

Good morning to you all

You will all have heard news reports that the Prime Minister has stated a second COVID wave is on the way. Sadiq Khan said in a press statement on Friday that additional measures are likely to be necessary in London at some point soon. We do not yet know what this means for Camden, London or the country. We know that the UK Chief Medical Officer and Chief Scientific Advisor will be making a public statement later this morning.

This news, and the uncertainty it brings, will raise lots of questions and lots of emotions for us and for the families we are supporting. Managing these constant changes takes a huge amount of physical and emotional energy. I know we are all tired and pretty fed up with it. I'm reminded of our parental mental health webinar when Zahra asked us how we '*drop the anchor to steady the ship during a storm*', and a couple of ways we might do that this morning.

Firstly, there is the assurance that our service is ready. Our COVID management plan is in place, our policies and procedures are in place, and we are ready to move swiftly if and when the time comes. We learned a huge amount in the first wave of COVID. We now have much more experience of adapting to its unpredictable and constantly changing circumstances. We are prepared. You can read our COVID management plan any time on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/emergency-management-plan/>

Secondly, there is the assurance that, as we have done since day one of this crisis, we will look after each other. My first and only priority remains your safety and wellbeing. Your managers and I are here for you to give you every support you need. It's always okay to say I'm not okay, any time, and your own family comes first without question.

For now, we continue as we are, staying vigilant and following our procedures to help keep us and families safe and well. I am in regular contact with Public Health, and I will call a whole service briefing as soon as I have news. If you have questions, please do reach out and I will do my best to get the answers.

Updates for you this week:

Black Lives Matter Resource Repository

I hope you've had a chance to have a look at the new Black Lives Matter Resource Repository on the Guidebook. Jasmine's slides from last week's webinar are on there here, along with a wide range of articles, videos, podcasts and resources to support anti-racist and anti-oppressive learning and daily practice. The Repository has lots of ideas and activities to explore in team meetings or reflective group supervisions. This is an open, crowd-source project, so please do send in any materials or resources you would like to share with everyone <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/black-lives-matter-resource-repository/>

This week's Black Lives Matter Webinar

This Thursday we welcome Mymuna Soleman, founder of Privilege Cafe, and Abu-Bakr Madden El Shabbaz, black history scholar and educator to explore the history of race and racism, and opening spaces to use privilege for good. A reminder that this webinar is a must-attend please.

Managers have been asked to follow the Black Lives Matter webinar series with reflective discussions in your team spaces. There you can reflect on what your takeaways were from the webinars, what you found challenging, what you learned, what impact this might have on your own practice, and what you now think FSCF should focus on to ensure our work is explicitly anti-racist and anti-oppressive. A few of you have asked what our long term plan for our Black Lives Matter work is. My plan is to mirror our Resilient Families model. Right now we are in exploration phase. Within the next few weeks, we will come together, write our

assessment of where we think we are as a service with our anti-racist and anti-oppressive practice, make our plan for what we want the future to look and feel like, and set ourselves goals. Doing the deep work now, just as you do with families, will make our anti-racism plan and our goals grounded and meaningful.

Local Lockdown Information

A reminder that there is a link on the Guidebook to information about local lockdown and restrictions. This is updated by the Government every time new restrictions are introduced. You can find it here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/local-lockdown-guidance/>

Free Flu Vaccinations Now Available

A reminder that Camden offers free flu vaccinations for staff, and frontline staff are prioritised – more information about the Camden free flu jabs and an online request form here <https://lbcamden.sharepoint.com/sites/intranet/communications/Pages/free-flu-vaccinations-are-now-available.aspx>. The Camden scheme supplements the NHS free flu jab scheme. Because health and social care workers are included in the list of eligible groups for the NHS free flu jab this year, you may be eligible for a free NHS flu jab and HR advise checking with your GP. Even if you aren't eligible, you can register for the Camden free flu vaccination and you will be prioritised. Please do consider getting a flu jab to help keep you safe and well this winter. There is more information about the national flu vaccination scheme here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/flu-vaccinations-for-workers/#main>

Parking Permits for Key Workers

A few of you asked me to enquire about how long key workers would be allowed parking permits would be permitted. I contacted the Head of Parking Services, and the latest is that the permit scheme is likely to be extended to 31 October. It is unlikely to continue beyond then, and the scheme does not allow me to buy permits for staff. I have now made representations to ensure the Director responsible for parking is aware of the impact this may have for those of you who use your cars as an alternative to public transport, and I will let you know what the outcome of that is.

Schools Approaches to Managing COVID

Some of you asked me to find out what each individual Camden school is doing to manage COVID. This was because each school is approaching COVID management slightly differently. I have contacted Camden Learning for their assistance with this, and I hope to have at least an outline for each school to share very soon. More to follow.

Alternative Venues for Visits

A quick update on locating COVID-secure venues for family visits outside the home. Libraries are now just about ready for us to make use of their space on a booking-basis, and Adult and Community Learning have provided us with a list of community venues they have identified as COVID secure. I'm sorry this has taken longer than planned, and we will have a list of alternative venues for family visits ready in time for the autumn. More to follow.

Weekly Survey

The weekly survey is open for you to let me know about any emerging family needs, and to tell me how face-to-face work is going for you and for families. This weeks survey link is here [FSCF FAMILY NEEDS SURVEY W/C 21 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/>

Managers: Adaptive Leadership During COVID For managers to reflect on their leadership style during COVID, and how often you are	Black Lives Matter Resource Repository – White Privilege Added to the Repository this week, an exploration of white privilege – what it is, what it	Black Lives Matter Resource Repository – Jasmine's Slide Pack Added to the Repository this week, Jasmines slide pack
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<p>getting 'up to the balcony'. Added to the Guidebook section on supporting your supervisory practice during COVID</p> <p>https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/managers-supervisory-practice-during-covid/#main</p>	<p>isn't and why it matters (scroll about half way down the section)</p> <p>https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/black-lives-matter-resource-repository/articles-and-reading/#main</p>	<p>exploring the social graces, race, privilege, power and trauma</p> <p>https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/black-lives-matter-resource-repository/webinars/#main</p>
<p>Updated Infographic on Self Isolating</p> <p>A constant on the Guidebook, but updated to current guidance, this infographic shows an example of the self isolation periods for a family</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Black Lives Matter Resource Repository – Social Graces</p> <p>Added to the Repository this week, a slide pack on the social graces, and some activities to try in team meetings to explore identity</p> <p>https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/black-lives-matter-resource-repository/resources-for-daily-practice/#main</p>	

We are now in week 27 of COVID, and whilst contacts at front door and referrals for family casework are rising, our current capacity is stable and manageable. I will be in contact with you all again very soon as we monitor the second wave situation closely. I'll end with a link to a thread from a doctor who works in disaster zones, and her reflections on the 6 month mark in a crisis – it may bring you some solace today if you need it

<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1307697965260328961.html>

Becca

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