

COVID Email Update 29 March 2021

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

Another milestone in the COVID journey starts today, as 6 people or 2 households can meet outdoors, including in private gardens. Community centres are beginning to re-open gradually and outdoor sports facilities will reopen from today. As the weather continues to improve, this should offer you more choice of alternative venues to meet families if they would prefer to meet outside their home. There is a long list of alternative venues on the Guidebook for you to try <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/alternative-venues-for-visits/>

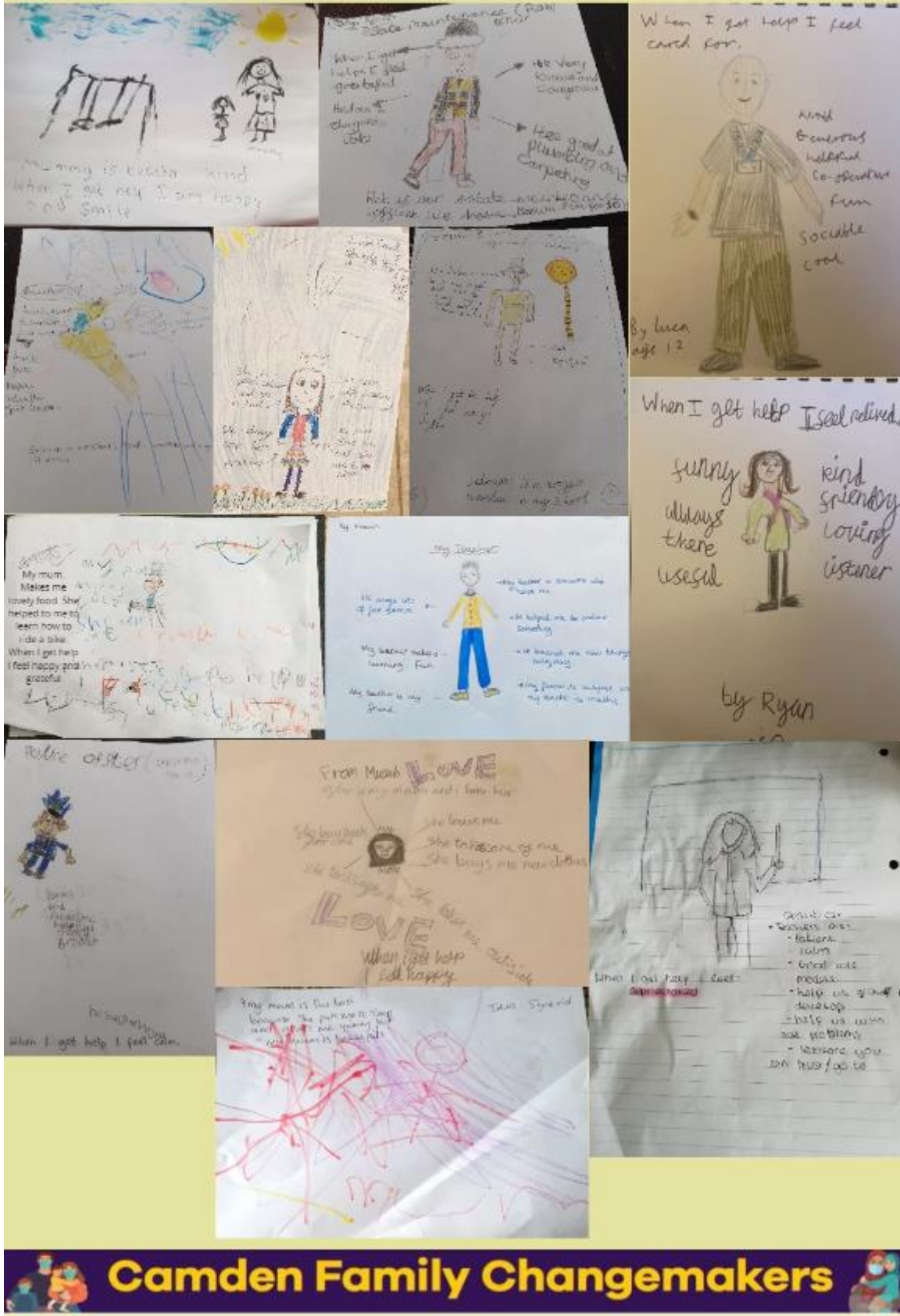
It's still so important that we're vigilant in our face-to-face work with families, and that we complete the pre-visit checklist before every face-to-face meeting and follow our social distancing guidance. This continues to help keep us and families as safe as possible.

You can find the latest social restrictions guidance on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/social-distancing-government-guidance/#main> and the face-to-face visits guidance here <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> A reminder that if you need PPE sent to your home, just let your manager know.

To mark the anniversary of the pandemic, the Chairs of Camden Children's Safeguarding Partnership have written the attached letter to all of us who have been working on the frontline since the start of COVID, to offer their thanks and recognition of the huge effort you have all made to help Camden children and families. It's good to see you being recognised in this way, so do have a read.

