

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

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

Sent: 12 November 2020 22:07

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

Subject: Urgent - Please Read - Covid-19 Update 12 November 2020

Dear All

Please find updates below on the following areas:

- 1. Lateral flow testing**
- 2. Clubs and activities**
- 3. Winter hardship fund**
- 4. Update from Essex Contact Tracing Team (ECTT)**
- 5. Ofsted new early years inspection arrangements**
- 6. Early Years SEND Funding for Managers, SENCOs of PVI Settings and Childminders Training Workshop**
- 7. New email address for childminders to use to raise special educational needs and disabilities**
- 8. Updated FAQs**

1. Lateral flow testing

You may already be aware that Essex has been selected as one of the Local Authority areas to receive a supply of lateral flow test devices. These will speed up the turnaround time for Covid-19 test results and will have a significant impact on how we can manage positive cases going forward. Please find attached a letter with more information.

2. Clubs and activities

We are receiving a number of queries from schools regarding afterschool clubs and activities as there has been a lot of noise regarding a potential change in the guidance from the DfE on this. We have discussed this with the DfE several times and we are assured that updated guidance is coming this week. For now, I suggest you continue with the current arrangements and if the guidance changes, we will update you straight away.

3. Winter hardship fund

There have been headlines recently referring to Free School Meals and the detail of the articles are actually regarding the wider Winter Hardship Fund. We are waiting for further details on the fund and will then look to determine the most appropriate way to support families in hardship over the winter period. We will be in touch with you when we have further information.

4. Update from the Essex Contact Tracing Team (ECTT)

We have received some feedback regarding difficulties contacting the Essex Contact Tracing Team. The team have acknowledged that there is an intermittent technical issue with the answer phone and so if you cannot leave a voice message, please do use the email address: provide.escontacttracing@nhs.net

The team will call you back as soon as they can on the number you leave. They are finding that these calls are not always answered because the number is unrecognised so I wanted to make you aware that they may be calling you from an 01376 number and this is legitimate. You can always contact school communications if you have queries.

5. Ofsted new early years inspection arrangements

Ofsted is to introduce a new, more proportionate and flexible approach to inspecting nurseries and childminder that will prioritise the inspection of providers rated less than good. The link for more information is: -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-announces-new-early-years-inspection-arrangements>

6. Early Years SEND Funding for Managers, SENCOs of PVI Settings and Childminders Training Workshop

7.

This training will give you a better understanding of the possible streams of additional funding that is available in the Early Years sector to support children with SEND and will enhance the information around funding available on the [Early Years](#) website.

At the end of the course participants will have:

- A clear knowledge and understanding of the different streams of funding available.
- Be aware of the processes of making an application to apply for funding and where to submit it.
- Be aware of the information required when filling in an application or when information has been requested.
- A chance to discuss strategies, ways of utilising the additional funding and to record maximum impact.

Sessions are running on:

- **16th November 2020 at 2-4pm or**
- **16th November 2020 at 5-7pm.**

Both sessions are free and will be run virtually. To book please [click here](#).

8. New email address for childminders to use to raise special educational needs and disabilities

9.

(SEND) enquiries - email: EYSEND.CMEnquiries@essex.gov.uk

10. Updated FAQs – please see the attached document

Best wishes.

Carolyn

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