

COVID Email Update 22 March 2021

Good morning to you all, I hope you and your families are all doing okay and that you are settling back into new work and home routines.

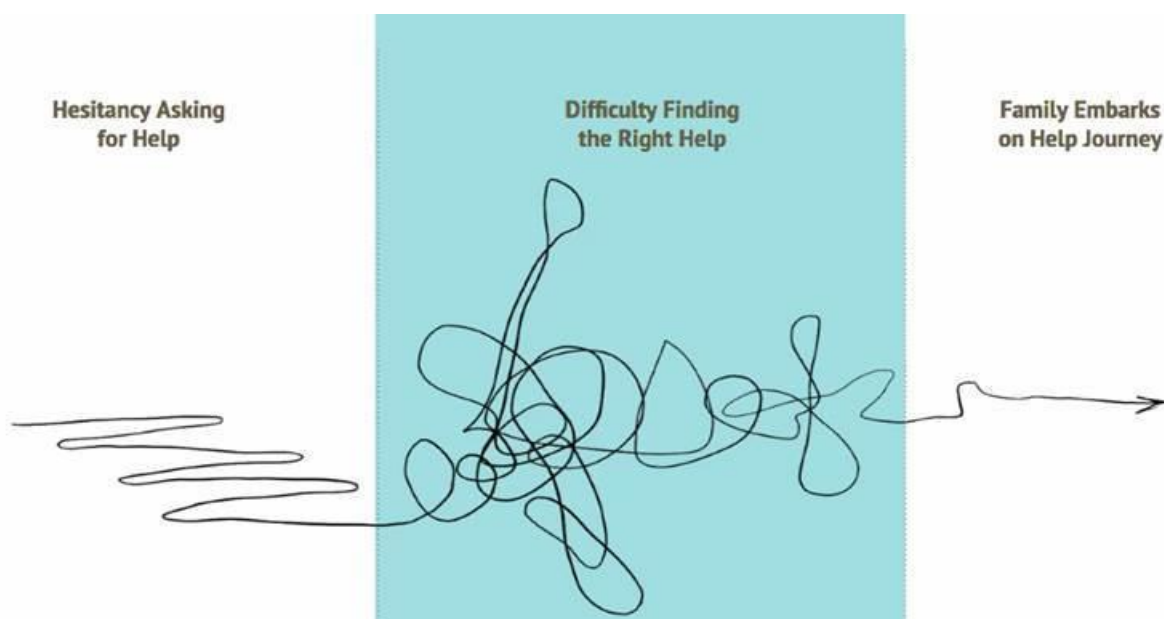
There's a lot of challenging but exciting work going on to plan for family early help after COVID. Family Changemakers Project ends on Thursday after 10 incredible weeks. I'm thrilled that the Changemaker Expert Parents Group will have a platform on 28 April to share their recommendations with senior decision makers. These will include Council Leader Georgia Gould, Cabinet Member for Children and Chair of the Childrens Trust Partnership Board Angela Mason, and Deputy Chief Executive and our Executive Director Martin Pratt.

I've attached the latest Expert Parent Group Bulletin in case you fancy a quick read about what we've been up to, or chat to Juliet, Paul and Emma C who have participating in the Expert Parent Group meetings.

Alongside Family Changemakers, I wanted to get a sense from our partners about what they would find most helpful to get help to families after COVID. This is particularly given the economic storms that might be brewing once the pandemic subsides, and getting help to families as early in the life of problems as possible. I'm currently surveying schools, GPs and community centres, and there's some really interesting results coming in. I'll share more with you when the surveys close and I've done some analysis. If you want to look at the surveys now, you can find an example here [HELP AFTER COVID - SCHOOLS SURVEY](#)

One big emerging theme is easier access to information about services. Not just ours but the whole range of services that support children and families in Camden, including housing, benefits, legal advice, employment, asylum support and so on. People are really keen to get more information and advice, close to home, from people they know and trust. People are also commenting that our knowledge of these wider services and systems is of huge value.

This is resonating with themes coming out of the Family Changemakers Project – that it's not about not having enough services in Camden, its' about having better knowledge and information of the services Camden has. This graphic from the Changemakers project really summed up the challenge!



I want to explore what you think about this too. I'll be hosting some open sessions after Easter for you to share your ideas, particularly about the challenges families may face after COVID and whether/how/if our knowledge, skills and expertise could be used in different ways to help get help to families even earlier in the life of problems. Calendar invites to follow.

Updates for you this week:

Racial Justice Whole Service Event 4th May

An invite will be coming to you to one of the most important events we'll hold this year. For our "Racial Justice in Family Early Help – A Call to Action" event, we'll come together to reflect on everything we have all done, learned and experienced in the 8 months since the global resurgence of Black Lives Matter and we will set Racial Justice goals for our service.

