

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

RECORD OF OFFICER EXECUTIVE DECISION

Item	Outcome
Date Of Decision	6 April 2020
Decision Maker	Catherine Driscoll, Director of Children's Services
Brief Description Of Decision	<p>Covid 19 Emergency Service Delivery for Social Care Safeguarding Services</p> <p>This protocol sets out the temporary revised operating model for children's social care safeguarding response during the national emergency in response to the Covid 19 pandemic. It has been produced following consultation with the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families.</p> <p>The protocol has been developed to enable services to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the required interventions to safeguard those children in need of protection, promote the welfare of those children and young people in our care and to provide the necessary support to those children in need preventing escalation of risk and need for child protection or care where possible. • Adapt and respond to the delivery of social care and safeguarding services in the context of minimising the spread of infection within our community and workforce <p>The protocol sets out the minimisation of face to face contact wherever possible as part of the response to the pandemic. This means that early help assessments will not be completed during the crisis response and many meetings, family time arrangements and conferences will be carried out remotely wherever possible.</p> <p>The protocol (attached) sets out the ways risk to staff and families will be managed where face to face work is delivered including the appropriate use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).</p>
Reason(s) For Decision	<p>The decision has been required due to the need to prioritise use of reduced social care resource in the current context in order to respond to those children where risk is high or imminent.</p> <p>The protocol is in line with DfE guidance published on 3/4/20 and will be reviewed in August 2020 unless an earlier review is required informed by the National Government/Dfe/Public Health management of Covid19</p>

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	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-childrens-social-care-services/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-authorities-on-childrens-social-care
Alternative Options Considered And Rejected	Consideration was given to maintaining the previous way of working – this was rejected due to the conflict with the national guidance in response to Covid 19 (stay at home, social distancing where possible) and the reduction in staff capacity due to pre-existing health conditions and staff experiencing Covid 19 symptoms.
Any Conflict of Interest declared by a consulted Cabinet Member/ any dispensation granted	None

March 2013
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