

Prioritisation Framework for Managing Children’s Cases: Rationale and Operational Application

RAG Rating	Definition	Examples
RED	Children / placements / carers that are rated as RED will be visited with full observance of statutory requirements, face to face and by a qualified social worker.	Placements that are unstable or where notice has been given. New placements or change of placement Children where there are ongoing safeguarding concerns. Child Exploitation Placement With Parents Reg 26 situations Children on the child protection register Pre-birth assessments and planning PLO Children where the outcome of a S47 is to go to conference.
AMBER	Children / placements / carers that are rated as AMBER may be visited and supported by a combination of qualified social worker and non-social work qualified staff, and a hybrid approach to visiting combining face to face and remote visiting. In the event that issues present that suggest instability, welfare or safeguarding issues emerge, then visits/contact must be considered as RED and revert to full social work contact and face to face visits.	Children that have stepped down from being RED rated and continue to require some social work intervention in order to support continued de-escalation of risk and progression of plans and family goals. Children whose needs/risks have escalated from GREEN rating and who require direct social work oversight and intervention.
GREEN	Children / placements / carers that are stable, presenting no unusual or welfare-related issues, or safeguarding issues, and	Long term and settled placements where children are stable, carers are not reporting any pressures or problems,

	<p>where carers and children are happy with interim remote approach to visiting and supervision. Visits can all be carried out remotely, and/or by non-qualified and/or non-LA-based social workers (where available). Where any issues begin to emerge or are observed, and in the interests of trying to prevent further escalation of need, a move to AMBER is required to introduce social work support and intervention.</p>	<p>and where there are no identified risks to the child.</p>
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RAG rating of each case to be undertaken as part of social work supervision (whether formal or informal) and recorded on the child's record *at the time of the decision by the manager*.

Any change to RAG rating does not need to wait until formal supervision, especially in the case of the escalation of issues that might warrant enhanced social work intervention.

Rationale for moving from face to face to remote visits for cases deemed to be GREEN or in some cases AMBER, is to reduce time commitment on social workers related to travel to and from, and to provide greater flexibility around monitoring etc.

Children's Leadership Team will record and report explicitly when the prioritisation framework has been invoked and when its use ceases.

Team Managers need to be clear in the recording of decisions and case discussions when the RAG rating has been applied, what the RAG rating for each child is and the rationale for that category.