

COVID Email Update 7 June 2021 (dyslexia friendly version)

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

Pride Month is here again, marking the anniversary of the uprising at the Stonewall Inn in June 1969, and the liberation movement that followed. Pride Month is not only a chance for us to celebrate LGBT+ communities in Camden and across the world, but to remember the oppression and prejudice the community has endured, and to reaffirm our commitment to equity, justice and dignity for all.

This Pride Month, I'm thinking a lot about identity and how important our own unique identities are to our work and to our relationships with each other. I'm really hopeful that the conversations we are having about identity, opened up by our racial justice work, will help support us all to feel accepted, understood, and valued.

June also sees a Month of Community, a full 30 days to celebrate what community means. Some of you will have heard me say the sentence from Cormac Russell "*when professionals leave, family and community is all that remains*". COVID gave us all such a stark reminder that the people and things around us in our community form a big part of what helps us feel resilient. So let's do all we can to help our families connect with Camden's incredible community and all its resources. Not just because it's nice to do, but because the people and things in Camden will be there long after we've ended our time with a family. When you have one of the most generous, supportive and welcoming communities in London on the doorstep, it's a gift to be able to help a family feel connected to it, held by it, and loved by it. Details of Camden's community organisations are on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/local-community-sources-of-support/>



Updates for you this week:

Use of 5PS After 21 June

In readiness for whenever the final stage of lockdown is lifted, I have asked Corporate if they can allocate 54 seats to our service. This would mean all family workers and their managers would have an allocated seat, which would help us to lift the bubble rota system. Lifting the bubble rota would enable you to see families when you and the family want rather than just on your 'Camden week'. But it does not automatically mean a change to the way we use 5PS. We would still be encouraged to use 5PS as a drop-down place in between visits, rather than as an 8-hours-a-day office base for everyone.

There are two reasons for this. Firstly, Corporate are still keen not to have whole teams together at one time, in order to limit the possibility of COVID infection spreading across whole teams. Secondly, they still need to limit the number of people at 5PS at any one time to maintain the social distancing needed for the building to be deemed COVID secure. We are also working with our social

care colleagues on a gradual return of front door staff to the 9th floor and Jess is working with the EHC team on what the plans might look like post 21-June.

I spoke with Public Health last week about whether their home visits guidance is likely to remain in place after 21 June. Their response is yes, which would mean our pre-visit checklists, use of IIR face masks and all other guidance about face-to-face visits will need to remain in place for the immediate future.

I hope to have a response from Corporate on the number of seats we have been allocated post -21 June by the end of this week. As soon as I have confirmation, I will then call a whole service briefing so we can walk through it together. Your individual risk assessment remains one of the most important factors in all this, and your line manager will make sure this is front and centre of any decisions about our gradual return to both 5PS and to more usual routines.

Camden Summer University

Camden Summer University is back with 5 weeks of free activities for young people aged 13-19. Booking opens 16 June and you can see the full listing of stuff to do here <https://www.cmdn.co.uk/> and 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>

Webinar – Everything You Need to Know About Renters Rights

This isn't one that we've arranged, but it looks like a really helpful set of short webinars about tenancies and renters rights as part of Renters Rights Awareness Week. 6 x 1 hour webinars to choose from, all free to attend and taking place next week. The majority of the families we help are renters, so the more we know the more helpful we can be. More information and links to sign up here <https://www.generationrent.org/events>

Support for Migrant Families – Problems with Aspen Payment Cards

If you are working with a migrant family, they may have been given something called an Aspen card. This is a prepayment debit card that the Home Office use to give financial support to families seeking asylum or refugee status while their applications or appeals are processed. The money is to buy basic food and essential items. The Home Office recently changed the company who provide the Aspen card and there have been problems in the handover. This has meant some families are not receiving their card or cards not working.

