

WillisPalmer Covid-19 Action Plan

WillisPalmer is now providing all services as the Covid-19 outbreak restrictions recede. This updated guidance refers to this work in particular (expert assessments). Home working contracts such as child abuse litigation reports have been, and are, functioning as usual.

Introduction

The Covid-19 outbreak has resulted in government providing instructions on all activity taking place outside the home. With regard to working practices, the advice is that work should be undertaken from home unless it is not possible to do so.

Below is current government guidance on working safely during Covid-19:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/homes>

As social care/health professionals we will inevitably be required to meet with clients in their own home. Clinically vulnerable individuals who are risk of severe illness must take extra care in observing social distancing and anyone with symptoms should self isolate for 14 days. This applies equally to professionals providing services or to clients receiving those services.

Professionals meetings and contact with other key personnel should be conducted remotely wherever possible.

WillisPalmer professionals should avoid using public transport where possible but if they are required to do so they should wear face coverings and gloves. **PPE equipment is available for ALL WillisPalmer professionals who require it.**

WillisPalmer has produced a risk assessment matrix which should be applied before decisions are made to visit people in their own home.

<https://www.willispalmer.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Updated-risk-assessment-questionnaire-11.6.20.pdf>

Independent Assessments

WillisPalmer is continuing to undertake independent assessments including expert social work, psychological and psychiatric reports.

Social Work Assessments

We are currently accepting new referrals for all social work assessments including parenting

assessments, SGO reports, PAMS assessments, connected person reports etc.

- i) Timescales are now 6-8 weeks on all new assessments.
- ii) Home visits are now possible in circumstances where it is safe to do so and where a risk assessment has been completed.
- iii) Independent Social Workers are advised to consider undertaking some parts of the assessment remotely if at all possible, especially if either they or those being interviewed are extremely clinically vulnerable.

Psychological and psychiatric assessments

- i) We are now accepting referrals for full psychological and psychiatric assessments and in many cases these can be done remotely using technology.
- ii) We are able to complete these assessments within 6 weeks in most instances.
- iii) Home visits are now possible in circumstances where it is safe to do so and where a risk assessment has been completed.

Summary

Now that the virus is in retreat and lockdown restrictions are being slowly eased, we are returning to the community to undertake specialist assessments. All professionals are advised to take care and adhere to government guidance. Risk assessments must be completed on each occasion a home visit is contemplated. Extremely clinically vulnerable individuals must be protected throughout any work being undertaken. PPE should be worn (face covering and gloves) when travelling on public transport.

In this way we can return to work in a safe way within a practical framework of measures designed to protect the most vulnerable.

Mark Willis
Chief Executive