

COVID 19 Looked After Children (LAC) Policy Supplement

School roles have been changing since April 2020 from providing educational provision on site to providing child care arrangements to a limited number of children along with distance learning. From 29th June 2020, the role will be changing again to provide face to face schooling for up to a third of school pupils at any one time along with continuing to develop the distance learning.

The LAC Teacher must ensure that regular contact is made with the LAC pupil and that the LAC pupil has a way of contact their named member of staff if they wish to discuss anything.

School will still need to continue to monitor the work of the LAC pupil in conjunction with the LAC Education Liaison Officer and to intervene if any extra support is needed.

Regular meetings with the LAC Governor and Headteacher should take place to ensure support is provided to the pupil and their parents/carers.

Working of cases and provision of services by Children and Families Service

Children and Families Service acknowledge that during this period the working on cases and the provision of services will change.

Arrangements have to be made to contact the family, children and young people over the phone or skype. The frequency of these phone calls might vary dependent on need and what families will want. They will keep families informed and aim to make sure that families feel supported during this time.

Up to date information on support services will be provided to families.

Families may be anxious that certain services have been postponed or paused. Every effort will be made to reassure families that interventions will either continue virtually or over the phone or will be re arranged at some point in the future.

Completion of statutory for Looked after children including those placed with their parents.

To avoid unnecessary social contact and promote social distancing social workers aim to complete the majority of statutory looked after children visits virtually. The social worker will

Step 1: Make arrangements wherever possible to conduct the visit virtually by using skype or video phone. Arrangements should be made to provide the child with privacy to talk with the social worker alone within the placement. These arrangements should be made prior to the virtual statutory visit.

Step 2: Ask the carers to show them via skype or video phone the child's bedroom.

Step 3: If any concerns in relation to the child's care are identified it might be necessary to visit the placement. In those circumstances the social worker will refer to the guidance in completing child protection visits noted above.

Step 4: Record the visit on the statutory visit form on WCCIS. It is imperative that this is completed immediately after the visit to ensure that current information is recorded on file.

Looked After Children Reviews

Reviews are a process not a meeting, it is permissible to continue to hold reviews; although the way this will be done will be different. They will be held:

- Virtually rather than face to face meeting. The IRO will contact the school as part of the review process,
- Through written reports which the school will be expected to provide,
- A copy of the record of the review will be provided by the IRO within 20 working days of the review.