

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

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

Sent: 29 November 2020 22:00

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

Subject: Urgent - Please Read - Covid-19 Update 29 November 2020

Dear All

Included in this email are updates on:

- The new Tier arrangements from 2 December 2020
- Additional FEEE funding national budget announced
- Covid19 Winter Plan
- Covid19 Contingency Plan for Education and Childcare settings
- A summary of further updates from the DfE
- Extended Entitlement funding for the Spring 2021 term code confirmation reminder
- Emergency Covid19 Interim Inclusion Funding application form
- Amendment / Late claim headcount finalised
- Autumn 2020 FEEE Funding Additional payments
- Update FAQs

As you will all know by now, the Government announced last week most of the country, including Essex, is to be placed under new Tier 2 restrictions when the current lockdown lifts on Wednesday 2 December.

At this point, the Government announced details of a new three-tier system, which sees the tightening of restrictions involved in the tiers. [You can read more about the restrictions for each tier here.](#)

Also announced last week:

A national budget of an additional £44m in the April 2021 to March 2022 financial year, to increase the FEEE funding hourly rate paid to childcare providers, was announced in the Chancellor's Spending Review. Just to manage expectations, please be aware this amount will be shared between 150 councils, based on the national single funding formula which will lead to different allocations across the country. Once we have been informed of the Essex allocation, we will be able to calculate what hourly rate increase this brings and will share with you as soon as we can.

The [COVID-19 Winter Plan](#). The DfE has set out that they will be updating their guidance in the coming days to reflect how childcare settings should operate under the Local Restriction Tiers and we will share any updates with you as soon as we can.

The updates will include the latest advice for clinically extremely vulnerable children and staff and the provision of wraparound care. I have highlighted two key sections below:-

- **section 73** Nurseries, schools and colleges should not change their Christmas holidays or close early this term. Parents should continue to send their children to school during term time and students should continue to attend college right up until the end of term – our senior clinicians continue to advise that the best place for children and young people is in education. A time-limited change to social restrictions over Christmas does not require any children to be taken out of school prematurely. The leaders and staff of education settings have been doing an extraordinary job to remain open, keep settings safe and provide education.
- **Section 100** The Department for Education will update its guidance to reflect how settings should operate under the strengthened tier system, and an updated contingency framework in the exceptional circumstances in which further restrictions on education are required in any area. The Government will do everything possible to avoid enacting those contingency measures at any stage

The DfE has also said published their [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) contingency framework for education and childcare settings](#) which will apply in exceptional circumstances in which further restrictions on education settings will be required in any area. They have also been clear that the government will do everything possible to avoid enacting those contingency measures at any stage. The guidance states

An educational setting should not move to implement restrictive measures of the kind set out in the contingency framework without the explicit agreement of DfE.

Further updates from the DfE include: -

[Early years foundation stage statutory framework \(EYFS\)](#) the ‘Early years foundation stage: coronavirus dis-applications’ has been updated to remove reference to the original transition period and the PFA certification extensions, both which ended on 25 November 2020.

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#) has been updated to reflect the local restrictions, including changes to the sections on shielding, face coverings, school and college trips and extra-curricular activities.

[Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#) which has updated sections on ‘Children with health concerns’ and ‘Live performances of children’s dance, music and drama’, and an added section on ‘Parent and child groups’.

[Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#) which has been updated in the following sections: home education; educational visits and trips; providers of music, dance and drama or sports provision; who can attend your out-of-school setting; and equality, and added guidance about social distancing. These updates apply from 2 December.

Extended Entitlement funding for the Spring 2021 term code confirmation reminder – in case you haven’t already seen, I want to draw your attention to an email that was sent to all

FEEE funded providers via the funding portal last week, as a reminder for you to remind your eligible parents to either re-confirm their extended funding codes or ensure they will apply in good time ahead of the 31 December 2020 for new claimants.

Emergency Covid19 Interim Inclusion Funding application form - we know some of you are having difficulty in finding a health or education professional to provide a supporting statement to enable you to submit an early years inclusion funding application. Therefore, as a short term solution, we have introduced a temporary covid19 interim application for you to use. This will allow you to apply for up to 12 weeks of funding whilst liaising with health and education professionals. Please note this form should only be used as a last resort and not instead of trying to secure a supporting statement. You will need to be able to clearly evidence who you have contacted to ask to provide a supporting statement when you submit a temporary covid19 interim inclusion funding form.

The form can be found at the following link <https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/media/2021/temporary-covid-19-inclusion-funding-application.docx>

The Autumn 2020 Term Amendment / Late claim headcount has been finalised and just to update you, we have now started the process so you should receive any payment you are due shortly.

Autumn 2020 FEEE Funding Additional payments – payment amounts are in the process of being finalised for any settings that we have agreed are entitled to an additional payment (as their Autumn 2020 term funding payment was less than their Autumn 2019 term funding). Please note it is now too late to submit any new forms for any additional payment to be made

Update FAQs – please see the attached updated FAQs.

Best wishes.

Carolyn

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