

# **Early Years Provider Newsletter**

Edition 4 2020

## **Introduction**

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Early Years E –bulletin, which has lots of information on a number of topics

- Breaking news!
- Covid - 19
- Early Years Funding
- Early Years Foundation Stage
- Safeguarding information from Mark Gay
- SEND & Inclusion
- Feedback & Your Stories
- Training
- Life after Lockdown- New segment

## Breaking News!

### Breaking News!

We are fortunate in being able to access the support of an Ofsted HMI for a short period of time, to work with us on an area we feel needs developing.

Whilst we know there is a great deal to celebrate in Bury we recognise that more could be done in terms of strengthening the relationship across the early years workforce between early years settings and early years provision in schools.

Amanada Stringer (HMI) has helped us develop a short action plan, part of which includes a brief survey to ask your views.

I apologise beforehand for the many requests you have for information, but hopefully this will only take a couple of minutes for you to complete, and we can then feedback to you the results and the draft plan.

Ultimately, this will support us having a more joined-up approach to school (life) readiness , giving real value to the work you and families have started.

Thank you in anticipation

*Sue Reynolds*

Strategic Lead for Early Years and Early Help

## Covid – 19

As always can we take this opportunity to thank you for the information and updates you have provided so far and continue to provide, it's extremely helpful and very much appreciated

We will be asking for more information shortly and the online form is being updated to suit

We would like to say a big thank you to all of you who completed the survey it has given us a great insight on what you as providers are finding and what issues you may be facing going forward

A number of you have been in touch with us to ask for clarification on whether early years providers are permitted to take small groups of children out to outdoor public places, for example parks, provided that the group can stay 2m away from other people at all times. We have now agreed the position with Public Health England

and this information can be circulated to the sector. A Q&A on this matter is copied below and we will update our guidance to include it at the next opportunity.

Do let us know if you have any further questions.

***Can early year's providers take groups of children to outdoor public places, for example if there is not private outdoor space in the setting?***

*Settings should maximise use of private outdoor space, while keeping small groups of children and staff away from other groups. Childminders and early year's providers may take small groups of children to outdoor public spaces, for example parks, provided that a risk assessment demonstrates that they can stay 2m away from other people at all times. This should be restricted to small groups and should be done in line with wider government guidelines on the number of people who can meet in outdoor public places. Providers should not take larger groups of children to public outdoor spaces at one time.*

The guidance on PPE has also been updated to the following:

***Preparing for the wider opening of schools and early years settings***

Guidance on the actions for education and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from 1 June, at the earliest, can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-early-years-and-childcare-settings-from-1-june>

Guidance on implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

Clarification on the requirement for providers to carry the appropriate insurance (for example, public liability insurance) to cover all premises from which they provide childcare or childminding.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

**Please see below the updated position on wraparound care from DfE**

- The Government's overriding priority remains keeping the public safe. Any steps as part of a phased lifting of restrictions will therefore be measured and guided by the science.
- schools can now welcome back some of their pupils on a phased basis, and that registered early years providers can now welcome back all of their early years children. Schools and early year's providers should ensure that all their children are treated fairly and equitably. Apart from those children who are eligible to return to attend early years and school, it remains the case that parents should keep their children at home where possible to limit the chance of the virus spreading.
- In doing so, they should be following the same protective measures as schools and early years providers (depending on the age of the children attending); and, as far as possible, ensuring they are only caring for children from one school or early years provider, and keeping children in the same small consistent groups that they would otherwise be in throughout the day.
- Where registered wraparound childcare providers do not operate on the same premises as the school or early years setting that children attend during the day, they may only offer provision outside, provided they can do so safely in line with the Government's "Staying alert and safe (social distancing)" guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing>), which allows up to six people from different households to meet outdoors. In doing so, providers should ensure they can keep children a minimum of 2 metres apart and in groups of no more than 6, including staff members.
- DfE are currently hoping to amend the Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions)(England) Regulations 2020, as part of Step 3 of the Government's recovery strategy (anticipated no earlier than 4<sup>th</sup> July), to enable registered wraparound childcare providers, who do not operate on the same premises as the school or early years setting that children attend, to open for indoor provision. We would also anticipate adjustments to the current measures for unregulated providers / out-of-school settings –which are currently required to keep their premises closed – to be part of Step 3 of the recovery strategy, based on further detailed scientific advice provided closer to the time.
- Subject to the parliamentary process, providers who do not operate on the same premises as the school or early years setting that children attend

during the day, would be expected to ensure as far as possible they follow the protective measures set out in government guidance; which would also include ensuring that, as far as possible, they are only caring for children from one school or early years provider, and that they are working closely with the school or early years providers that their children attend, to ensure as far as possible they are keeping children in the same small consistent groups that they are in throughout the day; and otherwise appropriately socially distanced.

