

Children's Social Worker Home Visit Risk Assessment

Service and location

Children's Services

Name of Assessor and position

Lorraine Dixon (H&S Officer)

Work activity:

Home Visits by Children's Social Workers
During COVID 19

Approved by (Service Manager)

Jill Little

Date of assessment

6th April 2020

Consultation

Caroline O'Neill, Andrea Houlahan, Jill Little

Review Date

Reviewed 24.06.20
Reviewed 21.07.20
Reviewed 19.08.20

Reference Number

This risk assessment must be regularly reviewed and updated as necessary in line with government guidance. The reviewed risk assessment must be shared with all staff, including any relevant updated guidance to support the risk assessment. This risk assessment should be used in conjunction with other risk assessments for home visits. Within this risk assessment are additional measures that are necessary due to potential infection from COVID 19.

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you doing already?	What further action is needed?	Action by whom	Action by when	Done
1. Transmission of COVID 19 infection to employees	<p>Staff, service users - exposure to COVID 19 leading to serious infection and possible death.</p> <p>Main health conditions to be considered are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Chronic long-term respiratory disease – asthma/ COPD / emphysema / bronchitis ➤ Chronic heart/kidney disease/ liver disease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those who are in vulnerable groups are advised to follow Corporate guidance. Please refer to attached weblink: https://intranet.gateshead.gov.uk/article/15052/HR-Coronavirus-advice (amended 29.06.20). • All staff are aware of the NHS Track and Trace guidance and how it works https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff to ensure that management are aware of any pre-existing health conditions that mean they are more susceptible to COVID 19. • Staff who are vulnerable should be advised to follow government social distancing and medical advice. 	<p>Staff</p> <p>Staff and manager</p>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Chronic neurological conditions ➤ Spleen problems ➤ Weakened Immune System ➤ Seriously overweight (over 40 BMI) ➤ Pregnant employees 					
2. Staff with symptoms of COVID 19	Staff, service users - exposure to COVID 19 leading to serious infection and possible death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff have been made aware of the government and Corporate advice relating to the need to self-isolate when displaying symptoms that suggest COVID 19 infection. https://intranet.gateshead.gov.uk/article/15052/HR-Coronavirus-advice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate advice on self-isolation to be followed https://intranet.gateshead.gov.uk/article/15052/HR-Coronavirus-advice • Staff to be reminded to inform their manager if they are symptomatic or diagnosed with COVID 19 as confirmed by a positive test result. • Manager to complete HSB11 COVID 19 Investigation Form if an employee confirms that they are COVID 19 positive and have not worked solely at home for the previous 14 days. A copy must be sent to the Health and Safety Team 	<p>Staff</p> <p>Staff and manager</p> <p>Manager, Staff, Occupational Health and H&S Team</p>		

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where there is more than one person in the car, windows are opened to allow for ventilation • Car keys and other areas of the car that provide regular contact points are cleaned. (Disinfectant used if you have been in contact with someone who is suspected of having or confirmed as having COVID 19). • If transporting children, car seat suitably cleaned before and after use. (Disinfectant used if you have been in contact with someone who is suspected of having or confirmed as having COVID 19). • Car seat(s) arranged in a way that will allow 2m social distancing where possible • Time that young children are carried for is limited and children are only carried if necessary. Could a buggy be used instead? • Journeys are planned to take the shortest time, so that time in the car (confined environment) is reduced • If using public transport, a 2m social distance is maintained by leaving an unoccupied seat or 	<p>kept in a suitable and secure place with the date and time marked for storage for 72 hours, before disposing with domestic waste.</p>			

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		<p>row between you and other passengers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PPE requirements are based on whether symptomatic people are likely to be travelling in the car. These would consist of using a disposable apron, disposable gloves and a fluid resistant surgical mask. Eye protection (e.g. goggles or a face visor) to be worn if there is a risk of body fluids entering the eye, e.g. due to spitting, coughing or vomiting. 				
4.The home visit	Staff, service users, family - exposure to COVID 19 leading to serious infection and possible death.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of visit pre-assessed by considering risks to children, their families and the staff Check 24 hours before the visit if anyone in the household is showing symptoms associated with COVID 19. (This is not possible if the visit is unannounced/emergency visit). If meeting cannot occur at the school, consideration given as to whether the meeting could take place from outside through a window, in a garden area or 2m away from front door, rather than entering the home Before entering the home, ask whether anyone has symptoms associated with COVID 19, for example, a high temperature, loss or taste or smell or continuous dry cough. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration is given as to whether the home visit needs to occur. Could a telephone call, video conference or social media be used? Could the visit take place at the school? (If a child is vulnerable and is not in a school, explore reasons with professional partners as to why this might be, whether it is appropriate and what action should be taken). If a virtual' visit is done, keep a record as to why this was. In an emergency, consider whether the risk to a vulnerable child(ren) outweighs the need to maintain the 2m social distance rule. In these 	Staff and manager		

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise duration of visit • In the home (or other location), maintain your 2m social distance • If household members (or others that are at the meeting) show signs of looking unwell/coughing, employee leaves the home/abandon visit • Where possible, employees must wash hands before entering or exiting a home. If this is not possible, alcohol sanitiser of at least 60% alcohol content must be provided for use. • Avoid touching face, particularly eyes, nose and mouth areas • Avoid shaking hands • Social distancing of at least 2m is maintained (e.g. ring doorbell and stand 2m away). • PPE is taken into the house as a precaution or donned prior to entry • Contact points/items are cleaned with disinfectant if there are people in the household that have or are suspected of having COVID 19, otherwise clean as normal 	<p>situations, personal protective equipment (PPE) must be used. It is advised that this should consist of a disposal apron, disposable gloves and a fluid repellent surgical mask. (Hair to be tied back if possible and watches and jewellery not to be worn).</p> <p>If there is a risk of being splashed by blood or body fluids, then eye protection must be used. (Glasses are not an alternative to suitable eye protection, such as goggles or a face visor). After use, PPE should be double bagged and then kept in a secure place for 72 hours, prior to disposing in normal waste. Please see the attached weblink for information relating to correct procedure for donning (putting on) and doffing (taking off) of PPE. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GncQ_ed-9w</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If your eye protection is reusable you should check and follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to clean and disinfect between uses. As a minimum, between uses, you should clean with a neutral detergent wipe, allow 			

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="779 169 1211 229">• Avoid unnecessarily touching items in a home 	<p data-bbox="1375 169 1756 708">to dry, disinfect with a 70% alcohol wipe and leave to dry; or use a single step detergent/disinfectant wipe, allowing the item to dry afterwards. You should store eye protection in a bag to avoid possible contamination after cleaning and disinfection is complete. Do not put eye protection on until it is completely dry. Cleaning of re-usable PPE items that have been provided to you is your responsibility.</p>			

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N.B. Risk Assessment is Continuous Process – Significant Changes to the Work Activity Require a Review of the Assessment