

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

As we start the 5th week of lockdown, one very bright spot at the moment is the 20 parents and family members participating in our Family Changemakers Project. The group are working towards creating a design vision for what good help for families should look and feel like after COVID. Last week, they created – virtually! – a Community Tree of Life, including thinking about storms Camden families has faced in the past, what storms might be ‘brewing’ for families after COVID and how Camden communities have got through storms in the past.

A student from UAL did a live draw of the tree outline on a Miro interactive whiteboard so we could see it grow on screen as we talked. Here’s a picture of the final tree, which got a mention at an international online co-design conference this weekend!

Paul Carroll, Juliet Whitfield, Sue Crane, Emma Chimonidou and Carol Moy have also been taking part in some of the group meetings, as a wonderful bridge between professional world and Camden life world – my thanks to them. My thanks too to Elaine Crouch who is doing an amazing job of coordinating all the practical parts of the project.

The parents and students are going to do an open house show-and-tell later this month, so I hope you’ll come along to find out more. This will help us shape the help we give to families after the pandemic so it’s really important work led, as it always should be, by Camden residents. I can honestly say the parents and family members are knocking it out of the park, and I learn something from them every single week.

Updates for you this week:

1.8 The Community Tree of Life

The Roots = what are the roots of our community? What is the culture, the heritage? Who has taught us most in life?

The Ground = Where is the community is at the present? eg. Where does the community live? What are daily activities? Where does the community go/visit? What are community hobbies that bring the community together?

The Storms = What are the storms we have experienced together in the past? What might the community experience in the future? How did we manage to weather these storms? What resources did we draw on?

The Trunk = What are skills and abilities in the community? What are coping skills and values that the community has built?

The Branches = What are the community's hopes, dreams and wishes for the future?

The Leaves = Who are the important people in our community?

The Fruits = What gifts has Camden, as a community, been given? This could be tangible or intangible things that we are thankful for.



Tree drawing by MA Service Design student, Zhang Yaqi

Laptop Refresh - Update

Thanks to everyone for submitting their choice of laptop or hybrid for the laptop refresh. Our choices have been given to the refresh project team. The rollout is expected to begin in March. Frontline workers and those staff with the oldest devices will be first for the refresh. Individual staff will receive an email asking for confirmation of any specialist software and delivery address (they will be delivering new devices directly to us). Old devices will then be collected several weeks later once the project team have confirmation that the new devices are fully set up and are working.

Vaccination – Letter to Take With You to Your Vaccination Appointment



The project leads working on vaccination have given us a letter to show you are eligible for the vaccination under the priority vaccination programme. When you go for your vaccination appointment, its recommended you take both the letter (hard copy or electronic on your mobile) and your Camden ID card. The letter is on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/vaccinations/#main> .

If you've recently decided you'd like the priority vaccine and you meet the eligibility criteria, all you need to do is let your service manager know so they can send you the booking link. No pressure, no rush, and you are in complete control of your choice.

Vaccination Webinar and Q&A with Healthwatch Camden

This event on 16 February, 5.30 – 7pm, is for Camden residents and local partners to talk with Camden's GPs and Camden &



Islington Public Health on the Covid19 Vaccination in Camden. Guest speakers include Dr Archana Tina Agrawal from Museum Practice and Dr Frances Baawuah from Brondesbury Medical Centre. Here's the link to more information on the website: <https://healthwatchcamden.co.uk/news/online-event-healthwatch-camden-host-online-ga-session-covid-19-vaccine> and here's the link to sign up on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0vcOytrT4pGtdazTdl7W5ve0n-wlFk9HOg>

Vaccination Information in A Range of Languages

NHS England have produced vaccination short videos and leaflets, featuring medical professionals, in a range of languages including Bengali, Arabic and Turkish. You can find a link to them here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/vaccinations/#main>

Half Term Supermarket Vouchers for Low Income Families

This week, Camden will be sending supermarket vouchers by post to all children on a Camden school roll entitled to free school meals plus any other Camden-resident children who are in a family receiving benefits. This is being done as part of the funding Camden received from Government under the Winter Support Programme. The vouchers are £15 per child per week. If parents don't receive their vouchers by Sunday 14 February, they can call Contact Camden (0207 974 7777 option 9).

