**East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership **

**Guidance for Practitioners conducting Home Visits and Virtual Contact *(based on ESCC Social Care/Early Help Practitioner guidance)***

You should discuss with your Manager the level of risk and what families still require a home visit during this period.

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| **Home Visits - Face to Face** |
| **If a home visit is required, please follow this guidance:** * Prior to visit contact family to check if anything has changed, e.g. symptoms.
* If appropriate, prior to the visit check if the family have enough food, etc?
* Upon arrival at the home do not enter until you have made observations of presentation e.g. any visible signs of symptoms.
* If agreement has been made that a visit will be completed where the family are self-isolating due to symptoms please make use of PPE; face masks, gloves and hand sanitiser.
* For each visit:
* Wash/sanitise hands prior to entering the property. If this is not possible wash your hands upon arrival
* Avoid direct contact and as much as possible keep safe distanced (at least 2 metres)
* Wash/sanitise hands upon leaving the property
* Shower and change clothing as soon as you get home
* Keep the use of direct work tools to a minimum, where used, clean afterwards
* Where possible, use garden/outdoor space to talk to children/young people (while maintaining distance)

**In the event that you cannot secure 2 metre social distancing** make arrangements to see the child and family in the garden or undertake a doorstep visit. If this is not possible consult with your manager where an agreement may be made that a visit is undertaken in the home with appropriate use of PPE (face masks, gloves and hand sanitisers). |
| **Virtual Contact** |
| **If contact is completed virtually follow these steps:** * Speak to parents/carer via phone, WhatsApp, video, Facetime etc. Ensure you can hold a confidential conversation, being aware of who can hear you at home. Also ensure as much as possible that you know who is in the room with the child and family and that conditions of confidentiality are adhered to.
* If the child/young person is able to speak via phone, this must happen and ensure as far as possible child or young person is given opportunity to be spoken to alone.
* Where a child/young person is unable to speak, they should be observed via the phone video and the phone shown to them so they can listen/see who is calling.
* Where required, the parent/carer/care leaver is asked to provide a virtual tour of the home using the phone video.
* Don’t lose sight of why we are involved; virtual visits should still have a purpose.
* Record clearly that visit was virtual due to COVID 19.

**See more Practice tips do’s and don’ts on *Video link guidance for PRACTITIONERS* guidance.** |