

## **REMEMBERING THE VOICE OF THE CHILD DURING LOCKDOWN**

During this period of lockdown it is now more important than ever that we take every opportunity to maintain contact with our most vulnerable groups and to ensure they are safe.

This is even more vital with children. A member of your Practice may be the only independent person seeing that child during the lockdown so we need to make it count.

So please remind all Staff to remember to consider the **Voice of the Child** in every contact opportunity, and to remember that IT IS OK to have a conversation with a child, even without a parent's consent.

The suggested considerations below will help to ensure we are asking the right questions and making the right observations:

<b>Questions to ask children</b>	<b>Observations when in the child's home</b>
How has it been for you during lockdown? What sort of things have you been doing? How do you feel? Has everything been ok at home? Have you got any questions you want to ask me?	What would life be like as child in this home? What does the house look like inside? Is there sufficient food? Where do the children sleep? Are there signs of excessive alcohol or drug misuse?

### **REMEMBER:**

- You may be the only independent person seeing a child while they are in lockdown
- We need to make every contact count to ensure their safety
- Remember to consider the **Voice of the Child** in every contact opportunity
- If you need advice you can contact the Birmingham and Solihull CCG Safeguarding Team on **07730 318300** or CASS on **0121 303 1888**
- If you need to make a referral to CASS use the Request for Support form <http://lscpbirmingham.org.uk/safeguarding-concerns>