Free Webinars For Parents on Social Media Awareness and Transitioning Between School Years

The Camden and Islington VRU project are running free webinars for parents on social media awareness and on helping your child manage the transition between school years. To attend, complete the attached form and email to VRUReferrals@islington.gov.uk. More info about the webinars attached to share with parents who might be interested.

121 Digital Skills Sessions for Parents

If you're working with any parents who might welcome some 121 tuition on Zoom, Teams or Google Classroom to help their children with online learning, Adult and Community Learning are offering in-person 45 minute sessions at the Adult Learning Centre, Netley Campus in Stanhope St 10-am – 3pm on Tuesdays. The tutor Iqbal can also offer 121 virtual sessions via Zoom or Whatsapp video call on a Monday. Sessions can be booked straight with Iqbal on 07775012776 or contact Ashoka Norman in ACL to find out more AshokaAnn.Norman@camden.gov.uk

Webinar – Working Well with Parents with a Learning Disability

Delighted to bring Professor Danielle Turney from Queens University to Camden for this important webinar on giving our very best work to parents with a learning disability. Danielle has quite literally written the book on support for families that include a parent with a learning disability, and this webinar will cover attitudes and stereotypes about people with a learning disability and their ability to parent, and practice to support parents with a learning disability across childrens and adults services. Date tbc but likely to be first week in March.

COVID Surge Testing

You may have seen news reports that Public Health England (PHE) has identified there may be spread of a new variant of Covid-19, first identified in South Africa, in a small number of localities in London. These were in W7, N17 and CR4 with none in Camden so far. Public Health and the local authorities are now doing additional COVID testing in those locations, known as 'surge testing'. This includes Mobile Testing Units being sent to those areas and additional home testing kits being distributed directly to homes via door-to-door drops. Every person over 16 living in these locations will be encouraged to take a COVID test, whether they are showing symptoms or not.

I've included this in this week's bulletin so you can feel assured that if for any reason this or another new variant is identified in Camden, you know what immediate action will be taken. You can read more about surge testing here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/surge-testing-to-be-deployed-to-monitor-and-suppress-spread-of-covid-19-variant>

Weekly Survey

This week's family needs survey, for you to raise any issues you're seeing and noticing for families and anything you might need yourself, is now open here [FSCF FAMILY NEEDS SURVEY W/C 8 FEBRUARY 2021](#)

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>Free Clothing for Women and Children with NRPF</p> <p>Charity Give Your Best provides free donated quality clothing for women, babies and children who are seeking asylum or who are NRPF</p> <p>https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/refugee-and-asylum-seeking-families/</p>	<p>Vaccination Information in A Range of Languages</p> <p>New link to informational videos and leaflets about COVID vaccinations in a range of languages</p> <p>https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/vaccinations/#main</p>	<p>New Parenting Programmes available</p> <p>Brandon Centre's Love and Limits parenting programme and SYDRC's Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities programme are both back and taking referrals</p> <p>https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/conflict-or-violence-in-the-home/parenting-programmes/#main</p>
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We are now in week 47 of COVID, and continue to monitor our capacity very carefully. We will shortly be welcoming 3 agency family workers to help us during the next 3 months. As ever, if there are things we can do to make the working week feel more manageable for you, please do talk with your line manager at any time.

To end this week with a short biography of George Edmund Haynes - author, social scientist, organiser, and pioneer in social work education for African Americans from the early 1900s <https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/haynes-george-edmund-1880-1960/> . Having experienced the discrimination and injustice of a segregated school system of Pine Bluff Arkansas, George went on to become the first African American graduate of the New York School of Social Work in 1910. Well worth a read.

Stay safe and well, and as always shout if there is anything you need.