

## Child Protection Conferences – Contingency Arrangements

Given the current pressures caused by Covid-19 and in order to reduce social contact to a minimum, it has been agreed that **all Child Protection Conferences will be held via video link using Google Meet as of Monday 23rd March.**

- **Please do not attend the usual Conference venue**, but instead follow instructions sent to you via the calendar invite to join the meeting.
- **Whilst the option remains for professionals to join via conference call, this should only be in exceptional circumstances**, for example, where internet access is problematic. Notwithstanding the difficulties of engaging in a meeting over the phone, Child Protection Conferences can be challenging for families at the best of times. We need to make sure that professionals are as visible as possible.
- **As a reminder, all partner agencies are expected to share their reports with families 3 days prior to an Initial Child Protection Conference or 5 days prior to a Review Child Protection Conference.** Sharing reports with families in advance is essential to ensure that we are transparent and open in our approach and work in partnership to reduce harm.
- In order to circulate the reports to those attending in advance of the meeting, **you must share your reports electronically via [hackneycypsreports@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:hackneycypsreports@hackney.gov.uk) at least 2 days prior to the Conference date.** After this, HCFS will not be in a position to share your reports across the partnership and you will need to take responsibility for doing so. Paper copies will not be distributed.
- Being conscious that staffing numbers across agencies may be affected by coronavirus, I am also setting out the position with regards to quoracy. The London Child Protection Procedures (Ch 4.3.8) guidance around quoracy is as follows:

*4.3.8 As a minimum quorum, at every conference there should be attendance by local authority children's social care and at least two other*

*professional groups or agencies, which have had direct contact with each child who is the subject of the conference. In addition, attendees may also include those whose contribution relates to their professional expertise or responsibility for relevant services. In exceptional cases, where a child has not had relevant contact with three agencies (that is, local authority children's social care and two others), this minimum quorum may be breached.*

*4.3.9 In exceptional circumstances, the Chair may decide to proceed with the conference despite lack of agency representation. This would be relevant where:*

- A child has not had relevant contact with three agencies (e.g. pre-birth conferences);*
  - Sufficient information is available; and*
  - A delay will be detrimental to the child.*
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- As such, HCFS will proceed with Child Protection Conferences provided there is sufficient information to do so.** In the event of an inquorate conference without sufficient information, HCFS will seek to conduct a brief review and maintain the current Child Protection Plan and seek to organise a further Child Protection Conference at the earliest opportunity.

If you have any questions around this please do speak to the Child Protection Conference Chair or contact:

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