

## COVID Email Update 26 October 2020

Good morning to you all, I hope you and your families are okay.

Important message this week on Free School Meals support. I emailed you all about this last Thursday, but at 11am on Friday we heard that Jenny and Councillor Gould wanted to provide local help to all children eligible to free school meals over half term. From today, supermarket e-vouchers will start being sent out to all Camden families with children up to the age of 18 and in receipt of benefits. This is being done by the Benefits Team.

You can read more here <https://news.camden.gov.uk/camden-council-steps-in-to-ensure-no-child-goes-hungry-this-half-term/>. Please make sure you let your families know. If for any reason parents don't receive an email voucher or a voucher in the post by Thursday morning, ask them to call 020 7974 4444 (option 9).

We also have Sainsburys and Morrisons gift cards in our safe, which managers can access and you can take to family homes. Castlehaven, Kentish Town Community Centre and Camden Mobile Food Bank are providing food parcels and help, plus the 3 regular Camden foodbanks. You can find details for all of them here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/food/foodbanks/#main>. There are also many Camden businesses and restaurants that came forward last week to help, and are now providing food, catering support, hot meals or packed lunches to families and to schools for distribution to their communities.

This is Camden at its very best. A community – organisations and residents together - that said 'not on my watch' and pulled together, again, to help children and families. I feel proud that we all lend our hands and hearts to this constant collective community effort.

On a final Free School Meals note, many more children are likely to become eligible in the coming weeks and months. Let's make sure we give families information about free school meals where it could help them – you can find information and a leaflet on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/free-school-meals/#main>

Updates for you this week:

### **Alternative Venues for Meeting Families**

There are now 22 different indoor venues that we have identified as meeting COVID-secure risk assessment requirements, and they are on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/alternative-venues-for-visits/>.

This is in addition to schools. Each venue has specific instructions to follow re COVID, so it's really important you read their COVID-secure risk assessment before booking (contact details are shown for each venue). This is to make sure you know what the venue expect us to do whilst on their premises.

You can book the venue yourself and ask Elaine Crouch to raise a purchase order or make the payment by credit card. If you have any problems booking any of these venues, please let me and Elaine Crouch know. Please also make sure you read the 'general rules' section on that Guidebook page first.

### **Half Term Activities for Children and Young People**

Lots going on over half term to help keep children and young people active and occupied. More info here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/childrens-activities-and-home-learning/summer-holidays-half-term-things-to-do/#main>

### **Gift Chromebooks for Families with a Loan Laptop**

A reminder that families with one of our loan laptops can now swap it for a gift Chromebook. This is a gift from us to the family thanks to a grant from a charitable foundation, and they won't need to return it. If you are working with a family with a loan laptop, please contact your line manager to arrange to swap it for a gift Chromebook.

You must return the loan laptop to 5PS so it can be re-set and issued to another family. This is particularly important as the Government has just reduced the number of laptops being made available to schools to give out. Managers, you can find the gift Chromebook process here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/laptop-loans/laptop-loans-gift-chromebook-guidance-for-oncall-managers/#main>

### **Home Working – New Ways to Get Equipment**

Corporate have been working on better ways for us to get the equipment we need to work safely and well and home. This includes new processes for obtaining chairs and agile kit contents. You can find more information here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/working-from-home-guidance/#main>

### **Black Lives Matter Webinar – Everyday Tools for Culturally Responsive Practice**

The next webinar in our Black Lives Matter series on 3 November at 11am is a very practical session exploring the tools on our Black Lives Matter Resource Repository that you can use in everyday practice. Calendar invites went out last Thursday – you should have received two invites, one to the main meeting and one to a breakout room. This is mandatory unless you are on leave. Please give me a shout if you need the calendar invite again.

### **Black Lives Matter Resource Repository - Human Rights and Childrens Rights**

Our webinar with Anna Gupta reminded us how important it is that we know what human rights and childrens rights are if we want to practice in an anti-oppressive and anti-racist way. There is a new section on the Black Lives Matter Resource Repository on this important subject and you can find it here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/black-lives-matter-resource-repository/human-rights-and-childrens-rights/#main/> . Well worth 10 minutes of your time to have a look.

