

COVID EMAIL UPDATE 7 DECEMBER 2020

Good morning to you

I hope you are all finding the adjustment back to face-to-face work manageable, now that we are in Tier 2. If there is anything at all that you need, or if any of our processes need improving, please do shout me or your manager.

The announcement of an approved COVID vaccination last week will bring relief and apprehension for all of us and the families we help. The North London NHS system is now gearing up to undertake the enormous and complex job of managing how the vaccine rolls out. The first vaccinations are already in London.

Whilst we now know who will get the vaccine first, conversations are already happening about vaccinations for frontline workers who are not health or social care registered, but do work with vulnerable people in their homes. As soon as I get information, I will let you know.



You can read more about the vaccine rollout here <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/> and here from Chris Hopkins, CEO of the NHS Providers Association <https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1334915589446512644.html>

A quick note on Camden's Winter Support Fund for families. You'll remember this is the money given to every local authority by the Government to provide additional food and material support for low income families over the Christmas holidays and February half term. Camden will be announcing its plans for this money this week. As soon as I have full details, I'll let you know so we can let our families know.

Updates for you this week:

Sending You a Christmas Gift – But Need Your Help



This week I'm hoping to send a small Christmas gift in the post for each of you – but HR require to me ask if its okay for me to have your home address to send it. **Could you reply to this email just saying yes thats okay to send it to my home address or no I'd prefer you keep it for me at 5PS?** I'll only send to those that reply yes!

When Children Shouldn't Attend School During COVID

Camden and Islington Public Health have created an infographic for parents to help them work out when their children should or shouldn't go to school during COVID. One to share with parents who might be finding it confusing to know what to do and when (we all are!) <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/when-children-shouldnt-attend-school/#main>

Free E-Bikes for Key Workers for Three Months

Lime UK are offering 3 months free membership and unlimited free 30 minute e-bike rides across London for key workers. You can sign up for the scheme here <https://airtable.com/shr29smr46VjOOit1> and read more about the scheme here <https://v1.li.me/second-street/lime-commits-1-million-to-supporting-lower-income-riders-and-key-workers-across-uk-services>

Landlord Services Online Housing Hub

Housing have a very similar guidebook to us, but theirs is all things housing-related. They have very kindly shared it with us and you can find it on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/rents-tenancies-evictions-and-council-tax/>. This is in addition to our own Guidebook pages on housing and homes. It should help make sure you can find the answer to whatever housing question you have.

Webinar – Camden Housing Allocations and How It Works

Our first webinar for 2021 will be with our friend Shaun Flook, Head of Housing Needs, to explore the world of housing allocations and the points system. So many of your queries about housing relate to this, so I hope this will be a useful session to explore what housing allocations is, who it's for, how the points system works, the available housing stock in Camden and how that impacts on allocations. Tuesday 19 January, 11.30 – 12.30. Calendar invite to follow.

Immigration Status, NRPF and Support for People Seeking Asylum



I attended some excellent free training with Project 17 last week, where they shared a wealth of information about NRPF, immigration status and different options for supporting children and families seeking asylum. I have put all this on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/refugee-and-asylum-seeking-families/>. Early Help Coordinators, this might be of particular interest to you.

If you want to attend the free Project 17 training, you can apply here <https://www.project17.org.uk/advice-support/training-for-advisers/>

Emergency Fuel Vouchers (Green Doctors)

Emergency fuel vouchers have been made available through Groundwork, funded the Energy Redress Fund, called the Green Doctors scheme. The vouchers are worth £30 each and are available to residents who have prepayment meters and are struggling to find money to top them up. If you are concerned that a family has no funds for their pre-payment meter, please ring the Green Doctor Team on 0300 365 3005. More info on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/energy-water-bills/>

Using Collaborative Online Platforms to Help Virtual Work

Platforms like Miro, Trello and Google Jamboards are online whiteboards you can share with other people and work on them at the same time. They can be really helpful when we work virtually. You can use them to interact with families (for example a shared whiteboard to draw or write on, or post-it page during a virtual visit) and in virtual team meetings.

I've checked with the Head of Digital and you should all now be able to set up accounts on these platforms using your Camden email address. You should also be able to access them if someone sends you a link to a virtual whiteboard.

I'll be arranging some lunch and learn sessions about these platforms in January so we can all learn how to use them. In the meantime, do have a look at these platforms and have a play with them!

<https://miro.com/> <https://trello.com/en> <https://support.google.com/jamboard/answer/7424836?hl=en>

Loan Laptops and Swapping for Chromebooks - Reminder



A reminder that if you are working with a family with one of our loan laptops, please do swap it for a gift Chromebook asap. Your manager can coordinate this for you. It would be great to get as many loan laptops swapped for gift Chromebooks as possible before Christmas.

Christmas Webinar – Who Do You Think You Are? Reminder

A reminder that our Christmas webinar exploring the history of the job we do with Professor June Thoburn, Emeritus Professor from East Anglia University, is next Wednesday at 12pm, June is a legend who was doing our job before most of us were born and has seen it all, so it will well worth hearing her wisdom and insight! Let me know if you need the calendar invite again.

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 7 DECEMBER](#)

New information uploaded to the COVID Guidebook this week link here

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

<p>Landlord Services Housing Hub</p> <p>A link to Landlord Service equivalent of our Guidebook, but for all things housing related</p> <p>https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/homes-housing-and-council-tax/tenant-and-rent-issues/#main</p>	<p>Immigration Status</p> <p>More information about the different types of immigration status and how they impact on access to services and support</p> <p>https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/refugee-and-asylum-seeking-families/refugee-and-asylum-seeking-families/#main</p>	<p>Immigration Status Impact on Benefits and Housing</p> <p>More information about how different types of immigration status affect what benefits or housing a parent might be entitled to</p> <p>https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/refugee-and-asylum-seeking-families/</p>
<p>Immigration – Zambrano Carers and Leave to Remain</p> <p>Information about who a Zambrano carer is and what leave to remain means</p> <p>https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/refugee-and-asylum-seeking-families/</p>	<p>When Children Should or Shouldn't Attend School During COVID</p> <p>A new infographic to help work out what to do if a child is ill or has symptoms during COVID and whether they should attend school</p> <p>https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-</p>	<p>Emergency Fuel Vouchers – Green Doctors</p> <p>Information about £30 emergency fuel vouchers for residents with pre-payment meters who are struggling to top them up</p> <p>https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/energy-water-bills/</p>

	guidebook/schools/when-children-shouldnt-attend-school/#main	
<p>Black Lives Matter Resource Repository – New Podcasts</p> <p>New podcasts added from Camden’s very own Sandra Soteriou</p> <p>https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/black-lives-matter-resource-repository/podcasts-and-videos/#main</p>		

We are now in week 38 of COVID, and whilst our current capacity remains stable, requests for help for families are steadily building. We will of course continue to monitor this carefully over the coming weeks, as we often have a spike in referrals just before schools close and again in late January.

This week’s share is a blog piece inspired by Dr Bruce Perry’s work on trauma, titled “*5 Ways Parents can Build Resilience and Stamina for Our Pandemic Winter*” https://blog.zulily.com/2020/11/28/5-ways-parents-can-build-resilience-stamina-for-our-pandemic-winter/amp/?_twitter_impression=true. It describes the COVID crisis not as a sprint or a marathon but a ‘thru-hike’ (this means walking a long-distance trail with continuous footsteps in one direction). It made a lot of sense for me and gave me some things to think about as we head into winter.

Stay safe and well, and I hope you and your families are all doing okay. I hope to see you later for Dr Beverley Bryan’s incredible talk as part of our Black Lives webinar series.