

COVID Email Update 7 October 2021

Good morning to you all, I hope you and your families are doing okay. Updates for you this week:

Vaccination Guide for Parents

The rollout of vaccinations for 12-15 year olds is now underway. This is an important decision for young people and their parents and its important we have access to information from Public Health England and the NHS to give to parents if they need it. You can find the latest PHE information, along with vaccination guides for young people and for parents, on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/vaccinations/#main>

End of Furlough and Universal Credit Uplift

The Governments furlough scheme for COVID officially ended 30 September and the Universal Credit £20 uplift ended yesterday. We've been preparing for some months now for the impact of the end of these two supports, as it is likely to be significant for many Camden families. As ever, its vital we are connected to the services and supports that can help with financial insecurity or job insecurity. The Guidebook has a range of resources to help you to help families and you can find them here:

- Employment <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/employment-jobs-and-benefits/finding-a-job/#main>
- Universal credit and benefits (including a benefits calculator) <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/employment-jobs-and-benefits/universal-credit-and-benefits/#main>
- Money, bills and financial hardship <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/finance-bills-and-financial-hardship/>
- Advice services and legal help <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/legal-debt-welfare-and-other-advice/>

Poverty is likely to continue to rise in the borough as a result of the end of these two schemes, and you'll remember we've been thinking about ways to poverty proof our practice for most of this year. Our 'Talking About And Tackling Poverty' pages on the Guidebook are worth revisiting <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/poverty-proofing-our-practice/>

Managers, please can you give some time to exploring these resources in your team and service meetings over the next month.

Relationship Feedback Form

A reminder that we need to make sure every family we work with has the chance to tell us how the work has helped. It's not just a 'nice to know', it's about the deeply respectful practice of showing families that we care about how they feel the work is going, and what value its adding to their lives.

We don't get as much feedback from families as we would like to yet, so please do seek this feedback at assessment end, each TAF and closure, and at every closure at front door – you can find the links to the online feedback forms here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/feedback-from-families-relationship-feedback-form/> . Please do let me know about other ways you are getting feedback from families, so I can learn from them too.

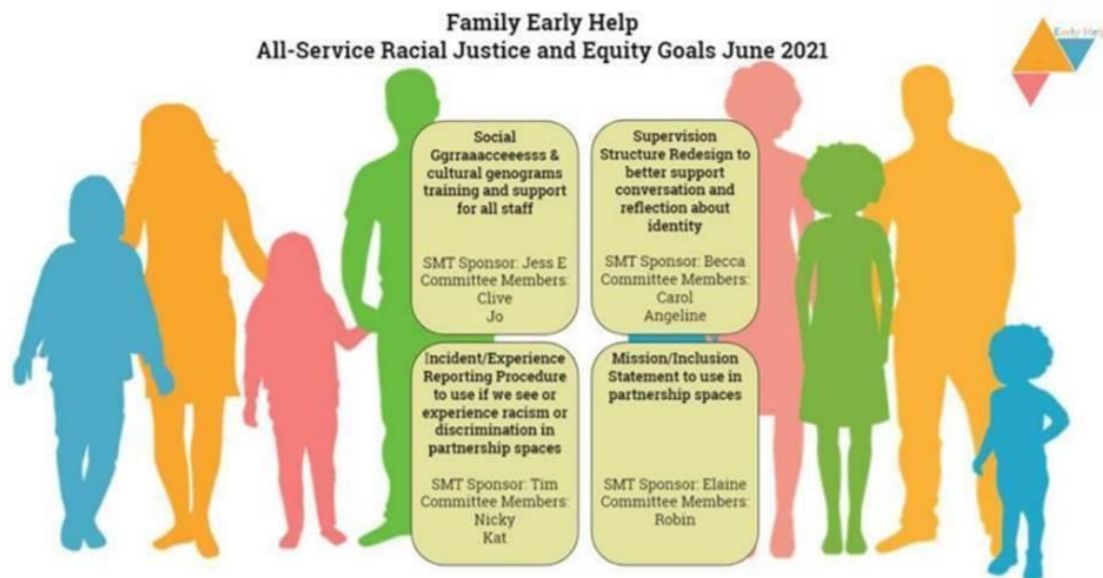
Black History Month

With a brilliant theme of 'Proud to Be', Black History Month is back and as ever gives us an opportunity to honour the accomplishments of Black British people in every area of our history. Camden has a fantastic Black History Season planned with a range of events and activities from now until mid-December. Do get involved if you can.

You may remember that for each week of the 2020 Black History Month, I researched a Black pioneer of our family support discipline, from 150 years ago to the present day. I got my list

out again yesterday to re-read and remind myself how important these people are to our history, and that they should not just be acknowledged but thanked, celebrated and elevated. I've attached it to this email in case you'd like to read one of their stories again too.

Our Racial Justice and Equity Organizing Committee is meeting in a couple of weeks to review progress towards our four goals and we'll be reporting back to you shortly after. It feels like one of the most important things we can do this Black History Month is to demonstrate the tangible progress made towards the things we committed to. Here's a reminder of what our goals are:



Afghanistan Crisis Response

Although new arrivals of Afghan refugees at the 3 bridging hotels in Camden has now slowed down, the work to support the hundreds of refugees now living temporarily in the hotels continues at pace. The Temporary Accommodation Service have set up teams of assessment and support officers onsite at each hotel. Family Early Help and IEYS are planning together to base a family worker with each of those teams.

The purpose is to provide child and family IAG, support with needs assessments and making referrals to front door where threshold may have been met, and provide our knowledge and expertise on local resources, services and supports for children and families. For us, this is an extension of our front door IAG offer (albeit taking it outside), and so I'm talking with Jess Eneberi about this in the first instance.

Camden schools and School Admissions are also now working directly onsite at the hotels to help identify children who feel ready for formal education and could enrol in school, and those children who might not feel ready for formal education and might want or need an alternative. Play providers, early years and Adult Community Learning are working on those informal options now.

DWP have been in the hotels making sure UC and National Insurance number applications have been started for all hotel guests.

Although this work is a small part of our casework at the moment, it is likely the bridging hotels will be in place for some months, so it will become more and more likely you could start working with a family from the bridging hotels. I'm lining up a number of webinars to help us increase our knowledge and confidence in working with refugees, particularly in taking the time to learn about Afghan family life, norms, traditions and practices. There is also the new Guidebook section for you to use as a reference and you can find it here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/afghanistan-crisis-response/>

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 5 OCTOBER 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/>

Vaccinations for Young People

New booklets for young people and parents about COVID vaccination
<https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/vaccinations/#main>

We are now in week 81 of COVID and whilst we are starting to get very busy with incoming referrals (as we always do this time of year) our capacity is currently steady. Recruitment continues for family workers, alongside IEYS colleagues.

As ever, stay safe and well and shout me if there is anything you need.

Becca

Becca Dove
Head of Family Support and Complex Families

Telephone: 020 7974 3603