### **Pay What You Can BSL Training**

British Sign Language are offering a big discount on their online Introduction to BSL training course. It's a 20-hour CPD certified course, which can be studied at your own pace and is a comprehensive introduction to BSL. I'd be very happy to pay for you to do this training, so if this would help you in your work with children and families, please do let your manager know. More information here <https://british-sign.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360044794654-Coronavirus-Crisis-Discounted-Free-Enrolments>

### **Developmental Trauma Training - Reminder**

A reminder that every FSCF member has access to free online developmental trauma training, delivered by Beacon House. This is mandatory training because of the importance of the learning to our daily work, particularly during COVID. Thanks to everyone who has already completed the training (I hope you got as much out of it as I did!). If you haven't signed up for the training yet, please make sure you book via the Learning and Development Hub (search for 'trauma') as soon as you can. You will be sent log-in details and then you complete the 12 hours training at your own pace. We have extended the deadline to complete the training to 31 December 2020.

### **Support with Starting Your Own Business**

If you are working with any young people or parents interested in starting their own business, don't miss this online workshop hosted by Black Pound Day founder Swiss from So Solid Crew on 5 November 6-8pm. Aimed at equipping young aspiring entrepreneurs with the skills and tools to start their own businesses, special guests will deliver constructive and practical advice. Sign up via this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/camden-black-history-season-black-young-entrepreneurs-tickets-122372436251>

## When to Self Isolate

A few of you have asked about when to self-isolate, even if you think it's a seasonal cough or cold. You should self-isolate and get a test if you have COVID symptoms. You can find the Government and NHS guidance about symptoms and self isolation 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> and on getting a test here <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>



## 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 26 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/>

<b>Alternative Venues for Visits</b> More venues added to the list which you can find here – please follow the instructions for each venue <a href="https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/alternative-venues-for-visits/">https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/alternative-venues-for-visits/</a>	<b>Welfare Rights Team</b> Following last weeks webinar, details for how to contact Camden Welfare Rights and what they offer (we are awaiting a copy of the slides to upload, to be added shortly): <a href="https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/legal-debt-and-welfare-advice/camden-welfare-rights-team/#main">https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/legal-debt-and-welfare-advice/camden-welfare-rights-team/#main</a>	<b>TFL Congestion Charge Reimbursement Scheme</b> Details about a new scheme from TFL reimbursing specific journeys relating to COVID support <a href="https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/parking-and-transport-for-workers/tfl-and-safer-public-travel/#main">https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/parking-and-transport-for-workers/tfl-and-safer-public-travel/#main</a>
<b>Black Lives Matter Resource Repository – New Resources for Kids, New Articles and New Podcasts</b> Some lovely new resources for talking about racism with children (thanks to Nicky and Tahera for sending) and new podcasts exploring inherited racial trauma and the danger of ‘single stories’ <a href="https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/black-lives-matter-resource-repository/#main">https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/black-lives-matter-resource-repository/#main</a>	<b>TFL Bus Network</b> More information about additional bus services as part of Schools Services – full list of routes here <a href="https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/transport-to-school/#main">https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/transport-to-school/#main</a>	<b>The Tenants Voice</b> Another resource of advice and information for tenants renting from any sector, about their rights and responsibilities <a href="https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/rents-tenancies-evictions-and-tenants-voice/#main">https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/rents-tenancies-evictions-and-tenants-voice/#main</a>

<a href="https://covid-guidebook/black-lives-matter-resource-repository/talking-with-children-about-black-lives-matter/#main">covid-guidebook/black-lives-matter-resource-repository/talking-with-children-about-black-lives-matter/#main</a>		<a href="https://council-tax/tenant-and-rent-issues/#main">council-tax/tenant-and-rent-issues/#main</a>
<p><b>Tier 2 Restrictions and Family Work Briefing</b></p> <p>The slide pack from last Tuesdays whole service briefing is now on the Guidebook  <a href="https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/media/2316/tier-2-restrictions-briefing-october-2020.pdf">https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/media/2316/tier-2-restrictions-briefing-october-2020.pdf</a></p>		

We are now in week 32 of COVID, and our current capacity remains stable although requests for family casework are continuing to increase. I will continue to monitor the rise in COVID cases, the Tier restrictions, and our capacity for incoming work, very carefully.

On a personal note, I now have both my eldest child and my husband self-isolating, so we are counting down the days until they can go outside again. If you have family members who are having to self-isolate, and particularly children who are having to do schoolwork from home because of self-isolating, please do talk with your manager if you need any help or support. The daily juggle is never easy at the best of times, but if there is anything we can do to make self-isolation any easier for your family, please do shout. We're here for you.

Becca

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