

Tier 4 Restrictions

**Briefing for FSCF
21 December 2020**





This briefing will cover:

- What we know now about Tier 4
- The current COVID situation in Camden
- What Tier 4 means for family work, and in particular face-to-face visits
- What we need to do next
- Resources to help us
- Q and A

What we know now about Tier 4

What do we know now?



- The Government announced a new Tier 4 level of restrictions on 19 December
- London, and parts of the South East and East of England went into Tier 4 on 20 December
- The Government says this is because there is a very rapidly rising level of infections in those areas, and there is a new variant of the virus that means we must act now to control its transmission.
- The Prime Minister said there is currently no evidence the variant causes more severe illness or higher mortality, but it does appear to be transmitted from person to person more easily
- The Government's key messages of Tier 4 are:
 - *Requiring people to stay at home, except for specific purposes.*
 - *Preventing gathering with people you do not live with, except for specific purposes.*
 - *People allowed to meet with one person from another household outdoors in a public space*
 - *Closing certain businesses and venues.*
 - *No travel into or out of Tier 4 areas, unless for specific exemptions (including work or education)*
 - *Public sector employees working in essential services, including education settings, should continue to go into work*

What do we know now?



- There is new guidance for people who were previously shielding who are now in Tier 4 areas
- Schools, nurseries, childcare, colleges and universities to stay open
- Some businesses will stay open
- We do not know how long these areas will be in Tier 4
- It is possible other areas may move into Tier 4
- All 4 Tiers will be reviewed again 30 December; Tier 4 restrictions will only be lifted at that time if transmission rates have sufficiently decreased.
- We now have lateral flow (quick) COVID testing available once every week for all essential workers who don't have COVID symptoms
- This is in addition to COVID tests for workers who do have symptoms
- We have COVID-secure venues as we had in the second lockdown (but not in the first)

What do we know now?

- Since Saturday we have:
 - Reviewed the latest Government Guidance and legislation on Tier 4 restrictions
 - Checked Government Guidance on working in peoples homes (not yet updated, so will monitor this week)
 - Contacted Camden and Islington Public Health to check if any changes are anticipated to their home visiting guidance and any specific local instructions
 - Met with IEYS, IYSS and CSSW to get a collective view of planned changes to services under Tier 4
 - FSCF have a 5-phase COVID emergency management plan (1 being the lowest level and 5 being the highest level of concern). We were at phase 3 from 5 November to 3 December. We are currently at phase 2

The current COVID situation in Camden

People tested positive

Daily Total
197 5,215

Cases by specimen date

Number of people with at least one positive COVID-19 test result (either lab-reported or lateral flow device), by specimen date. Individuals tested positive more than once are only counted once, on the date of their first positive test. Data for the period ending 5 days before the date when the website was last updated with data for the selected area, highlighted in grey, is incomplete.

Daily Cumulative Data About



Healthcare data are available for **nations**, **NHS regions** and **NHS trusts**. ✕

