

COVID Email Update 3 August 2020

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

Today is our first day returning to face-to-face work across the service. We've all spent the last month preparing hard for this, and thank you to everyone for contributing, participating and helping to support children and families to feel ready too. One day at a time, one step at a time, staying vigilant, and keeping our approach under constant review. You can find my email from last Thursday about this here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/media/2004/email-30-july-2020.pdf>

This weeks shout-out is to some people you may not know but whose expertise, dedication and compassion have been so important to us and to families over the last 5 months. They are Leonora Wiel, Piers Simey, Efi Argyropoulou, Gill Hannan, Ian Sandford, Charlotte Ashton and Jane Brett-Jones from Camden and Islington Public Health. This extraordinary group of public health specialists are doing the remarkable job of steering Camden through this pandemic, and they have helped me out more times than I can count. I feel thankful to have them beside us, and privileged to now count many of them as friends. So to Public Health from Family Early Help - we see you, we thank you, and we wouldn't want to be without you.

Updates for you this week.

Face-to-Face Visits - Flowchart, Pre-Visit Checklist and Guidance Notes

A reminder that from today, the new pre-visit checklist is live. You can find the checklist, case-noting procedure and all the related guidance here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/face-to-face-visits-guidance-and-procedures/#main>. Remember these are the procedures if a family chooses blended visits (face-to-face one week and remote the next). If a family chooses virtual visits only, keep following the COVID guidance for virtual visit telephone/video calls and casenoting.

Sending Packs to your Home

Last call for you to let me know whether to send your pack (containing a washable face covering, disposable face coverings, hand sanitiser and sanitiser wipes) to your home or whether you want to collect it from 5PS. For those collecting packs from 5PS, these are now available in the white cupboard on the 9th floor near fire escape 9.B (behind where the team managers used to sit). Your pack is in a clear plastic crate with your name on (see attached photo). For those requesting packs be sent to their homes, these were sent last Friday. If you haven't received your pack by Thursday, please do let me know.

Webinars - Getting Ready for Face-to-Face Work

Thanks to everyone who came to the getting ready for face-to-face work webinars. The slide pack is now on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/face-to-face-visits-guidance-and-procedures/#main>. For anyone who wasn't able to attend, a recording of the webinar will be available later this week.

Alternative Venues for Visits

We now have a list of places we can book as alternative venues for face-to-face visits. However, we are a little delayed as Health and Safety want to see the venue's risk assessments demonstrating that they are COVID secure, which is a reasonable ask and very sensible. In the meantime, IEYS have said we are welcome to use Childrens Centre venues (please call to book in advance), Youth Service sites are also due to reopen soon, and we have a range of other suggestions for outdoor/sheltered spaces visits, all on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/alternative-venues-for-visits/>. More to follow soon.

Family Check-In Service Staying Open Until 30 September

Delighted to confirm that the Family Check-in Services will be open throughout the summer holidays and until 30 September, to offer additional support to families who may want or need it, particularly as they begin to think about their children returning to school in September. Our

thanks as always to Ed Magee for running this service and to the whole check-in service team for supporting 238 children from 112 families over the last 20 weeks.

More Holiday Food Programmes Now Running in Camden

Young Camden Foundation now have 5 holiday food programmes running in the borough. These are at QCCA, Sidings, Dragon Hall Trust, Calthorpe Gardens and the ARC Youth Club at SHAK. Well worth looking into, particularly for families on low incomes or with children eligible for FSM. Details on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/food/summer-food-programmes/#main>

Weekly Survey

The weekly survey is open for you to let me know about any family needs emerging over the summer, and to tell me how the return to face-to-face work is going for you and for families, if any of the processes needs amending, and if there are other things that you or families feel you need. This weeks survey link is here [FSCF FAMILY NEEDS SURVEY W/C 3 AUGUST](#)

New information uploaded to the COVID Guidebook this week link here

<https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/>

<p>School Uniform Support</p> <p>Lots of enquiries about funding to help with the cost of school uniform. More information about Camden's approach here https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/help-with-school-uniform/#main</p>	<p>New Summer Activities</p> <p>Lots more ideas for things to do for children and families over the summer, including summer play schemes and a packed summer programme from our amazing friends in community centres and projects – well worth checking out https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/childrens-activities-and-home-learning/summer-holidays-things-to-do/</p>	<p>Face-to-Face Visits: New Guidance and Procedures</p> <p>The face-to-face visit flow chart, pre-visit checklist, casenoting procedure and other guidance are now all on the Guidebook https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/face-to-face-visits-guidance-and-procedures/#main</p>
<p>Returning to School – Information in Other Languages</p> <p>Public Health have produced guides for parents about children returning to school in a range of languages https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/returning-to-school-info-in-other-languages/#main</p>	<p>Bubbles and Seating at 5PS</p> <p>A reminder that the bubble allocations and floorplans for seating at 5PS are here if you need them https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/</p>	<p>Meeting Families in Council Buildings</p> <p>A reminder that Corporate have asked us to get specific contact details from families if we meet them on Council premises. Info here https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/</p>
<p>FSCF Emergency Management and Risk Alert Plan</p> <p>A copy of our 5 phase emergency management plan that helps us respond to COVID is here https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/emergency-management-plan/#main</p>	<p>Management Oversight Procedures from 3 August</p> <p>As we move from phase 3 to phase 2 of our emergency management plan, the revised set of management oversight procedures from 3 August are here https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/management-oversight-procedure/#main</p>	<p>Holiday Food Programmes</p> <p>More food and activity hubs now running in Camden for families with low income or children eligible for FSM https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/food/summer-food-programmes/#main</p>

We are now in week 20 of COVID, and our capacity and referral rate continues to hold steady. Stay safe and well and, as always, shout if there is anything you need.

Becca

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