must contact Health and Education colleagues to discuss their views regarding the child or young person in order to update the risk assessment to ensure it remains up-to-date and relevant.

**Footnote:**

What does RAG mean? This is a traffic light system to easily identify different levels of risk. RAG simply denotes: red, amber and green.

- Red (High Risk)

- Amber (Medium Risk)

- Green (Low Risk)