If you are working with a family affected by this, firstly do everything you can to help – we can help with emergency supermarket vouchers to make sure the family has food and basic essential supplies. Secondly, advise the family to contact Migrant Help, or do this on their behalf with their consent, as Migrant Help can issue emergency cash payments. You can find more information about this, including contact details for Migrant Help, on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/migrant-families-families-seeking-asylum/no-recourse-to-public-funds/#main>

Carers Week

7-13 June is a week to celebrate and champion people who care for someone informally. Camden Carers are putting on a series of events and you can find details below. Carers Week is also an opportunity to remind us of our duty to Camden's incredible young carers, to make sure their caring responsibilities balance with their needs and rights as children. You can find information about supporting young carers, including our duty to complete young carers assessments and local services and supports, on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/grandparents-kinship-carers-carers-and-young-carers/young-carers/#main> . If you are caring for someone, the Council now has its Wellbeing Passport to help you and your line manager have conversations about what would help – more information here <https://lbcamden.sharepoint.com/sites/intranet/communications/Pages/our-wellbeing-passport-is-here.aspx>

Carers Week 2021

7th – 13th June



Please see the timetable of events during Carers Week below.

Most of the events will take place on line via ZOOM, unless stated otherwise.

Open to All Carers	Young Adult Carers	Older Carers	Black Carers Collective	
Monday 7th June	Tuesday 8th June	Wednesday 9th June	Thursday 10th June	Friday 11th June
10.30-12.30 Art Group	11.00-4.00 Trip to London Zoo	10.00-11.00 Emotional Support Group by Teleconference	10.30-12.00 Carers Walk	10.00-11.00 Tai Chi
11.00-4.00 Trip to Kew Gardens	11.00-12.30 Making Friends with Anxiety	10.30-12.00 Virtual Guided Tour - Greenwich Part 2	11.00-4.00 Trip to Kew Garden	10.00-12.00 Black Carers Collective Nutrition Workshop
1.00-2.00 Mindfulness and Resilience Session with Marie Curie	12.00-4.00 Trip to Kew Gardens	10.30-11.30 Benefits Workshop with JobCentre Plus	11.00-4.00 Trip to London Zoo	11.00-12.00 Virtual Cuppa with Mobilise
2.00-3.00 Yoga with Julie	12.00-1.00 Women and Health, Sound Meditation	11.00-4.00 Trip to Kew Gardens	1.00-2.00 Women and Health, Facial Massage	12:00-2:00 Healthy and Easy Meals: Cook and Eat Together By Sue and Sitara
	1.00-2.00 Rehousing/Allocations Advice Workshop with Mary Ward	12.00-1.00 Financial Wellbeing Workshop with The Money Charity	2.00-3.00 Virtual Quiz	1.00-2.00 Songhaven Concert
	2.00-3.30 Show & Tell			1.00-3.00 Black Carers Collective Creative Writing

For more information or to book a place on any of the events, please contact info@camdencarers.org.uk
 (If you have difficulty joining on the day, please phone us on 020 7428 8950)
*** BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL ***

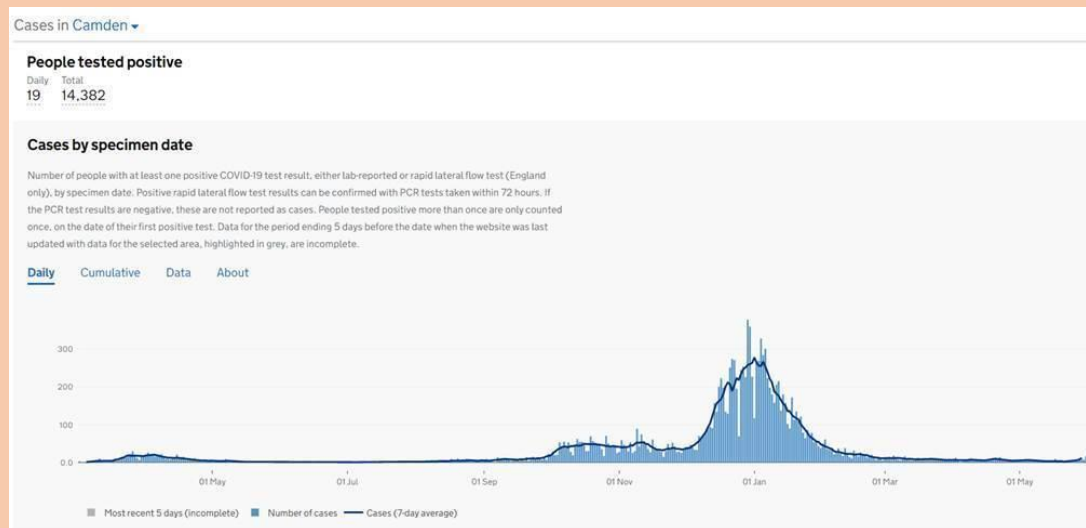
Allocated Seating – What to Do If Someone is Sitting in your 5PS Seat