Patients admitted

Latest daily
366

Total
36,259

Patients in hospital

Latest available
2,960

Patients on ventilation

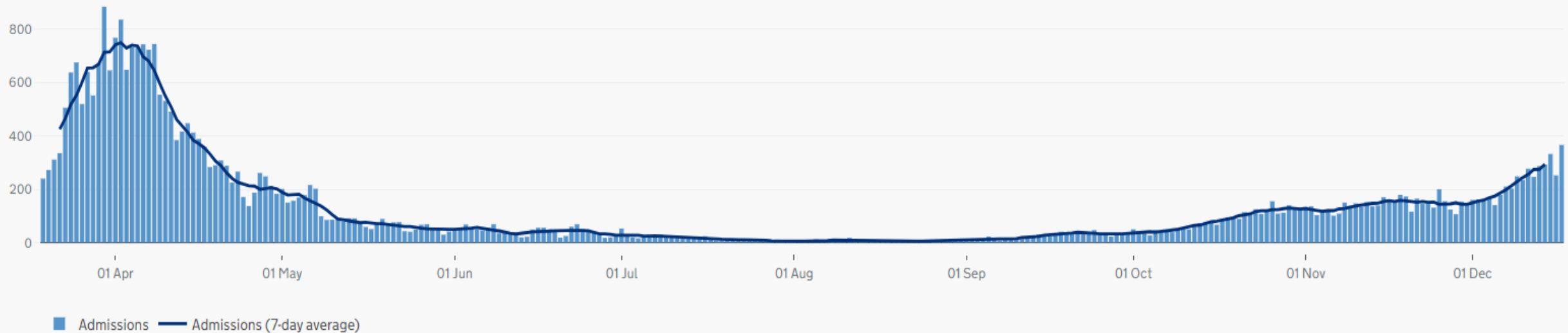
Latest available
356

Patients admitted to hospital



Daily and cumulative numbers of COVID-19 patients admitted to hospital. Data are not updated every day by all four nations and the figures for Wales are not comparable to those for other nations as Wales include suspected COVID-19 patients while the other nations include only confirmed cases.

Daily Cumulative Data About



Deaths data are available for nations, regions and local authorities. [Close]

Deaths within 28 days of positive test

Daily Total
0 129

Deaths with COVID-19 on the death certificate

Weekly Total
0 166

Deaths within 28 days of positive test by date of death

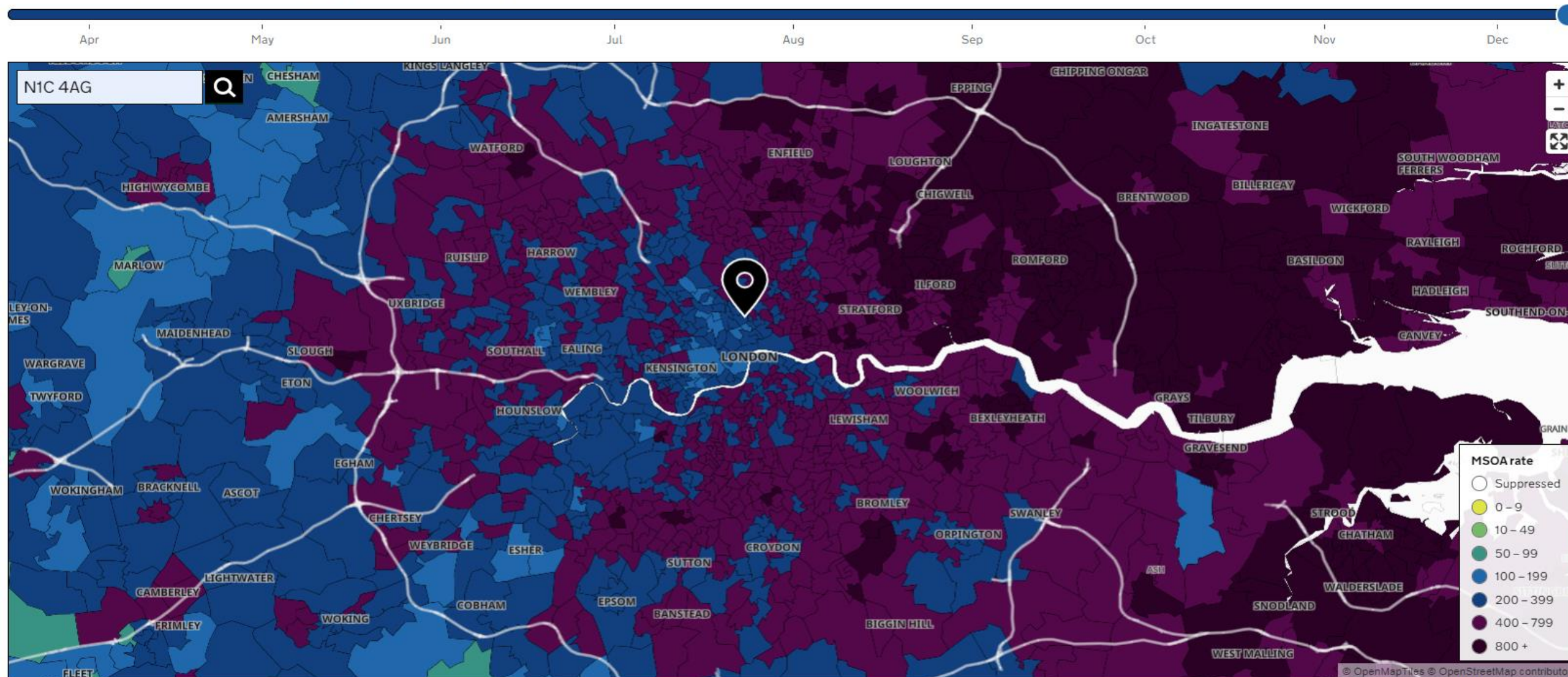
Number of deaths of people who had had a positive test result for COVID-19 and died within 28 days of the first positive test. Data from the four nations are not directly comparable as methodologies and inclusion criteria vary. Data for the period ending 5 days before the date when the website was last updated with data for the selected area, highlighted in grey, is incomplete.

