**COVID-19 : Scottish Government Route map and direct contact questions**

Social Work Scotland note 16/6/20: Questions have arisen about direct contact in a child’s family home, in another building or outside. This includes supervised contact for children. **During Phase 1 in to Phase 2** any direct contact inside, including supervised contact, must prioritise the management of health risk and be part of a child’s plan overseen by a lead professional. (Useful links: Framework for decision making about contact for looked after children 16/6/20; SG Guidance on Safe and ethical practice; Scottish Government Test and Protect Guidance)

Child’s plan in place with lead professional

Formal contact conditions

Family/carer perspective /preferences

Lead professional oversees contact plan

Child’s safety, needs,

expressed views and experience

Anticipated risks, tensions and solutions

Creative options for location and activity

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Preparation/foundations: staff involved help each person

to understand physical distancing and hygiene measures. They know what to expect

( who, what when where why) and can help prepare each other

In each situation, whether within or outside the home, a risk assessment applies.

Outside the home, contact can occur as part of general support

Assessment of risk and need in each situation, reviewed as necessary, informs contact planning

Direct contact outside can happen as part of general support, within physical distancing and hygiene measures, overseen by service provider

During lockdown, support for contact has largely taken account of the management of risk. As we move through **Phase 2 and Phase 3**, increasing direct contact, including supervised contact should take account of other factors, for example, in the situations below in which there will be incremental increases in direct contact.

* Need and risk determine the arrangements in each situation
* Test and Protect Guidance applies