

# Latest Government Guidance

In these unprecedented times, there are lots of messages being circulated but the main one we want to express is that [**You Are Not Alone**](https://www.pengower.net/FTMailshot/pageSwap.aspx?ref=Kl8Dq0tfXkQHkDqnjjXkftttz972nPlK&pge=https%3a%2f%2fwww.fostertalk.org%2fyoure-never-home-alone%2f).  
  
Therefore, we are keeping you up to date with the latest government guidance!

You will find the guidance on gov.uk or through this link:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-childrens-social-care-services/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-authorities-on-childrens-social-care#alternative-provision-ap](https://www.pengower.net/FTMailshot/pageSwap.aspx?ref=Kl8Dq0tfXkQHkDqnjjXkftttz972nPlK&pge=https%3a%2f%2fwww.gov.uk%2fgovernment%2fpublications%2fcoronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-childrens-social-care-services%2fcoronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-authorities-on-childrens-social-care%23alternative-provision-ap)

As you are aware, ensuring that vulnerable children remain protected is a top priority for government. Under the Coronavirus Act we have used powers to bring additional social workers onto the temporary register of social workers held by the regulator, Social Work England; and the government has made £1.6bn of funding available to meet extra demand and costs rising from Covid-19, including for children’s social care.

The guidance:

* advises on flexibilities in delivering statutory duties, and the principles they should apply, to manage any increased risks to vulnerable children as a result of Covid-19;
* acknowledges there needs to be flexibility under statutory duties;
* offers key principles to guide thinking such as being child-centred, risk-based, and collaborative; and
* sets expectations that risk assessment of every child, and identifying those most at risk will be important and that vulnerable children are expected to attend school.

We also want to ensure that you are aware of the new ‘Social work together’ initiative:[www.local.gov.uk/social-work-together](https://www.pengower.net/FTMailshot/pageSwap.aspx?ref=Kl8Dq0tfXkQHkDqnjjXkftttz972nPlK&pge=http%3a%2f%2fwww.local.gov.uk%2fsocial-work-together). The Social Work Together programme is an initiative developed by Social Work England, the Department for Education, the Department for Health and Social Care, and the Local Government Association. This website is for social workers to register their interest in working in the frontline through the Covid-19 outbreak and for LAs to find staff.  
  
Find out more on our [**Coronavirus Support Page >**](https://www.pengower.net/FTMailshot/pageSwap.aspx?ref=Kl8Dq0tfXkQHkDqnjjXkftttz972nPlK&pge=https%3a%2f%2fwww.fostertalk.org%2fcoronavirus-support%2f)

Please contact us if you have any queries.   
  
**Stay safe & take care.**  
  
  
You can contact us via e-mail [**enquiries@fostertalk.org**](https://www.pengower.net/FTMailshot/pageSwap.aspx?ref=Kl8Dq0tfXkQHkDqnjjXkftttz972nPlK&pge=https%3a%2f%2fwww.pengower.net%2fFTMailshot%2fpageSwap.aspx%3fref%3dKJqPtPj4x3YHn0%26pge%3dmailto%253aenquiries%2540fostertalk.org) or call us on **0121 758 5013.**To access our 24-hour helplines, call **0344 800 3880.**

Best regards  
**FosterTalk**