

COVID Email Update 31 August 2020

Good morning to you all, I hope you and your own families are all doing ok. I am on leave this week, but have again asked Tim to send you my weekly bulletin in my absence.

Brief updates for you this week as we head towards the end of the summer period and Camden children begin to return to school this week:

Reminder: Zoom Q and A session for Camden Parents on Returning To School

A reminder that there is a Zoom Q and A session for Camden parents, where they can ask questions about children returning to school, this Thursday 12-1.30pm . The event is being run by Camden and Islington Public Health Here is a link to the booking page [Return to School Q and A Event](#).

Face Coverings in Schools

On 25 August the Government issued new guidance about use of face coverings in schools. This mainly applies to secondary schools, but some primary schools may also make changes. If parents have questions about this, please do contact their child's school as approaches will vary. You can find the guidance here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/face-coverings-in-schools/#main>

Black Lives Matter Webinars

You'll have received an invite from me to two webinars as part of our Black Lives Matter work, for 15 September and 24 September. I have had feedback from both family workers and from extended SMT members that you felt these should be mandatory for all staff. Most of you have already accepted both invitations, but if you haven't yet, please do attend unless you are on leave.

FSCF PPE Store

A reminder that our PPE is in the FIF cupboard in a big box marked FSCF PPE. Starter packs are in the white cupboard on the 9th floor behind where the team managers used to sit (photo attached). Each pack is labelled with your name. If you haven't already, please do let me know asap if you want your pack sent to your home or if you want to collect it from 5PS.

Webinar – Non Violent Resistance in Work with Children and Young People

The last of our September webinars will be a brilliant session introducing you to Non-Violent Resistance, a method of working with families where there is child-to-parent violence or abuse. The session will be led by Vicky Lidchi, Head of Psychology at the Tavi, and will cover what NVR is, how it works, who it's for, NVR services in Camden, and thinking about strategies you can apply when working with families experiencing child to parent violence or abuse. Calendar invite to follow (30 September at 11am for 1 hour).

Early Help Family Group Conference

A reminder that early help family group conferences are available to any of our families, whether alongside your work with them, as part of our work at closure to plan endings, or as an option for a family in its own right.. You can find more about early help FGC here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/local-community-sources-of-support/early-help-family-group-conference/#main>

Free Sanitary Products Now In Three Camden Libraries

As well as the Childrens Centres, from the middle of this week families can collect free sanitary products from St Pancras, Holburn and Swiss Cottage libraries. Families can call in and ask at reception, or we can collect and deliver them to the family. Details here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/health-hospitals-gps-and-prescriptions/free-sanitary-products/#main>

Mentors for Camden Children

Chance UK have secured funding to continue their offer of mentors for 5-12 year olds who may be experiencing challenges with managing emotions. Kids Network are also offering mentoring for children aged 8-11. These are well worth considering, particularly as children

begin to return to school after COVID and may welcome some extra external support. More details here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/local-community-sources-of-support/mentors-for-children/#main>

Weekly Survey

The weekly survey is open for you to let me know about any emerging family needs, and to tell me how the return to face-to-face work is going for you and for families. This weeks survey link is here [FSCF FAMILY NEEDS SURVEY W/C 31 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>No Recourse to Public Funds COVID has had a devastating effect on families who have no recourse to public funds or NRPF. BASW have produced a helpful booklet about NRPF to help us work out how to best support families in this situation + links to other sources of advice https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/refugee-and-asylum-seeking-families/no-recourse-to-public-funds/#main</p>	<p>Face Coverings in Schools A new section with the government guidance on use of face coverings in school settings following a new announcement on 25 August https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/face-coverings-in-schools/#main</p>	<p>Mentors for Children Opportunities to find a mentor for children aged 5-12. https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/local-community-sources-of-support/mentors-for-children/#main</p>
<p>Family Group Conference A new Guidebook section about FGCs for families in early help https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/local-community-sources-of-support/early-help-family-group-conference/#main</p>	<p>International Travel Restrictions – Updated Link There is an updated link to Government information about international travel restrictions, including when you need to self isolate if you return to the UK https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/travelling-to-the-uk-and-quarantineself-isolation/#main</p>	<p>Transport to School The Department of Transport has issued some advice notices for school transport, which you could use to talk through with families. Info here https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/transport-to-school/#main</p>

We are now in week 24 of COVID, and our capacity and referral rate continues to hold steady. We will monitor this closely as children in Camden begin to return to school this week.

Stay safe and well and, as always, shout if there is anything you need.

Becca

Becca Dove
 Head of Family Support and Complex Families

Telephone: 020 7974 3603