

COVID Email Update 8 March 2021

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

Another milestone for us in the COVID pandemic today, as we begin our gradual return to routine face-to-face work and third lockdown restrictions begin to lift. I know we are all hoping beyond hoping that this will be the last time we have to do this, and at the same time wanting to be pragmatic about the Governments planned timetable.

Much could still change in the weeks and months ahead, and we must still be vigilant. Whatever happens, make sure you ease back in gently into a new routine over the coming weeks. This is another big change that will take a bit of time to get used to. As ever, health and family first always.

Returning to face-to-face visits is a big change for the children and families we are helping too. In the updates below, you'll find a link to the letter templates we created last July that you can send in advance to help families get ready for face-to-face visits. These are a lovely personal touch that helped to show families that we really care about how they might feel about seeing us again, and gives information about the safety measures we can all take on face-to-face visits.

There are letter templates for primary-aged children, secondary-aged children and parents, so please do feel free to use these again this time. Remember to update the letter date!

Whilst the work we all do goes on, the feelings of grief and loss that we may have don't disappear. This analogy of grief and the passing of time from Laura Herschel really helped make some sense of it (for me at least and everyone's experience of grief is unique to them) <https://twitter.com/LaurenHerschel/status/946887540732149760> . If you have a day when the ball hits the buzzer, we're here for you and we've got you.



Updates for you this week:

Returning to Face-to-Face Work – Information You Will Need

I've emailed you the slide pack and recording from last Thursday's whole service briefing on returning to face-to-face work as lockdown restrictions lift. Here are the important links you will need from today:

- Face-to-face visits procedures, including the pre-visit checklist and individual risk assessments <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>
- Virtual visits procedure <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/virtual-visits-making-calls-procedure/#main>
- Virtual visits casenoting procedure <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/virtual-visits-case-recording-procedure/#main>
- Bubble allocations <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/media/2142/bubble-allocations.pdf>
- Seat allocations at 5PS <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/media/2143/bubble-seating-allocation-7th-floor-september-2020.pdf>
- Alternative venues for visits <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/alternative-venues-for-visits/>

Letters to Children and Families About Returning to Face-to-Face Work

After the first lockdown, we created some template letters for you to write to children and parents to help them prepare for face-to-face visits again. You can write letters again this time, and you can find the templates here (scroll half way down the webpage, section titled **Returning to Face to Face Work - Letters for Families (July 2020)**)

<https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/returning-to-offices-and-face-to-face-work/#main>

Survey – Cultural Responsiveness Confidence – Please Click the Link Below

In the run up to our Racial Justice Whole Service event (date tbc, will be after the Easter holidays), I wanted to get a clearer understanding from you about how confident you feel to address identity, race and culture in your work, and whether you feel safe and listened to on race, racism and anti-oppressive actions or behaviours. This is to get a benchmark that we can revisit regularly to see whether we've made progress in these two important areas.

I would be incredibly grateful if you could take 5 minutes to complete the survey here [FSCF Cultural Responsiveness Confidence Survey](#). The survey is anonymous and is for all FSCF staff, regardless of role. Results will be shared with you all in early April.

Webinars – Child Exploitation

As part of Child Exploitation Awareness week starting 15 March, there is a choice of not 1 but 5 interesting webinars for you to join. Please feel free to go to as many as you would like to, they all look brilliant – they all start 12.30 for 1 hour.

- **Monday 15th March: Child Exploitation in Camden.** Bryony Smith, the Missing & Child Exploitation Coordinator, will discuss our strategic approach to disrupting exploitation, the borough profile and using tools such as Contextual Safeguarding. [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- **Tuesday 16th March: Our response to Missing young people.** Florence Lindsay-Walters, the Child Exploitation Analyst, will be explaining Camden's approach to missing, best practice and what we can learn from themes and trends. [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- **Wednesday 17th March: National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and Harmful Sexual Behaviour.** Harriet and Toyah from The Children's Society will be discussing the role of the NRM. They will also share their experience of working with Harmful Sexual Behaviour. [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- **Thursday 18th March: Working with young people exploited through Youth Violence.** The Evolve Team will be sharing their experience regarding building relationships with young people, transitional safeguarding and safety planning. [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- **Friday 19th March: Gender and Exploitation.** Jocelyn Yeboah-Newton from Rescue and Response will discuss the role of gender in exploitation. Rescue and Response is a pan London approach to tackling County Lines. [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Lateral Flow Tests in Your Home Borough or County

You'll remember that lateral flow tests (for people without COVID symptoms) are available for you in Camden. If you don't live in Camden, you may be able to have a lateral flow test in your local authority area as you are an essential worker who needs to leave the house regularly. This means you could

have a lateral flow test close to home before coming into Camden for visits for example. Here is a link to the Government site where you can find out if your local authority is offering lateral flow tests for essential workers (but worth ringing or email them direct as well) <https://www.gov.uk/find-covid-19-lateral-flow-test-site>

I will continue to explore with Public Health whether family workers can access lateral flow test home kits, more to follow.

