

Good morning everyone

It's a great start to the week when not only has the US elected its first woman to Vice President, but its first Black Vice President and its first South Asian Vice President. Kamala Harris has well and truly smashed another glass ceiling, not least thanks to women like Stacey Abrams, LaTosha Brown and countless other community organisers who got out the vote. Lift every one of them up high.

I was also struck by Joe Biden's comment in his acceptance speech that we should "*lead not with an example of power but by the power of our example*". That made me reflect on the power of the example we all seek to set in our work, with families and with each other.

We also start the week on day 4 of the second national lockdown. A huge amount of activity took place behind the scenes last week to get ready, including getting pathways to food organised for Camden residents and making sure support for Camden residents who were previously shielding is in place. Camden's community organisations have mobilised once again to provide on-the-ground essential support. As always this has been a phenomenal response, with the council, public health, public services, community organisations and residents collectively working together.

If you need essentials for any families you work with during lockdown, then the Guidebook should provide you with answers. If it doesn't, contact me or use the weekly survey and I'll get you an answer.

I hope you are all finding the adjustment back to virtual visits okay so far, and that your own situation with your home and family feels manageable. Your line manager, service manager and I are all here for you. So if anything feels harder than it should at the moment, please do reach out. It's always, always, okay to say help. You are always enough, and asking for help is a sign of your strength and courage.

Updates for you this week:

Travel During Lockdown Exemption Letter

If you are travelling for work during second lockdown, you need to carry your letter that confirms you are doing so as an essential worker, and your Camden ID. This was the personalised letter I sent to you in March and you need it in case you are challenged about using public transport during lockdown. If you don't have your letter, please contact me and I'll issue you a new one. The example letter is here (don't use this one as it's got my name on and you need one with your name on!) <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/key-worker-letter-transport/>

Clinical Extremely Vulnerable – New Guidance

The Government has issued new guidance for people who were clinically extremely vulnerable. 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/clinically-extremely-vulnerable-high-risk-people-shielding/#main> This includes new guidance for children and attending education. If you are working with either a parent or child who is clinically extremely vulnerable, or if you are clinically extremely vulnerable or supervising someone in this group, please take a few minutes to have a read of the guidance.

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable – Make Sure to Register for Support during Second Lockdown

Anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable can register for additional support during the second lockdown, including accessing priority shopping delivery slots, and to ask for someone to help with things like collecting prescriptions. You can find more information about this on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/clinically-extremely-vulnerable-high-risk-people-shielding/#main>

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable – Two New Groups Added to the List

The Government has added people with stage 5 chronic kidney disease and adults with Downs syndrome to the list of clinically extremely vulnerable people. One to hold in mind both for families we are working with and for any of you who live with or care for someone in either of those groups (please do talk this through with your line manager if you do). You can find more information, plus an easy ready booklet for adults with Downs syndrome about why they have been added to the list, on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/clinically-extremely-vulnerable-high-risk-people-shielding/#main>

Food Access during Second Lockdown

Community organisations are playing the main role in delivering and coordinating food help during second lockdown. You can find the latest details of the community organisations providing food support here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/food/option-3-emergency-food-parcels/#main>. Please remember to follow the food flow chart if you need to access food for a family during lockdown. You can find it here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/food/food-flow-chart/#main>

Slides from Second Lockdown Briefing

The slides from our briefing about our family work during the second lockdown are now on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/media/2343/second-lockdown-briefing-3-november-2020.pdf>. If you weren't able to attend the briefing, or were on leave last Tuesday, please read the slides and contact your line manager asap to go through our working procedures during second lockdown.

Face-to-Face Visits During Second Lockdown

A reminder that there is flex to permit face-to-face visits depending on the gravity, severity and frequency of the risk to the child/ren's welfare, and where it is in the best interests of the child/ren. 5PS, Camden youth centres and Childrens Centres remain open and are COVID secure for visits. Outdoor or side-by-side walking visits keeping to social distance rules are also permitted.

These are the exception not the rule during this second lockdown. Your visits should be virtual unless absolutely necessary, or if we lose contact with a family and need to use the COVID escalation procedure. But if you feel that a face-to-face visit is paramount for the welfare of the child/ren, talk with your line manager.

If you do a face-to-face visit during second lockdown, you must follow the face-to-face visits guidance 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>.

Please be extra vigilant to keep yourself and families safe.

Your Feedback on the Weekly Email Update and Guidebook

Thank you to everyone who gave their views about the weekly email update and the Guidebook. I have analysed all the comments, and implemented a number of changes to make the improvements you asked for. A summary of the feedback is attached (scroll to the blue sections of the document to see the changes made). Thanks again, and I hope these changes help.

Data Dashboard

A reminder that the family early help dashboard is available for you to keep a check on what work needs to be done (EHRD, assessment, TAF, TAF review) and how long is left to complete it. You can find the dashboard here [FAMILY EARLY HELP DASHBOARD](#) The data team have said some of us (me included) aren't using it very much at the moment.

So please can I ask you to bookmark the page on your browser and have a check on it during every week. This is such a helpful resource and there really aren't many other boroughs who have something this sophisticated to help us with managing our work, so let's all make as best use of it as we can.

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 9 NOVEMBER](#)

New information uploaded to the COVID Guidebook this week link here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/>

Families for Life Virtual Sessions (Healthy Eating) Info on Camden's Health and Wellbeing Teams virtual sessions for parents of children aged 2-11 on healthy eating and healthy living https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/food/cooking-and-eating-at-home/	More Government Help for Self Employed During Lockdown Updated information about help available for self employed people during lockdown – one to share with parents https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/employment-jobs-and-benefits/self-employed/#main	Government Guidance on Second Lockdown Restrictions Updated Guidebook page with the guidance on social restrictions during second lockdown plus some advice for extremely clinically vulnerable and clinically vulnerable groups https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/social-distancing-government-guidance/#main
New Government Guidance for Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (High Risk) The Government issued new guidance for the previously shielding group on 4 November 2020 https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/clinically-extremely-vulnerable-high-risk-people-shielding/#main	Updated Guidance for Clinically Vulnerable (Moderate Risk) The Government has updated guidance for people who are clinically vulnerable to COVID effects https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/clinically-vulnerable-moderate-risk-groups/#main	Accessing Food During Second Lockdown Information about which community organisations are providing food support during second lockdown https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/food/option-3-emergency-food-parcels/#main
Working from Abroad More information about Camden's approach to working from abroad during COVID (scroll to the bottom of the page on this link) https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/working-from-home-guidance/#main		

We are now in week 34 of COVID, and our current capacity remains stable. If there is anything at all that you need this week, please do shout.

Stay safe and well, and look after each other.

Becca