Daily Cumulative Data About



Most recent 5 days (incomplete) Number of deaths Deaths (7-day average)

Seven-day rolling rate of new cases by specimen date ending on 16 Dec 2020



Seven-day rates are expressed per 100,000 population and are calculated by dividing the seven day count by the area population and multiplying by 100,000.

Other things we need to think about and plan for

COVID case rises in other boroughs and counties, as a large % of our staff live outside Camden

Possibility that Tier 4 lasts longer than 30 December and preparing for that

Possibility that educational settings could shut in January and preparing for that

Continued protections for workers who were previously in the shielding group, or workers who live with family members previously in that group, or from Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups

The implications of contact tracing and lateral flow testing for the service (e.g. potentially higher levels of self-isolation needed = effect on service capacity)

Planning for possible staff shortages due to either increased COVID illness and/or general winter illness

Continued rise in demand for family work

The impact on the helping relationship when we work exclusively virtually, that you told us about in the Return to Work Survey and the weekly survey, especially at assessment stage

Protecting your emotional health and your emotional reserves, making sure workloads are manageable, and that you have the scaffolding you need

What Tier 4 means for FSCF



From Tuesday 21 December:

FSCF moves again from phase 2 to phase 3 of our emergency management plan

This means changes to visits and working procedures

These are the same as the changes we made in March and again in November

You can read the emergency management plan here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/emergency-management-plan/>

From Tuesday 21 December:



- Visits

- Face-to-face visits will be paused
- Virtual visits procedure will be in force and virtual visits casenoting procedure will be in force
- At least 1 phone or video call to a family once every 5 days – ‘little and often’ approach – depending on gravity, severity and frequency of risk to the child/ren’s welfare – checking in not checking up
- Children should be seen or spoken to at least once every 5 days - if you are finding this difficult, you may check if a network member (for example school) seen or spoken to the child/ren
- Doorstep visits and/or outdoor visits and/or visits in a COVID-secure venue (Childrens Centres or 5PS for example) are permitted depending on gravity, severity and frequency of risk to the child/rens welfare, and where it is in the best interests of the child/ren. Social distancing measures and face-to-face visits guidance to be followed – service manager authorisation needed
- This may also include face-to-face visits at key points in the work (for example at allocation, assessment completion, review and closure) or in specific circumstances (for example neglect cases where observing home conditions is essential) – to be confirmed after the Christmas period.
- Staff may make essential deliveries to family homes (e.g. food, vouchers, supplies, collected prescriptions, laptops or other equipment) following social distancing measures and face-to-face visits guidance
- COVID escalation procedure will be in force if we lose contact with a family

From Tuesday 21 December



- **Work with families**
 - All staff should check whether families have the basics they need to survive and the strategies they need to cope (see Family Resilience Framework) AND
 - Continue working with a family towards their plan goals and/or completing their assessment AND
 - Stay mindful of the reasons for referral WHILST
 - Being emotionally attuned and responsive to the unique impact of Tier 4 on each family AND
 - Making full use of networks around families (including other professionals, community organisations, friends and extended family)
 - For more help, see the assessments and plans section of the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/assessments-and-plans-guidance/#main>
 - And the community organisations section of the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/local-community-sources-of-support/>