I'll be meeting this week with Adele, Kat and Anna, who have been doing amazing work leading the Black Lives Matter frontline practitioners groups (and as ever a huge thank you to them), so we can co-create the event together with extended SMT.

4th May, 10am – 1pm, calendar invite to follow.

Shielding Programme to be Paused from 1 April 2021

On 18 March, the Government announced that the shielding programme will be paused from 1 April. This means clinically extremely vulnerable people will no longer be advised to shield from 1 April, but must continue to follow the national restrictions still in place for everyone.

This is another big change for our staff and for the families you support. If you are clinically extremely vulnerable, or live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, please do have a talk with your line manager in your weekly check-in or your next supervision about what this means for you and your family. I know this might be an anxious time, and we're here to give you whatever support you need. Most importantly, please make sure you and your line manager update your individual risk assessment as soon as possible.

If you are working with a family that includes someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, you may want to explore what this means for them and what support they might want through this change. You can find more information about clinically extremely vulnerable guidance from 1 April 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>

Easter Holidays Free Activities and Food Programmes

15 Camden organisations will be running free holiday activities and food programmes for Camden children who are eligible for free school meals. The programmes will take place for one week during the Easter holidays. At least one meal a day will be provided. Schools are being sent information about the programmes and will give parents with eligible children a confirmation letter to give to the programme provider.

If you have families who might be interested, contact their school in the first instance but more info to follow as soon as I get it.

Webinar – Communication, Language and Mental Wellbeing in the Early Years

Courtesy of our friends in IEYS, this fascinating webinar will look at communication and language in the early years and its impact on health and wellbeing across the life course. Led by Professor Philip Wilson from the University of Aberdeen and Camden's own Kathleen Cavin, Speech and Language Therapist and Manager of Early Years SALT. 24 March at 10am, calendar invite to follow.

Survey – Cultural Responsiveness Confidence – Please Click the Link Below

Thanks to everyone who has taken part in our Cultural Responsiveness Confidence survey so far. The survey closes in 2 weeks, so if you haven't had a chance to complete the survey yet, I would be really 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. I am learning SO much from your responses so far, so keep them coming

Vaccination Resources

Camden has updated their web pages on vaccination, including recordings of local webinars held with the community. You can find it here <https://www.camden.gov.uk/covid-vaccines>

Family Early Help Branding and Promotional Material

There is now a Guidebook section with all our branding and promotional material, including our poster, flyer, videos and JPEG images. You can find it here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/early-help-promotional-materials/> . If you create any promotional leaflets or documents for your team or service, please make sure to use the Early Help branding.

Further Lockdown Restrictions Due to Lift 29 March

A reminder (as if you needed one!), that the next phase of lifting national lockdown restrictions is due to start in a weeks' time on 29 March. You can find details of what's changing here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/social-distancing-government-guidance/#main> . The changes won't directly affect our work this time, and we continue our return to routine face-to-face work in our bubbles.

Walk for Darryn

Our friends in IEYS are planning a virtual walk to mark the one month anniversary of Darryn's passing. You can find information on the attached email and we're all invited to join if we would like to, it's a lovely idea and I'll definitely be adding my running miles.

Triple P Online Parenting Programme Open for Referrals

FIF have done an outstanding job moving Triple P from face-to-face delivery to online during COVID (a particular thanks to Jess King, Emma Chimonidou, Elaine Dunning and Elaine Crouch for all their hard work on this), and the programme is now open for new internal referrals. For more information and the referral form, please have a look on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/conflict-or-violence-in-the-home/>

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 22 March 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/>

Early Help Promotional Materials New section with early help leaflet, poster, videos and branding https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/early-help-promotional-materials/	Triple P Parenting Programme Referral Form Updated information on how to refer to FIF's online Triple P parenting programme https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/conflict-or-violence-in-the-home/	Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Guidance Updated information for clinical extremely vulnerable people following the Government announcement to pause the shielding programme from 1 April 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
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We are now in week 53 of COVID, and our capacity is holding steady. A warm welcome back to Sarah Patwary who returns after maternity leave, and to all staff who have recently returned to work after illness.

For the last few weeks, I've ended this bulletin with a biography of one of the many Black pioneers in the history of our family work profession. For the next few weeks, I'll be ending

with a biography of a contemporary pioneer of family welfare work – Black men and women who are not just imagining new ways to approach child and family welfare in the 21st century, but are making them happen.

This week, inspirational Dr Carlene Firmin, founder of Contextual Safeguarding, social researcher, writer, and creator of the MsUnderstood Partnership. She is a senior research fellow at the University of Bedfordshire and received an MBE in 2011, the youngest Black woman to ever receive the award. You can read about her here https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carlene_Firmin and watch her in conversation with the equally brilliant Ben Lindsey, pastor, author and founder of charity Power the Fight, here <https://www.powerthefight.org.uk/talks/ep-06s1/>

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

Becca

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