To brighten your day a little, here is a new collage made by the children of our Family Changemaker Expert Parent Group. The children drew pictures of people who help, the qualities they have, and how it feels when someone helps you. It's never feels complicated when kids describe it!

"PEOPLE WHO HELP US, THE QUALITIES THEY HAVE AND HOW HELP MAKES US FEEL"
BY THE CHILDREN OF CAMDEN FAMILY CHANGEMAKER EXPERT PARENTS GROUP
JANUARY TO MARCH 2021



Updates for you this week:

Easter Holidays Free Activities and Food Programmes for Camden Children – Booking Now Open

The Easter programme of free activities and food programmes for Camden children is now open. More information on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/childrens-activities-and-home-learning/holiday->

[activities-things-to-do/#main](#) . To qualify for the free offer, children need to attend a Camden school, be eligible for free school meals and have a letter confirming this from their school (schools are distributing the letters this week). Given our usual early help play spaces are still limited due to social distancing restrictions, this might be a really good alternative for families. Please do share this link with families and book quick as places are limited.

We also understand that in addition to this programme, £15 supermarket vouchers will also be sent to families in receipt of benefits. This will be sent direct from the Council's Benefits Team.

Children's A&E departments reopening in April

Last year, [temporary changes](#) were made to paediatric services in north central London (NCL). NCL NHS have now agreed it is safe to reopen the children and young people's accident and emergency departments and general inpatient wards at **University College Hospital from 9am on Thursday 8 April** and at the **Royal Free Hospital from 9am on Monday 12 April**.

Until the UCH and the Royal Free Hospital sites reopen, children and young people should continue to access emergency care through alternative hospitals. You can find more information on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/health/changes-to-child-a-e/#main>

Training: Good Conversations about COVID Vaccination

L and D have put on some training courses on talking about the COVID vaccination programme. The training is appropriate for anyone that talks to people about Covid-19 related issues. It is part of the [Making Every Contact Count](#) programme and similar to the [Good Conversations in Challenging Times](#) training, but with a particular focus on vaccination. Bit last minute, but here are the links to the two available dates this week:

[2 - 4 pm Monday 29 March 2021](#)

[10 - 12 Wednesday 31 March 2021](#)

Expanded List of People Who can Book a COVID Vaccine

If you, or any of the families you are working with, fall into one of these categories, you're eligible to have the vaccine now under the general public vaccination programme:

- 50 and over
- People, or carers of people, who are clinically extremely vulnerable or clinically vulnerable
- care home staff or patients
- People with a learning disability

Book your appointment today at nhs.uk/coronavirusvaccine, call 119 for free or speak to your GP

New Appointments in the Service

I'm delighted to announce recent appointments in manager roles in the service group:

- Jessica Eneberi has been appointed as Service Manager Early Help Community and Practice, covering for Lauren Small while she is on maternity leave. We will miss Lauren and look forward to welcoming her little one to the world, and to welcoming Lauren back in 2022. Jess has years of experience both as a family worker and as a qualified social worker, and has been Team Manager in both FIF and TT. I know she will do an outstanding job leading the Early Help Community and Practice service through the next 12 months. Jess starts in post on 12 April.
- Francesca Cappelli has been appointed as Team Manager, First Stop Early Help. Fran brings both exceptional family support experience from her time as Families Manager at Elfrida Rathbone, and also has a deep knowledge of Camden's community organisations through her time as Community Partner in Camden Council. Fran starts in post in mid May.

To also take this opportunity to give sincere thanks to Lea Christoloudou who has held this Team Manager position temporarily since last year. Lea has done an extraordinary job leading and supporting the team through this difficult few months, and we could not have managed without her.

Tim will shortly start his recruitment for a Team Manager in TT to cover for Jess while she is on secondment.

Webinar – Tree of Life – Reminder

A reminder that our Tree of Life webinar is Tuesday at 10am. Tree of Life is a tool from narrative therapy to help children and parents to tell their stories without them becoming problem-saturated and deficit-focussed. Calendar invite has gone out, please let me know if you need this again.

Webinar – Elective Home Education

Many more parents are opting to home school their children during COVID – but what does it mean to home school? What is elective home education and how does it work? This timely and helpful webinar will be run by old friend to Early Help Ed Magee, Development Coordinator and Lead of the Pupil Attendance Service in Camden Learning. 19 April, 10-11.30, calendar invite to follow.

Home Office COVID Accommodation for Families Seeking Asylum

Many of you are currently working with families who are living in one of the Home Office COVID initial accommodation centres in Camden. These centres were set up by the Home Office during COVID to provide accommodation for families seeking asylum during the ‘everyone in’ period. I am now meeting every three weeks with the Home Office and their subcontractor called Clearsprings who run the accommodation.