There was a comment in last week's survey about what to do if someone is sitting in your allocated seat on the 7th floor. Every team who currently uses 5PS has allocated seats on specific floors. Childrens Social Care have allocated seats but they have been given the entire 9th floor for themselves. This means their staff can sit in any socially-distanced seat on that floor. For everyone else, services share a floor with another service. For example, we share the 7th floor with adult social care; we have each been given specific seats and we're only supposed to sit in those seats.

This isn't the best system in the world, not least because its human nature to see an empty seat and sit in it! But it's the way corporate want it for now. The main thing is to try and sit in your allocated seat and you can't then to sit in another one of FSCF's allocated seats. If you find someone repeatedly sitting in your seat, Corporate ask that you email Karly Henne to let know (on Outlook). Once our bubble rotas are lifted, we'll change the labels from named seats to FSCF seats. Point taken too about the name labels now being a year old, I'll update them later this week!

Camden COVID data

Here are the most recent COVID case rates for Camden, just so you have the most up to date information. As of Sunday, the 7-day rolling average number of cases in Camden was 11.9, down from 278 in January. Admissions to hospital in London for COVID were on a 7-day average of 19.9, down from 864.3 in January.



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 7 JUNE 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/>

<p>ASPEN Cards for Migrant Families</p> <p>Information about the Home Office pre-payment card given to families seeking asylum or refugee status, including what to do about problems with the cards</p> <p>https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/migrant-families-families-seeking-asylum/no-recourse-to-public-funds/#main</p>	<p>Camden Summer University</p> <p>Information about the 2021 Summer University of free activities for young people aged 13-19</p> <p>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>	
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We are now in week 64 of COVID and our capacity continues to hold steady.

To end this week, with both Pride Month and Refugee Week taking place in June, it gives me an opportunity to reflect again on the human rights that belong to everyone in the world, and how our practice can embrace being rights-based as much as it is relationship-based and resources-based. More on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/black-lives-matter-resource-repository/human-rights-and-childrens-rights/>

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

Becca

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS



Adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948, the Universal Declaration states fundamental rights and freedoms to which all human beings are entitled.

You have the responsibility to respect the rights of others.

We are all born free and equal.

Everyone is entitled to these rights no matter your race, religion, sex, language, or nationality.

Everyone has the right to life, freedom, and safety.

No one can take away any of your rights.

No one has the right to hold you in slavery.



You have the right to seek asylum in another country if you are persecuted in your own.



Every adult has the right to a job, a fair wage, and membership in a trade union.



No one has the right to torture you.



Everyone has the right to a nationality.



You have the right to leisure and rest from work.



You have a right to be recognized everywhere as a person before the law.



All consenting adults have the right to marry and to raise a family.



Everyone has the right to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their family.



We are all equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection of the law.



You have the right to own property.



Everyone has the right to an education.



You have the right to seek legal help if your rights are violated.



Everyone has the right to belong to a religion.



Everyone has the right to freely participate in the culture and scientific advancement of their community, and their intellectual property as artist or scientist should be protected.



No one has the right to wrongly imprison you or force you to leave your country.



You have the right to think and voice your opinions freely.



We are all entitled to a social order in which we may enjoy these rights.



You have a right to a fair, public trial.



Everyone has the right to gather as a peaceful assembly.



Everyone's rights and freedoms should be protected unless they obstruct the rights and freedoms of others.



Everyone is innocent until proven guilty.



You have the right to participate in the governance of your country, either directly or by helping to choose representatives in free and genuine elections.



No State, group, or person can use this Declaration to deny the rights and freedoms of others.



You have the right to privacy. No one can interfere with your reputation, family, home, or correspondence.



You have the right to social security and are entitled to economic, social, and cultural help from your government.



You have the right to travel.



Becca Dove

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