

Good morning to you all

After a long period of no change, a definite change this week. Tier 2 restrictions for London came into force at midnight on Friday. We do not yet know for how long. We do know what Tier 2 restrictions mean, and you can read more about that here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/social-distancing-government-guidance/#main>. I will be writing to you all shortly with headlines on what Tier 2 restrictions mean for family work, and you have all had an invite to a Whole Service Briefing tomorrow morning where I'll go into more detail. Please do attend if you can.

The combination of Tier 2 restrictions, the end of the furlough scheme in 2 weeks, and the end of the eviction freeze, on top of existing stressors, is likely to impact many of the families we are working with. Please do strengthen scaffolding networks around families as much as you can, and make sure every family is connected with community supports, services and centres. It's vital that families have local sources of support they can draw on in the event of any further lockdown restrictions (actually, that's important at any time).

We have so many good friends in Camden's community organisations and they're all incredible people with huge hearts who know Camden inside out, so please do include them in your thinking about a family's support network. You can find details of Camden community organisations here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/local-community-sources-of-support/community-organisations/#main>

Updates for you this week:

Individual Risk Assessments

This week, your managers will be working with you to review your individual risk assessment, and make sure you have everything you need to work as safely as you can. This is particularly for staff who were previously shielding, who live with people who were shielding, and for Black, Asian and minority ethnic staff. This is precaution as you have all been keeping your risk assessments under constant review. But your managers will be prioritising time this week to look at this again with you. You should all have a copy of your individual risk assessment, but here is the link if you need it <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/face-to-face-visits-guidance-and-procedures/>

Additional Alternative Venues Added Including 5PS

We have now sourced an additional 8 venues that we can use for visits outside the home. This includes additional meeting rooms in 5PS (on the ground and 1st floor), Kentish Town Library, and venues that Adult and Community Learning are using and have been checked as COVID secure. This means we now have 15 community venues that can be used for visits outside the home, in addition to schools who are being as flexible as they can for you to see children or families on their sites. These new venues will be on the Guidebook by midday on Wednesday, and you can find details by postcode here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/alternative-venues-for-visits/venues-in-ec1wc/#main>

Information About Local Lockdown Arrangements

You can find out more about local lockdown arrangements on the Guidebook. This includes a link to a site where you can input your postcode and check the restrictions for your local area. <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/local-lockdown-guidance/>

Webinar – Welfare Rights, Housing Benefits and Universal Credit

Our next service webinar will be on 22 October 2-3.30pm, where we welcome our friend Rebecca Harvey from Welfare Rights will be helping us learn about welfare rights, housing benefit and UC. Not mandatory, but would strongly recommend coming along if you can. Please give me a shout if you need the calendar invite again

Webinar – Everyday Tools For Culturally Responsive Practice

The next in our Black Lives Matters webinar series will be on 3 November at 11am, This will be a practical, hands-on session exploring tools, ideas and approaches that you can use in every-day practice to support anti-racism, anti-oppression and cultural responsiveness. The session will be led by frontline practitioners and supervisors who have experience of using the tools, and we'll have breakout rooms for you to reflect in groups on how you could use the tools yourself. Should be a really helpful session with lots of take-aways to use in practice. This is mandatory unless you are on leave. Calendar invite to follow.

Financial Support for Camden Residents Self Isolating

A reminder that people self-isolating who need financial support can receive a payment of £500 under a new Camden test and trace financial support scheme. <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/tests-for-covid-test-and-trace/#main> (scroll to “Test and Trace Financial Support for Self Isolating”).

Flu Vaccinations

A reminder that you can get a flu vaccination either through your GP as an essential worker or via the Camden scheme. You can find more details here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/flu-vaccinations-for-workers/#main>

Weekly Survey

The weekly survey is open for you to let me know about any emerging family needs, and anything you need. This weeks survey link is here [FSCF FAMILY NEEDS SURVEY W/C 19 OCTOBER](https://www.camden.gov.uk/fscf-family-needs-survey-w-c-19-october)

New information uploaded to the COVID Guidebook this week link here

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

Black Lives Matter Resources Repository – New Videos Some brilliant new videos added this week, thanks to Louanne and Anna Gupta for submitting https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/black-lives-matter-resource-repository/podcasts-and-videos/#main	Black Lives Matter Resources Repository – New Webinar The Culture and Protecting Children webinar with Anna Gupta has been uploaded to the Guidebook here https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/black-lives-matter-resource-repository/webinars/#main	Black Lives Matter Resource Repository - Intersectionality A new section exploring intersectionality and why it matters in our work with families https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/black-lives-matter-resource-repository/concepts-and-ideas/#main
Resilient Families Practice A reminder that all the information, materials and resources about the Resilient Families Practice Model are now on the Guidebook https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/resilient-families-practice/	Welfare Assistance Fund More information about how to access the Council's welfare assistance fund https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/finance-bills-and-financial-hardship/welfare-assistance-fund/	Alternative Venues for Visits More venues added as alternative options to meeting in the family home https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/alternative-venues-for-visits/venues-in-ec1wc/#main

We are now in week 31 of COVID, and our current capacity remains stable. I'll be in touch shortly with an update on working arrangements under Tier 2 restrictions, and hope to see you all at the Whole Service Briefing tomorrow.

As always, please do shout if there is anything you need. Your own scaffolding support networks are really important too.

Take care, and stay safe and well.

Becca

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