

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

From: Free Entitlement Funding Queries <FEEEQueries@essex.gov.uk>

Sent: 08 July 2020 21:27

Cc: Free Entitlement Funding Queries <FEEEQueries@essex.gov.uk>

Subject: Urgent - Please Read - Covid-19 Update 8 July 2020

Dear All

Please find below information or updates on the following areas: -

- Online Summer 2020 Childcare Sufficiency Survey
- Reminder to complete this week's attendance Survey
- A summary of the recent changes and support to help staff return to work in September
- Updated Shielding Guidance
- Update on the changes to the law on education, health and care needs
- Summer Holiday Childcare for school aged children
- Introduction to supporting children with physical and neurological impairment (PNI)

Online Summer 2020 Childcare Sufficiency Survey now open – as mentioned in a previous email, this online childcare sufficiency survey is now live and closes on Sunday 12 July 2020. We really need your help to gather the most childcare sufficiency accurate information we can during Covid-19, so please complete this survey as the information this will provide, will support us in planning how best to support the sector going forwards. The link for the survey is: -

<https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/workforce-development-1/7044d84e>

Reminder to complete this week's attendance Survey – we had the highest response to-date last week with the responses indicating that 44% of settings are now open – thank you to everyone that completed this. As a reminder, this week's survey is due tomorrow and the link to the attendance survey is <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/workforce-development-1/f271a4fc/>

Please find attached the following documents to support you with your planning for September 2020

- A summary of the recent DfE guidance changes
- Support to help staff return to work in September

Updated Shielding Guidance - The [shielding guidance](#) has been updated, with the main change regarding children being:

The latest evidence indicates that the risk of serious illness for most children and young people is low. All children and young people should continue to shield until 31 July. A clinical discussion with your paediatric specialist or GP will be needed before any child or young

person is removed from the shielded patient list. Health services will be in touch with children and their families over the summer, ahead of the new school term, to discuss what the new evidence means for them personally in the longer term. Families, carers and young people do not need to make immediate contact.

The [press release](#) regarding shielding and children can be found here and states that:

- Evidence from paediatric clinicians shows COVID-19 poses a low risk to children and young people
- Majority of children currently shielding are to be told by their doctor that they will not need to do so in the future
- Only a small group of children with certain medical conditions are likely to be advised to shield if shielding needs to be reintroduced in the future
- The majority of children currently considered extremely clinical vulnerable to COVID-19 will be able to be removed from the shielded patient list

Update on the changes to the law on education, health and care needs - the DfE has updated guidance on Education, Health and Care Plans, to reflect the announcement on 2nd July that there will not be any more notices to modify section 42 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

[Changes to the law on education, health and care needs assessments and plans due to coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Summer Holiday Childcare for school aged children - we are still trying to get an accurate picture of who will be offering summer holiday places for schools age children. If you haven't told us already, but are planning on opening or would like support to open, please let us know by emailing the Early Years Mailbox (Early.Years@essex.gov.uk) and we will be in touch with you

Also, if you are aware of any working parents / carers that are looking for support to find childcare for school aged children over the summer holidays, please ask them to contact us by emailing the Early Years mailbox (Early.Years@essex.gov.uk) and we will do our best to support them to find childcare in their area.

We will also be able to share details of half day summer holiday activity clubs that will be running over the summer holiday period shortly too, for sharing with families of school aged children.

Introduction to supporting children with physical and neurological impairment (PNI) - the PNI Specialist Teaching team have put together a [short 12-minute training video](#) for early years professionals. It is especially useful if you are a preschool / nursery SENCo or inclusion manager. This training will give you an overview of PNI, the impact it has on children's development and where to get extra help. Afterwards, there is a short [post course task](#) to fill in so you can receive a certificate to show that you have completed the course.

Find out more about how the [PNI Specialist Teaching service](#) can help.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Best wishes

Carolyn

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