

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

From: Free Entitlement Funding Queries

Sent: 12 February 2021 17:06

Subject: Urgent - Please Read - Covid-19 Update 12 February 2021 - Covid vaccinations

Dear All

We have received many queries from across the Essex early years sector today, querying whether a list on the National Careers Service which includes early years practitioners and childminders means that Covid-19 vaccines are now available for early years staff.

The National Careers Service allows people to explore career choices and opportunities to broaden their career horizons. The National Careers Service does not serve to present a strict classification of professional groupings and therefore cannot be used to prioritise staff for Covid-19 vaccines. The decision on prioritisation of Covid-19 vaccinations remains with the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisations (JCVI). The JCVI has not made any further announcements on the categorisation of those who should be receiving vaccinations under the current phase.

The NHS published a standard operating procedure (SOP) on the 14th January to support Local Authorities in identifying and vaccinating frontline social care workers as part of the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme. This includes the identification of eligible care workers and the roles and responsibilities within local systems for enabling and supporting care workers to be vaccinated. This document can be found here: [Coronavirus » Vaccinating frontline social care workers \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/vaccinating-frontline-social-care-workers/) and the DfE has confirmed today that there have not been any changes to this SOP.

We understand that this is disappointing, and that some early years practitioners have already made appointments to have a Covid-19 vaccination off the back of misleading information that has been shared via social media. Please be aware that should you choose to continue with any appointment, you may be asked to provide evidence that you are eligible to receive the vaccination and as a result may be turned away from the appointment. Unused vaccination slots will prevent someone who is in the current priority group from accessing their vaccination, and will inevitably slow down the rollout process.

Best wishes.

Carolyn

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