

COVID Email Update 31 May 2021

Good morning to you all, I hope you and your families are all doing okay. I am sending this a couple of days early as I am on leave this week until Friday.

In April, I promised to share with you all the results of our staff survey looking at levels of confidence in being culturally responsive in our work and feelings of safety in talking about racism and discrimination. The results of the survey are attached. Managers met to explore and reflect on the findings last Wednesday, and they will be carrying this through into your team spaces in the coming weeks.

This survey is vital for our racial justice and equity work. It gives us a benchmark that we can repeat again in 12 months time to see if our goals helped increase levels of confidence and feelings of safety, But more importantly, it shines more light on your daily lived experience of working in and for Camden. As I said in my Black Lives Matter update on 12 April, there are undoubtedly strengths for us to build on. But there are also specific needs that we must work on at pace, particularly in supervisory and partnership spaces.

The next step is to incorporate the survey findings into our service goals. The Racial Justice and Equity Organising Committee will turn the goals into plans at their first meeting on 16 June, and then work with service managers to drive change forward.

I repeat my commitment to you that I will actively challenge racism, inequity and its structural causes, and contribute to social change for a more just, humane, equitable and peaceful world. Whilst it is our collective responsibility to work together to achieve change, I have a responsibility and a duty of care to make sure you and the families we help feel safe, valued, listened to and treated with dignity and respect. Keep holding me accountable as I hold myself accountable.

Updates for you this week:

Webinar - Using Creative Therapies to Help Children and Families

Coram are hosting a brilliant webinar exploring use of creative therapies in supporting parents, children and families, 22 June 9.30 – 12.30. Includes a look at trauma-focussed sleep/diet/exercise interventions, music therapy and attachment, and lots more. Free to attend, more information on the attached email and link to booking is here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/156500223381>

Eviction Ban Ended 31 May

The Government's temporary ban on eviction of tenants during COVID ended on Monday 31 May. We've known this was coming for a while and it will particularly affect families in private rented sector accommodation. If you are working with a family who are at risk of eviction, please do see the information about evictions, and sources of help, on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/homes-housing-and-council-tax/evictions/#main>

Meeting Families in Camden Children's Libraries

Most of the Camden childrens libraries are now open, and the Library Service have asked if we would like make appointments at the libraries to have face-to-face visits with families. At the moment, only one family is in the library at a time so it should feel like both a child-friendly and confidential space, as well as an opportunity to connect a family to these amazing local resources on their doorstep.

If you would like to meet a family in one of the childrens libraries, please ask Elaine Dunning, Tim Cosh or Jess Eneberi for details. There is more information about Camden libraries and their locations on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/alternative-venues-for-visits/camden-libraries/#main>

Resource to Help Support Young People Facing Homelessness

Just for Kids Law have launched a new resource for workers supporting 16 and 17 year olds faced with homelessness. It will help you identify what support a child is entitled to and gives practical advice on how to help them access their rights. Uploaded to the Guidebook here, along with information about Camden's protocol for supporting young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/homes-housing-and-council-tax/young-people-facing-homelessness/#main>

Wraparound Care and Holiday Care in Camden

As half term is upon us, a reminder that you can find lots of information about wraparound care and holiday care for Camden children on the Guidebook here – remember to contact Tara Curtis about early help play/care spaces! <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/wraparound-care-and-holiday-care/#main>

If you're looking for more general fun activities for children during school holidays rather than a holiday play scheme, you can find lots of ideas 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>

Traffic-Free Zone Trial in Queens Crescent

For those of you that use your car for work, just a heads up that Queens Crescent is trialling a motor traffic-free zone at the moment. This extends the existing partial road closure times on QC, and Grafton Road is also being closed to through traffic at certain times.

Virtual Work Experience with Google Opportunity for Year 11 and 12 Camden Students

Camden Learning, Google, SCS Railways and Camden Spark are offering a virtual work experience opportunity for year 11 and 12 students at Camden schools. Placements take place between 28 June and 2 July. Registration now open, deadline midday Friday 11 June. More info and registration link here https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vQ8me88ZnHijll_NJOCKrqxL30BDTJkNqYVzSowcVz0pTc3ii1A3Y1hs6qrLcq6JPu5bprgMc61DiFc/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.gdc7f077442_0_9

Vaccination Now Available for People aged 30 and 31

The national vaccination programme is now open to people aged 30 and 31. People in this group will be invited by text to make their appointment. Here is the link to the NHS vaccination booking site <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/> and more links about vaccination on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/vaccinations/#main>

Help with School Uniform

There was a comment on last weeks survey about help with cost of school uniform for migrant families. There is a section on the Guidebook about grant-making organisations that can help with school uniform <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/help-with-school-uniform/#main> . I hope this helps, but if you can't access what you need via the sources listed, please talk with your line manager about the Family Early Help Material Support as another possible option.

Concerns about Child Abductions in London

There was a comment on last week's survey about the reports of attempted child abductions in South London recently and Camden parents raising concerns. Camden schools are doing a lot of awareness raising around keeping safe in our communities following these reports, and it may also be worth letting parents know about the Camden and Islington VRU webinars I mentioned in last weeks bulletin. The webinars are online over 2 sessions on 1st and 3rd June at 6pm. To join, parents can email vrureferrals@islington.gov.uk and a link to the webinar will be sent. I will also talk with Camden's community safety officers to see if they can provide a webinar for us on keeping children safe on Camden streets.

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 31 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/>

Young People Facing Homelessness New Guidebook section with information about Camden's approach and a resource pack from Just for Kids Law https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/homes-housing-and-council-tax/young-people-facing-homelessness/#main	Camden Wraparound Care and Holiday Care Updated to include list of all Camden play providers, both before and after school, and in school holidays https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/wraparound-care-and-holiday-care/#main	Camden Libraries A list of all the libraries in Camden that have a childrens library, as another possible alternative venue for face-to-face visits https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/alternative-venues-for-visits/camden-libraries/#main
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We are now in week 63 of COVID and our capacity continues to hold steady.

One final thing to share with you this week is a Diversity Welcome (attached), which I used for the first time last week at our Extended SMT meeting. Diversity welcomes can help to give a clear statement of intent that everyone is welcome and that we reject discrimination, racism, oppression and inequality. The welcome can also help us if we hear or see racism or discrimination, by enabling us to 'call back' to the welcome and 'call in' the behaviour.

The format was shared at a justice and social change training course I attended. I'll be using this diversity welcome at the start of webinars and training that I deliver from now on. If you think this might be of use to you in partnership spaces, TAF meetings and team meetings, then please do feel free to use it and tailor it as you want. You can read about diversity welcomes here https://www.trainingforchange.org/training_tools/diversity-welcome/



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

Becca