

COVID Email Update 15 June 2020

Good morning to you all, I hope you and your own families are all doing ok.

I know it has been a really tough couple of weeks for many of you, and we'll be opening up more spaces for reflection and listening this week and next, to make sure you have the support you need. Your safety, health and wellbeing remain my first and only priority. Please do get in touch if there is anything I can do for you.

More general updates for you and forgive me that it is a little long this week:

Use of Office Accommodation

I will be writing to you later today about the item in Essentials on plans for some staff to start using office accommodation. It's a really important topic so please do get in touch if you have questions after reading that email

Focus Groups for BAME staff – More Dates Now Available

Camden has put on two extra focus group dates for BAME staff to talk about your lived experience during COVID. Our SMT has also put in a request to Martin's Directorate Management Team that the focus group topic be expanded to make sure staff can explore the much wider impact of structural racism, and the effects of the events taking place in the UK and worldwide. That request seemed to be received well, and we will continue to make representations to Corporate to make sure this happens. [Please sign up via the L&D hub](#), two dates below:

- **Monday 29 June** – 10:00 – 11:30am
- **Thursday 2 July** – 2:00 – 3:30pm

Updated Government Guidance

A range of government guidance was updated last week after the Prime Minister announced further lifting of restrictions including 'social bubbles'. These have been uploaded to the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/updated-government-guidance-from-5-june-2020-onwards/#main>

Parking Permits – Extend Now

For any of you who have parking permits as critical key workers, these are due to expire on 1 July, so please do renew them before then. You can find the link here [Find out how to extend your essential worker parking permit on essentials](#)

Free School Meals and Summer Holidays

A number of you may be working with families worried about free school meals not being provided during the summer holidays. Camden will be allocated some funding from the government for support with this, but the details of what will happen is not yet clear. Just to let you know I raised this with Camden Learning who oversee free school meals provision when the government announcement was made, and will keep you posted.

Webinar – Parental Mental Health

This rescheduled webinar with Zahra Shariff from the Parental Mental Health team will be taking place on 17 June, 2-3pm. A calendar invite went out last Thursday, but please do let me know if you need this invite again.

Webinar – Harmful Parental Conflict and Programmes to Help

This webinar on Thursday 25 June 1.30 – 2.30 with Sarah Ingram, Programme Manager at Tavistock Relationships, will provide helpful insight into harmful parental conflict and what we can do to help. A calendar invite has gone out, but let me know if you need this again.

Webinar – Introduction to NVR (Non-Violent Resistance)

A number of you have commented on increased reports of child-on-parent violence during COVID. To help us explore this, I am arranging a webinar with the national NVR Practitioners Consortium to introduce the concept of NVR and how it might help children and families. We will also invite Vicky Lidchi from the Tavistock and Portman who will update us on the local NVR offer. Calendar invite to follow.

Weekly Survey

Please take 5 minutes to complete this weeks family needs survey here (use this link as we start a new survey each week) [FSCF FAMILY NEEDS SURVEY W/C 15 JUNE 2020](https://www.ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/) . Thanks for continuing to complete this each week, it really does help to make sure we are getting you useful information and resources.

New information uploaded to the COVID Guidebook this week (web-based guidebook link here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/>

and One Note guidebook link here [FSCF COVID GUIDEBOOK](#)):

Green Camden Helpline and Energy Bills Camden Green Helpline has an energy debt relief service to help and advise families with energy debt. In the Energy Bills section	LGBTQ+ A new section gathering information, advice and support during COVID for residents who are LGBTQ+ In the LGBTQ+ section	Book an Outdoor Space – More Now Available Camden nature reserves are opening their space for 1-hour bookings for families living in temporary or overcrowded accommodation, or who have someone in the family with SEND. Booking must be made by a professional In the Activities for Children and Home Learning section
Face Masks and Coverings A new section with information and when and how to wear face masks. Remember face masks must be worn on public transport from today. In the COVID NHS Information section	List of Family Solicitors A list from legal of Law Society recommended solicitors specialising in childrens law. Many may offer pro bono support. In the Legal Advice section	Guidance on Risk Assessment More information on doing an individual risk assessment if you are planning a face-to-face visit with a family in an open space In the FSCF Procedures section (Face-to-Face and Home Visits tab)
Data Protection Camden has issued guidance about making sure we can comply with data protection regulations whilst working at home In the FSCF Procedures section (working from home tab) and the Technology for Workers section	Legal Support for Refugee Families Spark and Co have created a list of legal organisations providing support for refugee and asylum seeking families In the Legal Advice section	

We are now in week 13 of the shutdown, and our capacity and referral rate continues to hold steady. I reviewed the relationship feedback forms again last week, and parents are continuing to tell us that your help is helping during COVID. I have sent the feedback form summaries to your service managers so they can share those reflections with you.

Thank you for your continued determination and commitment to Camden families, and for your compassion and support to each other. As always, please do reach out if there is anything you need.

Stay safe and well

Becca

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