If families experience any problems of any kind in the centres which you can’t resolve, or if anything gives you cause for concern at the centres, please do let me know so I can take it up direct with the Home Office.

As ever, there is a wealth of information on supporting families seeking asylum on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/refugee-and-asylum-seeking-families/>

Anne Turners Leaving – Goodbye Message Book and Leaving Collection (Keep It Quiet!)

Director of Childrens Safeguarding and Social Work Anne Turner is due to retire at the end of April after 40 years in Camden. There is a virtual goodbye message book and collection, and you can find details of both on the attached email. Martin has sworn us to secrecy, so please don’t let Anne know this is happening!

Anne leaves a huge legacy in Camden and will be much missed by so many of us who have learned from her over the years. We look forward to welcoming the incoming Director Rashia Baig who is joining Camden from Croydon, and starts on 30 April.

Survey – Cultural Responsiveness Confidence – Please Click the Link Below

Our staff Cultural Responsiveness Confidence Survey closes on 9 April, so there is still time to give your views and thoughts here [FSCF Cultural Responsiveness Confidence Survey](#). The survey is anonymous and is for all FSCF staff, regardless of role. I’ve valued and reflected hard on all the courageous comments made so far, it’s both sobering and helpful to connect to your lived experience in this way. All views welcome.

Scam and Malicious Emails Regarding School COVID testing

We have received information from Camden Learning that a scam/malicious email about testing and mask-wearing in schools has been doing the rounds. A few Camden primary schools have reported receiving an anonymous email appearing to be from ‘a groups of parents at your school’ who are expressing strong views on school COVID testing and mask wearing. The email is branded ‘CLC Justice’.

If parents experience this, the advice from Camden Learning is not to forward the email or click on any links in it. Parents can report scam or malicious emails to report@phishing.gov.uk by attaching the email pasted into a Word document with a short explanation.

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 29 MARCH 2021](#) . Responses to last weeks survey:

Supporting parents to engage in early years activities online	If you're feeling stuck, would strongly recommend a conversation with Krystie Gennoe, the IEYS Stay and Play Manager. I guarantee she will have some ideas to help, its 100% her area of expertise (also, one of the IEYS parent champions might be available to help as a peer support – talk to Sophie Jobbings about that, both are on Outlook)
Transport for children in temporary accommodation	Always a difficult issue. Just some ideas in case they help: 1) have the children got their free TFL transport – info here https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/transport-to-school/ 2) if TFL transport is not an option, have a talk with school to see whether pupil premium could support taxi transport, given it is a temporary measure for a family that is likely to be experiencing low income. Alternatively, have a talk with the school transport guys (particularly if there is an EHCP in place). Contacts on the Guidebook link above 3) If all else fails, have a conversation with your line manager about whether your services material support fund could support taxi transport very short term (we'd need to exhaust all other options first). This isn't a long-term solution and won't fix the long-term problem, so the pupil premium option is a better bet if the family are likely to be in temporary accommodation for a while
Can we work at Crowndale?	I'm not sure – childrens social care have moved back to 5PS now as they were only over at Crowndale temporarily, and I'm not clear whether any other services are currently operating out of Crowndale. I will make enquiries for you. There may also be the option of Vadnie Bish (appreciate that needs a tube/bus journey).

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>Social Restrictions – Latest Information</p> <p>The latest information on the gradual lifting of lockdown restrictions is now uploaded https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/social-distancing-government-guidance/#main</p>	<p>Free Easter Activities and Food Programme</p> <p>Information about the programme of free activities and food for Camden children over the Easter holidays https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/childrens-activities-and-home-learning/holiday-activities-things-to-do/#main</p>	
--	---	--

We are now in week 54 of COVID and our capacity is holding steady, although most teams still have a number of staff away poorly. Please do look after yourselves, and take a proper break when your mind and body tell you it's time. Annual leave is mounting up for all of us, and yet our jobs are so much harder if we don't regularly put some distance between us and the intensity of the work. Restorative time is just as important as work time. So if you need a proper break – please please take one.

To end this week with the spotlight on another contemporary Black pioneer of family welfare work, Professor Claudia Bernard. Claudia is Professor of Social Work and Head of

Postgraduate Research at Goldsmiths University. She has written about, and advocated for, the experiences of Black children and their parents in family welfare and child protection for many years and is one of the most respected academics in the family welfare/social work field.

You can read her biography here <https://www.gold.ac.uk/stacs/staff/bernard-claudia/> and watch her in action here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QRBlk2KIMw> This short briefing by Claudia on Understanding the Lived Experience of Black and Ethnic Minority Children and Families is also well worth a 10 minute read <https://practice-supervisors.rip.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/KB-Understanding-the-lived-experiences-of-black-Asian-and-minority-ethnic-children-and-families.pdf>

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

Becca

Becca Dove
Head of Family Support and Complex Families

Telephone: 020 7974 3603