From Tuesday 21 December



- **Staff**

- Bubble rota is paused
- Use of 5PS is permitted if you are doing a doorstep visit/outdoor visit/as a COVID-secure venue visit (which has been authorised by your service manager) or are oncall manager
- All staff to work from home
- All TAFs and all supervisions of any type will be virtual only
- Staff who are in the extremely clinically vulnerable group, or who live with someone in the extremely clinically vulnerable group, should work from home exclusively
- Staff who are in the clinically vulnerable group, or who live with someone in the clinically vulnerable group, *“should be especially careful to follow the rules and minimise your contacts with others”*.
- Oncall manager rota will be re-started after the Christmas period – there will be a manager available to come to 5PS every day Monday to Friday to access the safe, issue vouchers and issue loan laptops
- Weekly check-ins for every staff member with their line manager will be undertaken (most already are)
- PPE available at 5PS in our PPE store BUT can also be sent direct to your home if needed

From Tuesday 21 December



- **Managers**

- Daily oncall manager rota will be re-started
- COVID Management Oversight procedure will be in force
- Weekly check-ins for every staff member with their line manager will be undertaken where not already (most are)
- Daily staff availability checker re-started to monitor availability for on-the-ground work
- Priority family system re-started based on gravity, severity and frequency of risk of child/rens welfare and in the event of any staff shortages
- Incoming work will be accepted as normal but on a virtual basis only
- New bespoke work from social care not accepted during lockdown unless at service managers discretion, in order to preserve capacity in the event of staff shortages

Why are we doing this?

To help keep you as safe as we can

To ensure we comply with both the Government guidance for staying at home AND for essential public services remaining open

To enable you to see families face-to-face if needed/paramount for the welfare of/in the best interests of the children AND comply with Government guidance

Whilst not a crisis service, we have an ongoing role to play as designated essential key workers and a duty of care to families currently open to us/who will become open to us during Tier 4 and beyond

What you need to do



- Take some time to process this; reflect on what Tier 4 means for you and your own family - we are here for you every step of the way and will do whatever we can to help keep you safe and well
- Re-visit the virtual visits procedure and virtual visits casenoting procedure – this is what you are using from today
- Re-visit your individual risk assessment with your line manager to make sure it is up to date, and to determine whether you can be available for on-the-ground work if needed
- Re-visit the COVID escalation procedure in case you lose contact with a family
- Read the Government guidance on Tier 4 restrictions if you haven't already
- Talk to the families you're working with to find out if they have what they need/what they think they might need during Tier 4 and take action now if needed
- Think about the work you had planned to do with the family over the next month, and use the Direct Work Kit Bag to help work out if you can do it virtually, thinking carefully about what the purpose of the visit is
- Consider how to make best use of the weekly lateral flow testing now available to you



What will happen next

Managers will spend time with you making sure your individual risk assessment is up to date, that you have the protective equipment you need, and whether you can be available for on-the-ground work if needed (e.g in the event we need to deliver essential supplies to a family).

This is particularly important for staff who were previously shielding, who live with people who were previously shielding, and for Black, Asian and minority ethnic staff

If your risk assessment says you need a parking permit, please do apply for one (or apply to extend your current one) – tell your line manager who tells Becca who applies to parking

Check in with each other – this will be a bumpy winter and how we look after each other matters a very great deal – in the same storm but not all in the same boat

Resources to Help



The Guidebook Procedure for doing Virtual Visits

<https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/virtual-visits-making-calls-procedure/#main>

The Guidebook Procedure for Casenoting Virtual Visits

<https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/virtual-visits-case-recording-procedure/#main>

The Direct Work Kit Bag

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

The COVID escalation procedure

<https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/stepping-up-escalation-procedures/#main>

The Guidebook Tier 4 Restrictions guidance

<https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/social-distancing-government-guidance/#main>

Camden Community Organisations

<https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/local-community-sources-of-support/>

Your individual risk assessment – do make sure this is up to date

Your supervision time, your weekly check-in with your manager, your reflective group supervision spaces and your clinically guided spaces

Q and A



Explore

Settings

Tweet



Becca Dove
@BeccaDove2

Just leaving this here to say to Camden families we love you, we're all here for you, and reach out if life is feeling a bit overwhelming. Not just in Tier 4. Any time.
youtu.be/2mzz42UMw18

We're still here for families

We're still here for families - Early Help and family support

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