What Works *for*
**Children's
Social Care**

Social
Work
England

**THE PRINCIPAL
SOCIAL WORKERS
NETWORK**

BEST PRACTICE GUIDE
RISK ASSESSMENT
AND PRIORITISATION

RISK ASSESSMENT AND PRIORITISATION

The guidance indicates that professionals should undertake RAG ratings in order to prioritise which families need face to face contact and support. We are aware that many local authorities are already undergoing these. Social workers should consider;

What would be the risks if no professional was able to have face to-face contact with the child or young person and their family or carers?	What would be the risks if visits to the family were not possible and the child or young person could not be seen by any professionals for the next 4 weeks?	If a review meeting (e.g. CiN, Core Group, CPC) could not be held or the family cannot attend the review or the group meeting for the next four weeks?
Does the family appreciate and acknowledge the risks and their impact for the child?	How worried is the family about the child? How does the family manage these worries?	How does the family manage stress and what are their coping strategies?
What measures are in place and how does the family plan to keep the child safe?	What help does the family need to manage the situation and from whom?	

The guidance also makes special mention of the need to identify and support strengths in the family environment, and for work with families to be clear, agreed in conjunction with the family, and consistent in its application. Although the circumstances might change over time, it is easier to successfully manage if everyone involved knows what to expect and when.

Risk assessment and prioritisation needs to take into account risks of online harms, including cybersecurity, and how they can be managed.

whatworks-csc.org.uk
info@whatworks-csc.org.uk
@whatworksCSC

RESEARCH

Home Visiting is hard to do at the moment and needs to be prioritised. WWCSC's review of home visit programmes finds that they can reduce maltreatment specifically for newborns, supported by strong evidence.

Some direct work with families might not be possible at the moment, even where there is concern about the quality of parenting. A review of web-based parenting courses found good evidence that these were effective, with programmes guided by professionals leading to the biggest changes in behaviour.