

MANAGEMENT ACTION NOTE 05: Recording statutory visits (interim - Covid-19)

CONTEXT

Satisfying our statutory responsibilities within the context of our response to the Covid-19 outbreak means that we must remain focused on safeguarding and supporting the most vulnerable children and young people in Devon whilst balancing the need to maintain appropriate distance to slow the spread of infection.

To date, there have been no statutory changes to the frequency or type of statutory visits social workers need to undertake to children. Visits to children with a child protection plan or in our care remain a statutory duty to ensure their needs are being met and risk of or actual significant harm is being managed and/or prevented. The frequency of visits will in many cases need to increase to reflect changing vulnerability and school closures, for example.

Interim practice guidance and tools to support good practice are available on our [online policies and procedures website](#).

Good practice of maintaining a minimum social distance of 2m and regular handwashing should always be observed. Workers should **not be** visiting families who are showing symptoms of infection and should be self-isolating themselves if they are symptomatic. A telephone call to the family before the face to face visit to check is **expected** in all cases

In the event that a face-to-face statutory visit is not possible or appropriate, then a statutory visit **may be** undertaken using media such as Skype, WhatsApp, zoom, etc. and recorded in Eclipse as such.

The record should include a brief explanation of why a face-to-face visit was not possible and will always include any observations that cause you to reconsider your current assessment of risk and vulnerability.

Darryl Freeman

Head of Children's Social Care (Deputy Chief Officer)
Children's Services

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