

COVID Email Update 19 April 2021

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

As we continue planning for the next 6 months (and beyond), I keep coming back to a word one of the FIF team used in a Resilient Families re-energiser session last week - ennoblement. It came up in a conversation about strengths and needs, and why they matter. To enoble means to bestow great dignity upon someone or something.

Talking with our Changemaker parents, a theme that came up a lot was having the platform to be heard. Being heard, feeling seen, being understood, are all ways we enoble our families and each other. David Augsburger was right when he said "*being heard is so close to being loved that for the average person, they are almost indistinguishable.*"

That discussion about strengths and needs reminded me what a special group of people you all are. That our work with families is about an ethic of care and dignity. Making those deep connections, recognising the impact you might have on a family's life long after the work has ended, not just by what you did but how you made them feel. It really is the "*difference that makes the difference*" and you really are extraordinary practitioners and humans. Thank you.

Updates for you this week:

Updated Public Health Guidance on Use of PPE

You may have seen on Essentials that Camden and Islington Public Health have updated their guidance on use of PPE, including when working in residents homes. This includes new advice to wear Type IIR face masks (the blue masks) in any home or venue where 2 metre distancing can't be maintained. The previous advice was to wear a blue mask where 2 metre social distancing couldn't be maintained AND there were COVID symptoms in the home or the family were self isolating.

I'll be doing a whole service briefing on this and a general check-in on the national lockdown lifting, later this week. Calendar invite to follow. In the meantime, you can find the latest Public Health guidance on use of PPE on the Guidebook here (see Public Health Guidance section) – please do take a few minutes to read it so you are familiar with the changes <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>

New Rules for Lateral Flow Tests that are Positive

From 30 March 2021, anyone who tests positive from a lateral flow test is now advised to get a follow-up PCR test (COVID test for people with symptoms) to confirm the result within 48 hours. This applies whether you did your lateral flow test at home or at a COVID test centre. I have put the new information 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>

Vaccination Information Event for Camden's Somali community and speakers of Tigrinya and Arabic

Islington Healthwatch are hosting an online webinar about COVID vaccination for members of the Somali community and residents who speak Tigrinya and Arabic. It is on Wednesday 28 April 2.30-4pm and is open to any resident from Camden, Islington and other North London Central boroughs. Details of how to attend are on this link <https://t.co/3wIXMJWZE4>

Webinar – Camden's Race Equality Plan and Family Early Help

As part of the run up to our Racial Justice whole service event on 4 May, this webinar led by Director of Equality Hanad Mohamed and our own Director Eve Stickler, will give us information about the wider Council work on race equality and what is happening in the Early Intervention and Prevention division. This will help us to see where our own service goals might contribute to wider goals in the Council. Not mandatory, but please do attend if you can. 27 April, 11am-12pm, calendar invite to follow.

Childcare and Play Centres (Before and After School/Wraparound Care/Holiday Play)

With unemployment likely to rise again later this year when furlough ends, affordable childcare and wraparound care will become even more important for parents looking to find work or to continue working. Camden's amazing community-based play providers are now beginning to reopen more fully after lockdown.

A reminder that Family Early Help funds a limited number of free play spaces for children open to early help, not only so we can help parents to work or to find employment but so that their children can enjoy the incredible social, emotional and physical benefits of play. Camden also offers discounted play spaces for low income families and full time students.

If you are working with a family who are in need of wraparound care (before or after school, or school holidays) you can find details of play schemes and childminding on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/wraparound-care-and-holiday-care/#main>

Toy Project Back Open

The wonderful Toy Project in Archway (a toy bank where new and used toys are donated and redistributed to children in low income families) is back open after lockdown. If you're working with a family who might benefit from a toy box, the contact details are on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/childrens-activities-and-home-learning/activity-packs-free-toys/>

COVID Surge Testing in North London

You may have seen on the news that there is surge testing taking place in Barnet (Finchley N3). A reminder that surge testing takes place when a variant of the COVID virus has been identified. Surge testing is intensive community testing for COVID, sometimes going door to door, to test people without COVID symptoms. This is to try and help suppress the virus variant. Surge testing has already happened in 12 London boroughs since 1 February 2021.

Whilst surge testing has not happened in Camden yet, I'm mentioning it again now so you know what it is if/when we do have surge testing, and can explain it to parents if needed. You can read more about surge testing on the Guidebook here (scroll to the bottom of the page) <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/tests-for-covid-test-and-trace/>

Camden Safety Net Join Family Early Help

I'm delighted to confirm that Camden Safety Net joined our family on 12 April. This is a team of 16 extraordinary women doing incredible work to help the victims of domestic abuse. Many of you will know Debbie Edwards who is the IDSVAs supporting front door, and many of you will have worked alongside IDSVAs in your case work. We welcome the Camden Safety Net team, and look forward to working alongside them and learning from them.

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 19 APRIL 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/>

Childcare and School Wraparound Care A new Guidebook section dedicated to primary school age childcare, wraparound care and holiday play https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/wraparou	What To Do If a Lateral Flow Test is Positive New guidance about taking a follow up PCR test if you have a positive lateral flow test https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-	Surge Testing Information about the Governments surge testing programme, in local areas where variants of COVID have been identified https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-
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<p>Updated Public Health Guidance on Using PPE in Residents Homes</p> <p>Latest guidance from Camden and Islington Public Health on when to use PPE when working in residents homes</p> <p>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</p>		

We are now in week 57 of COVID and our capacity continues to hold steady.

To end this week with another Black pioneer of family welfare work Dr Prospera Tedam. In her 25 year career, Dr Tedam has pioneered anti-oppressive practice in family welfare work. In addition to her academic research, she created the 4D2P Framework for identifying, understanding and disrupting oppression in family welfare work encounters and the Mandela Model, a relationship-building tool that supports anti-racist practice in social work.

Our friend in adult social care Shabnam Ahmed has arranged for Dr Tedam to give a webinar on 13 May and I will send you the calendar invite, it will be incredibly rich learning experience. You can read more about Dr Tedam here <https://chss.uaeu.ac.ae/en/profile/profile.shtml?email=p.tedam@uaeu.ac.ae>

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

Becca

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