

COVID Email Update 24 May 2021 (dyslexia friendly version)

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

A full 12 months has passed since the murder of George Floyd on 25 May 2020. Sandra Soteriou asked me to record a short message reflecting on my thoughts about the year, and here is a link to that recording if you'd like to hear what I said (its 2 minutes long) <https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/fbc34410-1948-480b-8afc-53c039d42623> . One of my heroes Congressman and lifelong civil rights activist John Lewis, who also passed last year, always seemed to find the right words for any occasion, and it makes sense to me to centre him and his wisdom today.



Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., poses for a photograph under a quote of his that is displayed in the Civil Rights Room in the Nashville Public Library Friday, Nov. 18, 2016, in Nashville, Tenn. Image: Mark Humphrey/AF

“Take a long, hard look down the road you will have to travel once you have made a commitment to work for change. Know that this transformation will not happen right away. Change often takes time. It rarely happens all at once. In the movement, we didn't know how history would play itself out. When we were getting arrested and waiting in jail or standing in unmovable lines on the courthouse steps, we didn't know what would happen, but we knew it had to happen.

Use the words of the movement to pace yourself. We used to say that ours is not the struggle of one day, one week, or one year. Ours is not the struggle of one judicial appointment or presidential term. Ours is the struggle of a lifetime, or maybe even many lifetimes, and each one of us in every generation must do our part. And if we believe in the change we seek, then it is easy to commit to doing all we can, because the responsibility is ours alone to build a better society and a more peaceful world.”

— John Lewis, *Across That Bridge: A Vision for Change and the Future of America*

To help us reflect, remember and act, the Camden Black Workers Group have put on an incredible range of events this week including:

- The history of race and racism, hosted by Abu-Bakr Madden Al-Shabazz (who was one of Family Early Help's first webinar guest speakers back in September 2020)
- White Allies, hosted by Josephine Namusisi-Riley
- Poetry with Miss Yankey
- Camden Learning Hub in collaboration with the Black Curriculum, hosted by Cosima Davies.

You can book places on these events on this link [Find out more about book your place at a session/s on essentials](#)

For our service, we keep onwards. Our racial justice and equity goals will help to keep purpose to our action over the next 12 months. We are far from where we want to be, but far from where we used to be. This week, I wonder if you might find a few minutes to reflect on things you notice as different to 12 months ago. Where is racial justice, identity, equity, cultural humility showing up? Is this in a new or different way or in the same way? What events/talks/webinars/tools/conversations on racial justice and equity have stood out for you in the last year and why? And what next? One difference for me is that the image below is now pinned to the wall above my desk at home. It wasn't 12 months ago. It should have been. But it now serves as a daily reminder to me to be more intentional in, and conscious of, the decisions I make and the actions I take. We keep onwards.



Updates for you this week:

Use of 5PS After 21 June

We now have some messages from Corporate about plans for 5PS after 21 June. It looks like some additional staff will be able to be in the building with continued social distancing. However, the number of people in 5PS will continue to be restricted until September, and home working will continue until at least then.

As Family Early Help are a priority 1 group (e.g. we have needed to use the building throughout COVID), we may also be able to access additional seats so that we can accommodate all our Family Early Help staff each week rather than every fortnight from 21 June. This would enable us to lift the bubble rotas and the 1 week Camden:1 week remote approach.

We are also considering viability of returning to the 3 community sites at Netherwood, Chamberlain and the Winch post 21 June. This assumes that the Governments final stage of lifting lockdown goes ahead on that date, which is far from certain at this point.

I've asked your service managers to have discussions with you in team meetings to understand how lifting the bubble rota might feel for you and what's important to you about using Council and other buildings after 21 June. Please be assured the only thing that matters to me is continuing to do all we can to keep you safe and well. We will plan this next bit of the future together, and as ever being led by the expert advice of Public Health. I will schedule a whole service briefing for the second week in June for us to walk it through.

Vaccination Now Available for Anyone Aged 32 or Over

You can now book a COVID vaccination appointment online without needing an invitation letter if you are aged 32 or over (or will turn 32 before 1 July), or are extremely clinically vulnerable, clinically vulnerable, have a learning disability, are a registered unpaid carer, or are a health and social care worker. NHS vaccination booking link here <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/> and more information on the Guidebook here

<https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/vaccinations/>

Additional ways to get your vaccine as an eligible priority worker

For those of you who are frontline staff and eligible for priority vaccination, you can now either book through the NHS vaccination online system or you can use drop-in sessions in and around Camden. This may suite people with changing schedules that cannot commit to a specific appointment time. The list of drop-in sessions changes each week and are listed on this page <https://northcentrallondonccg.nhs.uk/ncl-frontline-health-and-social-care-staff-covid-19-vaccination-registration/> (this link is also on the Guidebook under ‘vaccinations’). Please remember to take your eligibility letter with you which you can find here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/vaccinations/>

