

Early Years Provider Newsletter

Edition 1, **April 2020**

INTRODUCTION –

Welcome to the first edition of the Early Years Provider Newsletter, a new quarterly publication providing useful snippets, updates and links to information and guidance on a range of topics including (but not limited to):

- Covid-19- help and support
- The Early Years Foundation Stage
- Early Help
- Health
- Safeguarding
- SEND and Inclusion
- Training and Development opportunities

Firstly we would like to thank you for all your hard work over the past few weeks through these difficult times, your hard work hasn't gone unnoticed! We can get through this together!

This is the first E-bulletin for some years and we want to make sure that it is helpful and informative for you so any feedback would be greatly appreciated. We also want it to reflect good practice and information from the sector, so please let us know any news items that you would like to be shared. It is not intended to replace our Facebook pages but to provide additional news items for you to explore.

You will be aware of the many changes that have occurred in the last 12 months with respect to local authority personnel and it's important that we keep you updated on further changes.

We plan to do this by:

- Developing the Early Years Forum to reflect the support and information you have fed back to us
- Establishing local early years networks for settings and schools to come together to discuss practice issues that are topical and important to you- the early years advisors will facilitate this work and listen to you about how this will work best.

During these difficult times we would particularly like you to inform us of any good news stories that you would be willing to share. You can inform us of these by e-mailing eya@bury.gov.uk. We will try to share these whenever possible on our [Facebook page](#), but please be aware we will not be able to share information about individual children due to data protection guidelines.

Introductions to Local Authority roles and functions

During this pandemic it has become increasingly apparent that we are not always the best at streamlined communications, and often you will receive information from different teams on the same day which does not help you, and has only served to confuse, and in turn you may have tried to reach a certain person and this has not been possible.

We have tried very hard to update our distribution lists by asking you to let us know any updates regarding contact details, thank you for your patience with this and please keep doing this.

Our early year's workers are based in different teams but are all working together to support you.

Please see details below:

Janet Watts

Family Information & Bury Directory Officer

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Email: j.watts@bury.gov.uk

Visit www.theburydirectory.co.uk

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Covid-19

Keep up to date with the latest developments and advice from Public Health England by clicking:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>

In case any setting are struggling to communicate with EAL families – please see below for a link to translated information on the coronavirus.

https://drive.google.com/drive/mobile/folders/193qQN9I04Dvf0N9L5zeWTiXK_DRbrAxg?usp=drive_open

Whenever any new guidance is issued we will email you straight away with the information and relevant links.

Remember to keep up to date with our [Facebook page](#) which we keep up to date on a daily, we've recently added everything you need to know including posters to download for your settings.

Many childcare providers have been providing us with updates regarding their current situation, also highlighting where they may have places available for those keyworker parents who may need them.

This information has been crucial in providing alternative care at very short notice, enabling keyworkers to continue in their vital roles. Any keyworker parents needing a place are being directed to childinfo@bury.gov.uk.

Current figures indicate there are 71 providers open, some of whom could take additional children if needed, 122 are closed and 11 have yet been unable to inform us.

We are currently working on a short online form where providers can quickly update their status and this will enable us to process the data much quicker and provide a more streamlined service for all. All providers will be notified as soon as this is available but in the meantime should continue to send any updates to childinfo@bury.gov.uk. Once the form is in place we ask that you continue to complete this to notify us of those changes

The Executive Director of Childrens Services- Karen Dolton has recently sent out a letter to you in relation to new COVID 19 legislation, and also in response to some of the letters you have sent in.

The letter also served to consult with you on the current situation regarding supply and demand of childcare places, as she is fully aware of the very difficult balance you have in providing a vital service for those who need it whilst being economically viable.

Whilst there has been a suggestion around setting up childcare hubs, there is no current evidence to support this in Bury although this may be a discussion that we need to have with you going forward.

Where financial and business support may be required to sustain the continued provision, Bury Council have a single point of contact you may wish to access- investin@Bury.goc.uk, where advice, support and signposting is available. This is in addition to the government support

The latest government update is really focused on the importance of vulnerable children and the best ways in supporting them into education.

The following is an extract from guidance issued by the DfE:

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend an education setting, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at severe risk. In circumstances where a parent does not want to bring their child to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker and education setting should explore the reasons for this, directly with the parent.

In the section below (EYFS) I wanted to share with you some plans we have around supporting young vulnerable children who may not be in provision, but also to ask if you have any ideas, good practice that you can share around how you are continuing to support both children and families who you may consider to be vulnerable.

Information re Food boxes

If you have any families that require a food box /parcel can you direct people to the early help inbox (earlyhelp@bury.gov.uk) to make their request with name, address and number of children.



Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years old.

The Early Years Advisors are now linked to locality areas and have made attempts to introduce themselves to you, please contact them direct if you would like telephone advice, support or just wanting to share with them some ideas you have around your practice.

They will also be prioritising their time in the next month or so working with social workers in Bury, supporting vulnerable children and families in providing a virtual offer so we can retain the focus around school readiness through these uncertain times.

In October 2019, The Department for Education (DfE) launched a public consultation seeking views on changes to the statutory framework for the EYFS. The consultation includes proposed changes to the educational programmes, the early learning goals and the EYFS profile assessment.

Please take a look at the link below which gives more information regarding the EYFS proposed reforms.

<https://foundationyears.org.uk/2019/10/eyfsreforms/>

Communication and Language Development

As most of you may be aware we are currently working on developing our Speech, Language and communication Pathway across Bury.

We have been working closely with our partners in schools, health, and the PVI sector to align the work we do across Bury for young children's speech, language and communication, and ensure all our children across Bury have access to early intervention.

