centred, risk-based judgements about where to focus their efforts. As outlined in working together to safeguard children, this approach means keeping the child in focus and working in partnership with them and their families. The principles set out above should guide local decision making in these circumstances.

Should social workers change how they visit children and families?

There should be no blanket changes to social work practice, but coronavirus (COVID-19) brings additional risk and complexity and may necessitate some different ways of working which should always be risk-based. Further details can be found in our safe working in education, childcare and children's social care guidance.

As restrictions on social distancing and contact are relaxed, local authorities can revert to considering broader family networks as sources of support and respite for children and families. Wider support networks can provide an important protective factor for children at risk and should be prioritised, within the broader framework set by government guidance on social distancing.

Do children's social care staff need to use personal protective equipment (PPE)?

Guidance for infection prevention and control in children's social care settings, including the specific circumstances where PPE should be used, can be found in the guidance on safe working in education, childcare and children's social care settings.