

Email from Carolyn Terry to Essex early years and childcare and childcare providers

From: Carolyn Terry, EYCC Sufficiency and Sustainability Manager

Sent: 24 March 2020 23:31

Subject: Urgent - Please Read - Covid-19 Update 24 March 2020

Dear All

Firstly can I start by apologising for not sending the attached letter for staff to you, that I had promised to do this morning and to all of you that have emailed us in the last couple of days that have not yet had a response. As I am sure you can appreciate, we are receiving hundreds of emails at the moment, from both colleagues in the early years sector and from parents classified as critical workers trying to find alternative childcare and we are doing our best to get through them as fast as possible. Please bear with us and we will respond to all of your emails

A lot of you have been in touch to tell us that you are closing, and whilst the overarching principle remains that early years settings should be closed, it is still crucial that going forward critical workers can access the childcare they need to enable them to work and that we continue to meet the needs of all of our vulnerable children. We have been in touch with a number of you today to try and ensure we have clusters of provision available all around the county and close to the hospitals that we can contact as we receive requests for childcare. If you haven't yet let us know that you are able to be open and offer support, could you get in touch so we can include your details please? Some of you have also been telling us that you only have small numbers of children and it isn't viable to stay open, and so we are in the process of putting together some information that may help you to consider linking up with other childcare providers in your area to create local options for your families. We will issue this shortly.

Today the DfE has also issued the following guidance to address some of these issues [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): early years and childcare closures](#) and I have attached an open letter from the Minister Vicky Ford to the early years sector on this point for your information

Finally I have also attached a more comprehensive FAQ document covering a lot of the queries we have been receiving, this will continue to be updated over the coming days and a document with some business management advice from our Early Years and Childcare Business Management Consultancy for your information.

Best wishes

Carolyn

Carolyn Terry

EYCC Sufficiency and Sustainability Manager
Strategy, Planning and Performance

Education Directorate
Essex County Council

<https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/>

Please note my normal working days are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

T: 033 3013 6481

Mob: 078 2586 0004

E:: carolyn.terry@essex.gov.uk

