

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

From: Free Entitlement Funding Queries

Sent: 07 February 2021 20:44

Subject: Urgent - Please Read - Covid-19 Update 7 February 2021

Dear All

I hope you have had a restful weekend and enjoyed the snow.

Thank you for all of your feedback and comments on accessing Covid tests. We share the frustration in regard to being unable to provide home testing kits at this time and we are continuing to push for this; however the timescales to achieve this are not in our control.

The pilots whereby workers, such as in the Primary schools, can use the home testing kits are arranged directly with DoHSC and not through ECC. These pilots are being carefully evaluated by DoHSC.

The kits provided to LAs such as Essex are not manufactured for home testing. The license for the testing kits ECC have is for use in assisted testing and this is regulated by the Medical Regulatory Authority (MHRA). The MHRA as late as January have indicated these testing kits will be permitted for home use. However, the DoHSC is doing further work to ensure that we can safely implement these kits for home testing before permission will be given.

This is why ECC have offered the use of the LFT sites in the short term as that is the main option available currently. Please note we are also exploring if there is anyway the LFT sites can be open for longer to support a more flexible access for early years staff.

We are also continuing to look for options to secure priority for the Covid vaccinations for the whole education workforce, including early years practitioners and are looking at what other LAs are doing in this area too.

We will update on both of these as soon as we can, but please be assured that we do hear your frustrations and issues this is causing you and are continuing to explore all options as a matter of urgency.

Also included in this email: -

- Safeguarding briefing for Early Years - Spring 2021
- A call for evidence from Pacey
- Thinking Talking On-line training course
- Essex FEEE Contract 2021

Safeguarding briefing for Early Years - Spring 2021 please see the attached briefing from Jo Barclay for your information, including some resources and guidance in carrying out welfare checks for children not currently attending their childcare setting

Call for evidence from Pacey – please see the request from Pacey below

LA Early Years: Call for evidence

PACEY is looking for examples of early years providers that are experiencing financial difficulties due to the coronavirus pandemic. This will be shared with the Department for Education as evidence to back up our call for additional support for the early years sector.

If you have any examples in your area that might be useful to present in our next meeting with DfE, please send an email to policy@pacey.org.uk.

Thinking Talking On-line training course spoken language is important for learning and life chances for all children and young people, and never has spoken language been more important. This training is intended to give practitioners the skills to support all children, as well as those with language vulnerabilities. Please see the following link to find more details on on-line courses that are on offer to support this area [Thinking Talking - Booking by Bookwhen](#)

Essex FEEE Contract 2021 an early alert that the Essex FEEE contract for 2021 will shortly be issued for all childcare providers offering the FEEE to review and sign to continue offering the FEEE funding from 1 April 2021

Best wishes.

Carolyn

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