

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

From: Free Entitlement Funding Queries <FEEEQueries@essex.gov.uk>
Sent: 16 July 2020 23:13
Cc: Free Entitlement Funding Queries <FEEEQueries@essex.gov.uk>
Subject: Urgent - Please Read - Covid-19 Update 16 July 2020

Dear All

Please find updates below on the following areas: -

- Funding Portal and Autumn Forecast headcount
- Online Summer 2020 Childcare Sufficiency Survey
- Update on the Attendance Survey through summer holidays
- Re-issuing the Early Years Guidance for Re-Opening settings Framework
- Letter to Parents from Directors of and Public Health
- See Hear Respond Service
- Parent Governor Representatives Needed
- Family Innovation Fund-Xtra
- Recently issued guidance from the DfE

Funding Portal and Autumn Forecast headcount - please accept our apologies again, for the ongoing intermittent technical problems that have been experienced when trying to carry out checks for both the 30 hour and 2 year old checks on the Funding Portal. We have been working constantly with Capita, our system supplier, to try and get these issues resolved.

As a result of this and the number of you that have been affected, we have **re-opened the Autumn Forecast headcount task**. This re-opened today and will close on 24 July 2020.

Below are screen shots of the messages you will see when you log into your account on the portal, **please read these and follow any actions that are relevant for you**

Autumn Forecast headcount task live again 16 - 24 July. NB the checker is still working today.

This is the message on the Provider portal log in page

Technical issues: 30 hours and 2 year old checks are working. If you receive an error message when running checks - please try again tomorrow morning. The Forecast Headcount Tasks will be live again 16 - 24 July . Please complete your checks and submit again to confirm the data - even if you make no amendments.

For any log in issue you may need to clear your browsing history data and restart your computer before it will work. Email earlyyearsdata@essex.gov.uk for any further query.

And this is the message on the Announcements page

AUTUMN TERM 2020 FORECAST HEADCOUNT will be live again 16-24 July. Please submit to confirm the data is correct even if you make no amendments. Please run any further 30 hours code checks and add any new children. 2 year olds should be added using the Placement Notification process. The checker is working intermittently - our software provider is seeking a permanent solution - please try again tomorrow morning if you receive an error message. Payment is scheduled to be paid during August.

Online Summer 2020 Childcare Sufficiency Survey – this has now closed, but a really big thank you to everyone that completed this survey, we had a whopping 1,148 responses. We will be analysing this data and using it to help plan support needed going forward.

Update on the Attendance Survey through summer holidays – the DfE have confirmed that they will continue to issue the attendance survey through the summer holidays. Therefore, this will continue to be issued each week, but we will remove school nurseries and pre-schools from the distribution list. We will leave day nurseries and childminders on the list, but if you are not planning on being opening can you let us know by emailing the Free Entitlement Funding Queries mailbox (FEEEQueries@essex.gov.uk)

Re-issuing the Early Years Guidance for Re-Opening settings Framework – there are not any updates in this document, but we have re-circulated as some providers have not yet opened and it may be a useful resource to support any re-opening plans either for over the summer period or from September

Letter to Parents from Directors of Education and Public Health - Please see attached letter from Clare Kershaw, Director for Education and Mike Gogarty, Director of Public Health. The letter outlines the preparations that are taking place to prepare for all children and young people to return to school and settings and important information for parents and carers. Please do share this with your parents.

See Hear Respond Service the [See Hear Respond](#) is a service provided across England by Barnardo's and other national and local community-based organisations in response to COVID-19. The programme has been created to help children and young people in England who are experiencing harm and increased adversity during this period by providing support to those who are not seen by social care or other key agencies.

Working with its partners Barnardo's aims to reduce the likelihood of harm and ensure other support and protective networks are in place using:

- online digital support, including advice and information, online counselling and a telephone helpline
- face to face interventions, such as support for groups at risk outside the home and one to one support
- reintegration into education, including assessments and the delivery of support pathways back to education

See Hear Respond accept referrals from any source either through the Freephone number 0800 151 7015 and via the [online referral hub](#).

Parent Governor Representatives Needed - the below message is from our colleagues in the Essex Democratic Services team, who ask that we forward this to any of your staff or parents that are parent governors at their local school.

Essex County Council is seeking parent governors to come forward for nomination for election as independent members of the People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee. The

Council has two vacancies from September 2020; one for a primary school parent governor, and one for a secondary school parent governor.

The successful candidates must already be elected parent governors on an Essex school governing body. The only parent governors who are eligible are those who are in community, trust or foundation schools. If you are a parent governor of a school that is an academy, then you will not be eligible.

Parent governor members will sit alongside elected Members and church Diocesan representatives on the committee and may advise and vote on all matters relating to children's services in schools. The monthly meetings normally take place during the day (usually on a Thursday morning). At the moment they are being held virtually using Zoom but they may revert back to physical meetings at County Hall at some point in the future.

If more than one valid nomination is received for a vacant post then there will be an election held for that place. Those elected will hold a four-year term of office from September 2020, unless they resign or cease to be eligible to be a parent governor representative.

If you are already a parent governor of an eligible school and would like to nominate yourself as a parent governor representative, please contact Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer at Essex County Council, on 033301 34574 or by email - graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk for a nomination form. The period for nominations to be submitted closes at 5pm on Friday 7th August 2020.

Family Innovation Fund-Xtra - Please see attached flyer regarding the family Innovation fund services.

The current Family Innovation Fund (FIF) is a range of established services for Children, Young People and Parents/Carers with low level needs that cannot be supported by services such as Schools, and GPs alone. FIF provides that little bit of extra help to support children, young people and parents/carers.

FIF-Xtra services have been set up so there is even more help available during this time, online and via telephone, to support children, young people and their families who are experiencing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recently issued guidance from the DfE

[Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

[Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

[Help children aged 2 to 4 to learn at home during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[10 top tips to encourage children to read](#)

For those of you that will shortly be closing for the summer holiday period, I hope you are able to get some rest and chance to re-energise yourselves. For those of you that will continue to be open over the summer holiday period, we will also continue to be available to support with any queries or help you may need over this period.

Best wishes

Carolyn

Carolyn Terry

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