



Independent Chair: John Goldup

FAO: Partner Agencies

Redbridge SCP
5th Floor (Front)
Lynton House
255-259 High Road
ILFORD
Essex
IG1 1NN
Telephone: 020 8708 5282

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Dear Colleague

COVID-19 and Changes to Child Protection Conferences

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 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 taken the reluctant decision to move towards virtual meetings for all of our Child Protection Conferences.**

For any Conference that you that you are invited too you will be contacted with more information of how to join the Virtual meeting. In line with the London Child Protection Procedures we will expect continued involvement of agencies and to ensure that a representative is available

Initial Child Protection Conferences: all information available will be considered and a decision will be made as to whether or not threshold is met and a Child Protection Plan is needed. A recommended Child Protection Plan will be agreed and distributed. Should it not be possible, due to unforeseen circumstances, to have a representative from all the agencies involved available at the time of the virtual meeting the Conference Chair will contact agencies not available to ensure that their decision making and views are obtained and noted in the minutes.

Review Child Protection Conferences will be conducted in the same manner as Initial Child Protection Conferences. Should it not be possible to contact any agency involved with the child / young person or the family there will be a review of the current risk by the Conference Chair and available agencies upon which a decision will be made as to the continuation of the Child Protection Plan and to

consider any recommendations for the plan. In cases where it is not possible to obtain quoracy the status quo will be maintained and the Child Protection Plan will continue with the view to organise a review of the plan as soon as possible.

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



**Mariana Graham
Service Manager
Safeguarding and Quality Assurance
LB Redbridge**