

COVID Email Update 14 September 2020

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

We are now in week 26 of the COVID pandemic – a full 6 months since this extraordinary period in our lives began. We've come a very long way in that time, with huge adjustments to our work life, to our home life, and to how we move around in the world.

This gave me pause for reflection this week, and the enormity of the physical and emotional investment we have all made - to the families we help, to our own families and to each other. I feel thankful that you are all safe and well, and that we have got through this six months with an unwavering commitment to families, and to looking after each other. That doesn't take away from how hard it has been too, and at times it has felt really tough.

I hope you will have some time in your supervisions and in your teams to look back over the last 6 months. To reflect on things you feel proud of, things that felt difficult, things we've learned, and then to look forward into the next 6 months and what you might want or need.

Now is also a really important time to reflect on Camden families lived experience. COVID has changed Camden family life and Camden as a place, just as it has changed every borough, county and town in the country, and it will keep changing. Those of you who live in Camden have a unique and important insight into the reality of family life in Camden during this pandemic. As we begin to look forward, we all need to reflect on that insight, listen hard, and think about how Family Early Help stays helpful and purposeful for Camden families into the post-COVID future. We'll be doing more work on this in the weeks to come.

Updates for you this week:

New Rules on Social Distancing in Force From Today Plus an Exemption for Family Visits

The Governments new laws regarding social distancing and the number of people who can meet come into force today. I have checked with Public Health and they confirm that home visits and visits with families in alternative venues are exempt from this because they are work-related. Later this week, I will be providing you all with a letter that confirms this (like the one we had for public transport), which you can keep on your mobiles in case you are ever challenged. There is more information on the new social distancing laws on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/social-distancing-government-guidance-from-5-june-2020-onwards/#main> and about the exemption to the 'rule of 6' for family visits 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>

Stay at Home and Self Isolation Guidance – Updated 10 September

The Government made some amendments to the guidance on self isolating and staying at home. You can find it on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/self-isolation-and-stay-at-home-guidance/#main>

Managers: Revised Process for What to Do If a Team Member Has COVID Symptoms

HR have streamlined the instructions on what to do if a team member has COVID symptoms, or if a visitor to a council building has COVID symptoms. Managers can find the revised procedure here – please make sure you read this so you know what to do if you need it <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/covid-testing-for-critical-workers/#main>

This Weeks Webinar – Making Black Lives Matter in Work with Families

A reminder that this weeks webinar is the first of our BLM webinar series with Jasmine Chin, Clinical Psychologist at Coram. This insightful and thought-provoking webinar will look at race, privilege, power and trauma, and give us ideas for how we can reflect on these important issues in our daily practice. Let me know if you need the calendar invite again.

Payments for People with Low Incomes who are Self Isolating In COVID High Rate Areas

The Government has announced that people on low incomes in areas with high incidence of COVID-19, who need to self-isolate and are unable to work from home, will benefit from a new payment scheme. This doesn't affect Camden yet as we are not in a high incidence area, but its one to be aware of if the time comes. You can find more information here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/employment-income-and-benefits/universal-credit-and-benefits/#main>

Desk Space Availability During Remote Weeks

Some of you have asked whether you could have a base or desk to use if you need to do visits in your remote week. Here is an option (thanks to Jess E for the suggestion).

You will be aware each seat is allocated to 2 people – one person from bubble A and one person from bubble B. If you want to come into 5PS on your remote week, you can now contact your 'seat buddy' and ask if they are using the seat. If they aren't, you can come into 5PS and use it on that day. You must let your manager know you are doing this, and put it in your calendar so we know you were in 5PS for contact tracing if needed. Your bubble allocation does not change – you are still in the same bubble. You can find your seat buddy on the Bubble Allocations list here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/media/1927/bubble-allocations.pdf>

We are only able to do this because we are not using our allocated desks very much at present (about 10% are being used at any one time). If and when our desk usage starts to increase, we will have to revert back to exclusive use by each bubble each week. We will try this for the next 2 months to see how it goes. I hope this is a good solution for those of you that asked about this, but if not please do get in touch so we can think again.

Noise Disturbance from Neighbours

There was a comment in this weeks survey about helping families to address noise disturbances from their neighbours. I have put all the information about help with resolving noise disputes, including links to the Camden neighbourhood officers for every Camden property who can assist you with this, in a new Guidebook section here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/rents-tenancies-evictions-and-council-tax/noise-disputes/#main>. I hope this helps, but do get in touch if not.

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 14 SEPTEMBER](#)

New information uploaded to the COVID Guidebook this week link here

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

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Family Genograms, Play Genograms, Community Genograms A new section of the virtual kit bag focussed on using genograms of many shapes and sorts to help you with the exploration phase. Well worth a look, especially to help you think about risk of harm outside the family home https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures- | New Social Distancing and Meeting Regulations From 14 September, new Government laws come into force on the number of people who can meet. Info is here https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/social-distancing-government-guidance-from-5-june-2020-onwards/#main | Updated Self Isolation and Stay at Home Guidance The Government updated this guidance on 10 September, you can find it here https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/self-isolation-and-stay-at-home-guidance/#main |
|---|--|--|

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| during-covid/remote-direct-work-kit-bag/#main | | |
| <p>Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA)</p> <p>Slide pack from the webinar on 10 September and more information about EBSA and emotional literacy has been uploaded here</p> <p>https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/emotionally-based-school-avoidance-ebbsa/#main</p> | <p>Support for Camden Employees Who Are Carers</p> <p>A new section with information and support for Camden staff who are carers (there is also the Carers and Young Carers section of the Guidebook):</p> <p>https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/staff-wellbeing-during-covid/workers-who-are-carers/#main</p> | <p>'Rule of 6' Exemption for Family Visits</p> <p>Public Health have confirmed that family visits either in the home or in an alternative venue are exempt from the new Government rule that limits the number of people who can meet to 6 or less. Info here</p> <p>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>Noise Problems and Disputes</p> <p>A new Guidebook section with links to help for residents experiencing noise from neighbours, transport, construction or businesses</p> <p>https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/rents-tenancies-evictions-and-council-tax/noise-disputes/#main</p> | | |

Thank you for giving me your time at your team meetings. It was a privilege to listen to your experiences of returning to face-to-face work; you gave me some homework to do, and I'll make sure I sort those things out and feed back to you within 2 weeks.

Stay safe and well, and much love to you all.

Becca

Becca Dove
Head of Family Support and Complex Families

Telephone: 020 7974 3603