We now have an extra 64 schools/settings trained to deliver [Wellcomm](#) across Bury, and an additional 1481 children have been screened using the Wellcomm tool.

We have set up links on [The Bury Directory](#) to support good practice around speech, language and communication development, and are hoping to develop a specific page for “Communication Champions” to access resources all in one place. This should be available very soon.

Our Communication Champion Networks started on 09/03/2020, and more are planned for later in the year. If you would like more information on the project, or the role of the Communication Champion please contact Sharon Walton or Sam McLaren on 0161 253 6436/5087

Please find attached some useful information pages that you may want to access to support your practice and advice on the home learning environment in his area...

The Communication Trust-Top tips for developing talk

https://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/media/617945/tct_toptips_pdf.pdf

Communication Friendly Checklists

<https://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/resources/resources/resources-for-practitioners/communication-friendly-checklists/>

Hungry Little Minds

<https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/>

Raa Raa the Noisy Lion

<https://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/resources/resources/resources-for-parents/raa-raa-the-noisy-lion/>

*Please see the training and development section of this e bulletin for more information re free online training

The launch for tiny happy people has been postponed

[View online](#)

The logo for BBC Tiny Happy People is displayed on a solid purple rectangular background. The word 'BBC' is in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters, each letter contained within its own white square. To the right of 'BBC', the word 'TINY' is in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The word 'Happy' is written in a large, yellow, cursive script font with a slight shadow effect. To the right of 'Happy', the word 'PEOPLE' is in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

We'll be adding lots of new content to our website, including more activities and advice from our Tiny Happy People families and experts.

We'll be talking about Tiny Happy People across TV, radio and online, and celebrating how and why chatting with young children from an early age can make a real difference to their lives.

We'd love you to be involved and there's more information in this email about ways you can join in.

Remember, everything we do is evidence-based and quality assured by the [Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists](#), and we work with **real families and experts**, including speech and language therapists, health visitors, midwives, and early years practitioners.

We have a new collection of social media images for you to download and share. In March, we'll be putting a spotlight on chatting with children and why it's so important.

[Download social media images](#)



NEW! You can now download and print our Tiny Happy People **posters and postcards** as part of our digital pack! Try displaying the posters in your organisation or community and help us share the campaign.

A5 postcards can be given to parents by Health

Visitors and Midwives at their appointments, or simply leave them in a place where they can be picked-up easily by families you work with.



Tiny Happy People is all about you and the communities you work with and during launch we want to tell **your stories**.

Tell us what you think of Tiny Happy People and how you're using it in your jobs by emailing us at: tinyhappypeople@bbc.co.uk

[Email us your stories](mailto:tinyhappypeople@bbc.co.uk)

Share this newsletter with any colleagues you think would be interested in learning more about our campaign. They can sign up to receive it by emailing us at: tinyhappypeople@bbc.co.uk

Subscribers can read our [privacy notice here](#) (this is explains how we store your data).

Thank you for supporting us and we hope you love seeing and hearing more from us next week!

Best wishes,
Tiny Happy People

Early Help

The 3 Early Help Locality Teams are now well established and cover the whole of Bury. They are working closely with other teams in supporting those families in crisis.

Children Centre provision is an integral part of this offer

As well as the provision of food and practical support, families can be supported through targeted

interventions according to need.

Should you wish to discuss a family you are concerned about you can contact somebody in the teams to discuss, or complete a Story so Far

Whitefield Locality team Tel: 0161 253 5077

Bury locality team Tel : 0161 253 5200

Radcliffe locality Team Tel 0161 253 7465

Other Health updates

Have you registered for the Bury Run for All Event (Bury 10K & Bury Fun Run) for further information visit: <https://www.runforall.com/events/10k/bury-10k/> This is currently planned for September 2020.

Safeguarding

Do you know that Bury Safeguarding Children Board is now known as Bury Integrated Safeguarding Partnership (BISP)

Keep up to date with everything you need to know about safeguarding children in Bury by visiting:

<https://burysafeguardingpartnership.bury.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=8876>

SEND and Inclusion

Visit [The Bury Directory](#) for details of '[Early Years SEN Targeted Support Funding](#)' and '[Early Years Special Educational Needs & Disability \(SEND\) Information](#)'

All settings must have regard to the SEN and disability code of practice. The SENCO supports practitioners in understanding their responsibilities to young children with SEN and disabilities, as set out in the Code. A shorter Early Years Guide to the SEND Code of Practice is published on the [Department for Education website](#).

Visit:

<https://www.theburydirectory.co.uk/kb5/bury/directory/directory.page?directorychannel=1-1-9>

Training and Development Opportunities

Visit [The Bury Directory](#) for details of [Training Providers*](#)

*Please note: Independent Training providers are not linked to, or endorsed by Bury MBC. You should always make all your own checks regarding fitness for purpose and suitability to meet your needs, however the new Early Years Quality Networks will be a good forum for these discussions and sharing any good and valuable support you have had.

Visit:

<https://www.theburydirectory.co.uk/kb5/bury/directory/directory.page?directorychannel=1-1-9>

Did you know the [Are you ready for Inspection 2020](#) page on [The Bury Directory](#) has now gone live. Click the link for all the advice:

https://www.theburydirectory.co.uk/kb5/bury/directory/advice.page?id=E9oJl_6JraM

You will also find other training opportunities within the Children's trust newsletter which is emailed to you every week, we also include details of training available from this newsletter on our [Facebook page](#).

For copies of previous newsletters visit:

<https://www.bury.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=14794>

CPD – Online short course (free)-to support practice in Speech, Language and Communication Development.

<https://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/projects/professional-development/online-short-course/>

Register now and watch online –The 2020 Early Years Summit- Speech, Language and Communication –From host Kathy Brodie

<https://www.earlyyearssummit.com/>