Lateral Flow Tests Now Available for all Families with School Age Children, including Home Test Kits

From today, Camden parents with a child in primary school, secondary school or college are now eligible for lateral flow tests. They can have tests at one of the seven community test sites across Camden, which can be booked at camden.gov.uk/rapidtest or call 020 7974 4444 (option 9). They can also book a home rapid test kit to collect from the Kingsgate and Ramsay Hall test centres (open 1.30pm to 7.30pm every day), or [find your closest COVID-19 test centre via the NHS map](#). This information is also on the Guidebook 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>

If you have school-age children yourself, this access to lateral flow tests is likely to be taking place in your local area too, so contact your local authority for details.

Supporting Children to Return to School

If you're working with a child or family who are anxious about the return to school, here are some things on the Guidebook that might be helpful:

- Resources and booklets about returning to school <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/returning-to-school-after-lockdowns/#main>
- Booklets about returning to school in other languages <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/returning-to-school-info-in-other-languages/#main>
- COVID information for children <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/explaining-covid-to-children/#main>
- Emotionally Based School Avoidance approaches and tools - can really help acknowledge that school might not feel like a safe place and help explore coping strategies <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/emotionally-based-school-avoidance-ebsa/>
- Direct work kit bag – loads of ideas to explore keeping calm and coping skills <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/direct-work-kit-bag/keeping-calm-and-coping-skills/#main> and managing big feelings <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/direct-work-kit-bag/managing-big-feelings/#main>

Support for Parents By Parents – EPEC Parenting Programme Now Available Online

Thrive LDN and parenting programme Empowering Parents Empowering Communities (EPEC) are running online workshops to help support parents of children aged 2-11 years old. EPEC is led by parents with lived experience who deliver the programme to other parents. There are two series of three workshops. If parents prefer they can take single workshops, each lasting 90 minutes. There are also 2 Facebook Live events later in March.

More information and links to booking forms on the Guidebook here

<https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/conflict-or-violence-in-the-home/parenting-programmes/>

Secondment Opportunity – PAUSE

Camden is joining up with Islington to deliver PAUSE across both boroughs. PAUSE is a project supporting women who have experienced, or are at risk of, repeated pregnancies that result in children needing to be removed from their care. The project has a vacancy for a senior practitioner on a fixed

term or secondment for 21 months, for anyone who may be interested and meets the job profile. More info and a link to the job advert on the attached.

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 MARCH 2021](#)

Some updates on last weeks survey comments:

Mentoring for Children	That's a shame Chance UK aren't taking any more referrals at present BUT you could try Kids Network who are equally brilliant. Contact details here https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/local-community-sources-of-support/mentors-for-children/
Careers advice for Young People	<p>I would start with Miriam Hatter (on Outlook) – Miriam runs Camden Connexions and has a wealth of knowledge about supporting young people who might be feeling anxious about their future. Camden have also just started the Your Future scheme, which offers advice and guidance for any 16-24 year old looking for work, more info here https://www.camden.gov.uk/your-future</p> <p>Another option is to contact NW5 Project, one of our most loved community projects, who are running a programme of support for young people aged 16+ looking for help with employment, job applications, accessing apprenticeships, CV writing and more. Contact details on this link (scroll to the bottom of the page) https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/employment-jobs-and-benefits/finding-a-job/</p>

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>Management Oversight Procedure After Lockdown Updated to reflect the scrapping of Tiers and setting out the procedure to follow from Monday 8 March https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/management-oversight-procedure/#main</p>	<p>Vaccination – Visual Support Materials for People with Communication Difficulties A set of resources to explain various aspects of vaccination for people who have communication difficulties, including social stories https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/vaccinations/#main</p>	<p>Parent-Led Parenting Support Information about Empowering Parents, Empowering Communities, a parenting programme led by parents with lived experienced who deliver the course to other parents https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/conflict-or-violence-in-the-home/parenting-programmes/</p>
<p>New Online COVID Resources in A Range of Languages The London Mayors Office and London Assembly has created an online platform with a range of COVID and COVID-related resources in a range of languages https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/new-online-covid-resources-in-a-range-of-languages/#main</p>	<p>Camden Schools Contact List (Updated) Updated list of key contacts in every Camden school, refreshed last week https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/contact-details-for-camden-schools/#main</p>	<p>Lateral Flow Tests for Parents of School-Age Children Information and links to book a lateral flow test, or to book a home test kit for collection https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/lateral-flow-tests-for-parents-of-school-age-children/#main</p>

[covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/covid-information-in-other-languages/#main](https://www.nhs.uk/covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/covid-information-in-other-languages/#main)

[information/tests-for-covid-test-and-trace/#main](https://www.nhs.uk/information/tests-for-covid-test-and-trace/#main)

We are now in week 51 of COVID and our capacity is holding steady. As schools begin their return to classroom-based teaching this week, we expect a rise in referrals in the coming weeks and will monitor this very carefully.

To end this week with a short video from Narge, who in her own words is a care leaver, foster carer and newly qualified social worker. Narge and her colleagues are on a mission to make anti-oppressive practice standard practice, and her video shows how simple things like being conscious in our language can transform an experience from oppressive to anti-oppressive. Well worth 1.51 minutes of your time. <https://t.co/czHnUHEX8i>

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

Becca

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