



Independent Chair: John Goldup

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Dear Colleague

COVID-19 and Changes to Looked After Children (LAC) Reviews

As the coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to cause uncertainty, our focus is on the safety of our families, staff and agencies involved in the safeguarding and protection of our children and young people. Following the latest Government guidance, we have made several decisions about the best way to protect our children and young people, carers, colleagues and families whilst continuing to ensure that we meet our statutory requirements.

After careful consideration, and in light of the updated guidance which advises against non-essential face-to-face meetings or travel, **we have made the decision to review how we conduct Child Looked After Review meetings. We have the facilities in place to have virtual meetings which could be either a video call or a telephone conference call.**

In principal this will mean that the Independent Reviewing Officer will establish either a video call or a telephone conference call linked with the child/young person, carer and agencies who are involved and available. Should it not be possible, due to unforeseen circumstances, to have all parties involved at the time of the virtual meeting the Independent Reviewing Officer will contact those not available to ensure that their views are obtained and noted in the minutes. For the meeting that you are invited too you will be contacted with more information of how to join the Virtual meeting.

We have reviewed and tested our use of virtual IT technology and we expect to continue to provide services to support our vulnerable families and their children, in line with our statutory responsibilities.

On behalf of the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Team we wish you well and thank you for your support and understanding in what is an unprecedented time.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Graham', is written in a cursive style.

Mariana Graham
Service Manager, Safeguarding and Quality Assurance
LB Redbridge