

COVID Email Update 23 August 2021

Good morning to you all, I hope you and your families are doing okay. I am just back from leave and I hope you are finding some time to get some well-earned rest and relaxation over the summer break.

A short update for you this week:

Events in Afghanistan

We have all been rocked by the humanitarian crisis happening in Afghanistan over the last week. If you have friends or family connections in Afghanistan, we are here to give you whatever support you need – please do reach out, we will do all we can to help. Camden is already home to a number of children and families from Afghanistan, including some of the residents in the Home Office contingency hotels in the borough. It is an incredibly worrying time for these families, and as ever we will do all we can to hold, help and support them.

We now know that the Home Office will be launching an Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme and our Council Leader Georgia Gould issued a statement earlier today confirming Camden's commitment to support refugees from the crisis – you can read it here <https://news.camden.gov.uk/camden-ready-to-welcome-refugees-from-afghanistan/> . There is a Home Office helpline for British and non-British nationals needing to leave the region, and you can find details here <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/support-for-british-and-non-british-nationals-in-afghanistan> . Camden's communities are already mobilising to give as much support as possible to Afghan refugees who arrive in the borough.

There is still a huge amount we don't know, but I will make sure I let you have details as soon as I get them. If you are working with a family who has been affected by this crisis, or who needs help for family still in Afghanistan, please do contact me and I will do all I can to help.

Individual Risk Assessments

In my last weekly bulletin I mentioned that Health and Safety have updated the COVID individual risk assessment. We will now begin to transfer from the old template to the new one. I have asked your managers to discuss and complete the new individual risk assessment template with you at your next supervision. We aim to get all FSCF staff transferred to the new individual risk assessment template by 30 September latest. You can find the new individual risk assessment template here

<https://lbcamden.sharepoint.com/sites/intranet/HR/Pages/COVID-19-Risk-Assessments-.aspx#>

Self Isolation Rules Have Changed

I'm sure you're all now aware that the rules about when to self-isolate changed on 16 August. You are still legally required to self-isolate if NHS Test and Trace tell you to. There is a link to the latest NHS information about self isolation on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/self-isolation-and-stay-at-home-guidance/#main>

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 23 AUGUST 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/>

Self Isolation Update

Link to NHS updated guidance on when to self isolate, following new rules from 16 August 2021

<https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/self-isolation-and-stay-at-home-guidance/#main>

We are now in week 75 of COVID and our capacity is currently low, largely due to annual leave and some sickness absence. This is not unusual for this time of year, but it is putting pressures on all parts of the early help system. A particular thank you to Tim Cosh who has been overseeing a number of services and teams in the last week or so.

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
Telephone: 020 7974 3603