

Record of operational decision

UPDATED March 2020: Decisions in relation Covid-19 should be published on the same day as the decision or at the very latest 24 hrs later.

Decision title:	Legal Protocol put in place due to COVID 19 shall be withdrawn.
Date of decision:	01/07/2020
Decision maker:	Director for children and families
Authority for delegated decision:	Council constitution 3.7.9 all necessary decisions in the case of emergencies
Ward:	All Wards
Consultation:	Consultation between Legal Services, Assistant Director and HOS for CP Court.
Decision made:	The Legal Protocol (Appendix 1) brought into force due to COVID 19 is no longer necessary and services shall revert to their position prior to the implementation of the protocol, or where there is not the case, there are separate pieces of guidance in situ to deal with these areas.
Reasons for decision:	Due to the impact of COVID 19 and the social distancing measures put in place by the Government Childrens Services were unable to maintain all of its current services. This included the closure of contact centres, reduction in face to face visits, restrictions on entering pre-proceedings and only issuing care proceedings where removal was sought. Due to the relaxation of restrictions, the Legal Protocol shall no longer be in force. There is discrete guidance in place for those areas where changes are still operating. The Legal Protocol can come back into force should there be a need as a result of any "second wave".
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	N/A
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	For the protocol to remain – rejected as greater risk to the Council should limited services remain.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	N/A

Signed

Chris Baird
Director for children and families

Date: 01 July 2020