Government Guidance on meeting friends and family

There is new guidance from the Government on keeping safe when meeting with friends and family, and there are some useful things in it to think about to help keep you safe during face-to-face visits. You can find this on the Guidebook here (scroll about half way down, section ‘Public Health and Government Guidance’) – please do read it before your next face to face visit <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>



Talking with Children and Families About Israel and Palestine

A number of Camden’s community have been deeply affected by the conflict in the Middle East and Camden schools are offering a lot of additional support, both pastoral and through the curriculum. This resource was shared with Camden schools in this week’s Headteachers bulletin, and I thought I would share with you as an extra resource to support conversations with children and families affected by the crisis <https://solutionsnotsides.co.uk/blog/2021/avoiding-antisemitic-islamophobic-hate-speech> Also attached to this

email is a letter from the Chairs of Camden's Faith Leaders Forum, which includes links to how to report hate crimes. If you are feeling affected by the conflict, please do reach out to your line manager so we can do all we can to support you.

Webinar for Parents – Keeping Young People Safe Online and in the Community

The Camden and Islington violence reduction project is putting on a webinar for parents exploring online safety and safety in communities. Topics will include peer groups and gangs, grooming and exploitation, and social media and empowerment. The webinars take place online over 2 sessions on 1st and 3rd June at 6pm. More information on the attached email. To join, parents can email

vrureferrals@islington.gov.uk and a link to the webinar will be sent.

New Guidebook Sections – Workflow, Timeframes and Starting Work with a Family

For anyone new to Camden, or for anyone who wants a refresher, there are two new Guidebook sections to help explain some of the



basis processes of our work. These include our workflow (including a visual timeline of each stage of the helping journey) and some simple explainers about timeframes, consent forms, privacy notices and Resilient Families tools to use when you start working with a family. You can find these sections

<https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/family-early-help-workflow-and-timeframes/#main> and here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/when-you-start-working-with-a-family-consent-form-privacy-notice-and-resilient-families-tools/#main>

LIFT - Help for Camden Residents Looking for Careers in Tech, Science and Creative Industries

The Leading Inclusive Futures Through Technology Programme (LIFT) supports Camden residents looking for careers in the knowledge economy (tech, science and creative industries). They offer apprenticeships and work experience, paid internships in local businesses, employability support to develop skills and find a job and more. You can find more about LIFT and a wide range of other opportunities for residents who might be seeking work, on the Guidebook here

<https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/employment-jobs-and-benefits/finding-a-job/#main>

Racial Justice and Equity Organising Committee – Last Call



Nominations close tomorrow at 5pm to join our service's first ever racial justice and equity organising committee, and we're really keen to have as many allies on the group as possible. Please do consider applying on this link [RACIAL](#)

[JUSTICE AND EQUITY ORGANIZING COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM](#)

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 21 MAY 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/>

Consent, Privacy Notices and Starting Work with a Family	Workflow and Timeframes	Out of Hours IT Support
<p>Updated guidance on steps to take when you are first allocated to work alongside a family</p> <p>https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/when-you-start-working-with-a-family-consent-form-privacy-notice-and-resilient-families-tools/#main</p>	<p>New section explaining what our workflow is, each step of the helping journey and the timeframes to do them in</p> <p>https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/family-early-help-workflow-and-timeframes/#main</p>	<p>Information about how to contact I.T.scaled-back support out of hours</p> <p>https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/technology-for-workers/out-of-hours-it-support/#main</p>

Vaccinations for Priority Workers –**New Ways to Access**

Link to alternative ways to access vaccination if you are a frontline worker eligible for priority vaccination

<https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/vaccinations/>

Government Guidance on Meeting**Friends and Family**

This new guidance should be read before your next face to face visit

<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>

LIFT – Help to Get Into Knowledge**Economy Jobs**

Information about the LIFT project for Camden residents looking to work in tech, science or creative industries

<https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/employment-jobs-and-benefits/finding-a-job/#main>

We are now in week 62 of COVID and our capacity continues to hold steady. A warm welcome to Francesca Cappelli who started with First Stop Early Help as their new team manager last week. Lea Christoloudou, who has been covering the team manager post for the past year, will be staying with us until mid-June to help Fran as she settles in (thank you as ever Lea).

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

Becca

Becca Dove

Head of Family Support and Complex Families

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