### **Updated lines on Summer provision:**

- All providers running holiday clubs and activities for children over the summer holiday will be able to open, if the science allows. The time anticipated for holiday clubs to open is no earlier than 4<sup>th</sup> July, as part of Step 3 of the Government's recovery strategy. Guidance will be provided to the sector soon on how to implement the protective measures necessary to open safely, and to parents on how to minimise the spread of the virus if they choose to attend.

### **Furlough**

**The latest date that providers can furlough staff that have not been furloughed before is 10 June.** All staff that have been furloughed at least once by this date – whether or not they are on furlough as of 10 June – will continue to be eligible for the scheme after 1 July. In the great majority of instances we expect that providers will be removing some or all of their staff from furlough, given the wider opening that is now possible. However, we recommend that providers consider their own circumstances and whether it is necessary to furlough additional staff by 10 June (while continuing to ensure the conditions set out in DfE's guidance are met).

The Department for Education would expect providers to bring staff off furlough and back to work as demand increases. In practice this will mean that, for example, if a provider has furloughed six members of staff, and they need three back at work in order to meet demand for childcare, then they should bring three staff off furlough and back to work, and reduce their claim on the CJRS accordingly.

### **Parents returning to work after extended leave eligible for furlough**

[Announcement](#) from the Chancellor that parents on statutory maternity and paternity leave who return to work in the coming months will be eligible for the furlough scheme even after the 10 June cut-off date. Claims from July onwards will be restricted to employers currently using the scheme and previously furloughed employees. However, this announcement confirms that parents on statutory maternity and paternity leave who return to work in the coming months after a long

period of absence will be permitted to be furloughed. This also applies to staff on adoption leave, shared parental leave, and parental bereavement leave.

## Early Years Funding

### **30 Hours Childcare**

Please encourage parents to continue to apply for, and reconfirm, their 30 hours entitlement, even if they choose to keep their child away from their childcare setting, to help them prepare for their transition back into childcare attendance in September. **Parents must have applied by 31<sup>st</sup> August to be eligible from September.**

## Early Years Foundation Stage

Sharon Walton and Sam McLaren hosted a virtual Communication Champion Network Meeting on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2020, in conjunction with Alexis Doyle (Communication champion) from Guardian Angels RC School, Bury. The meeting was well attended and a PowerPoint was delivered with a focus on supporting our children's well-being and transition back into schools and settings, and also positive strategies around speech, language and communication. The meeting was also an opportunity to consult with our champions, and share our ideas relating to the Early Years Speech, Language and Communication Pathway for Bury.



We have over **65 Communication Champions** now across Bury who are doing excellent early intervention work with our pre-school children supporting them to be school ready, and narrowing the word gap. Please see the presentation below that was presented at the meeting.



Network meeting for  
CC- June 2020.ppt

Please also find a link below to the twitter page that has been set up by one of the Communication Champions. The aim of this page is to share good practice ideas and additional information on how to support children's speech, language and communication across the early year's sector in Bury.



<https://twitter.com/BuryCommChamps>

There is a very interesting piece addressing anti-racism in the early years [To Laura Henry's brilliant piece in Nursery World](#), We're still educating ourselves and understanding what we can add to the conversation over the next few weeks and beyond - for now this is a great starting point.

This week, we've been featuring pieces on the transition back, and what it means for children. First up, [Sue Asquith runs us through why transitions back can be difficult](#) and shares some ideas to make things smoother

You will by now have received the Bury Transition Guidance documentation. To support you in working through the practice of this your Early Years Advisors are available before the end of term to facilitate workshops or discussion groups. Please contact them to let them know you are interested in this.

## Safeguarding

**Mark Gay (LADO)** has shared some really useful information/guidance that will be useful not only for your settings but within your family and wider community

### Information for Private Sector organizations in relation to Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

*‘Technology has changed the way we live, learn, work and play. Yet, there is a dark side. Technology also facilitates the exploitation of children. We must innovate. We must catch-up. There are limits to what governments and law enforcement can do alone, but there is no limit to what governments, law enforcement and committed private sector leaders can do together.’* Ernie Allen, WePROTECT Chairman 2017

Before using the information provided here, we recommend you review the [UK Council on Child Internet Safety \(UKCCIS\) 2015 guidance on general measures to improve the safety of online services for children](#). The UKCCIS guidance provides minimum standards on providing a safe online service for children to use.

Please click on the links below for further information:

1. [What is online child sexual abuse and exploitation \(CSAE\)?](#)
2. [How can you prevent online CSAE?](#)
3. [How can you identify online CSAE?](#)
4. [How do you report online CSAE?](#)
5. [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)



### **How to manage your Facebook data**

Facebook has launched a new function this week. Read our blog to find out more.

[READ BLOG](#)



### ***Understanding the experience of LGBTQ young people***

Key statistics from national reports inside a contextual safeguarding infographic.

[READ BLOG](#)

## **Send & Inclusion**

### ***Changes to the law on education, health and care needs assessments and plans due to coronavirus (COVID-19)***

We have updated our guidance on temporary legislative changes to education, health and care (EHC) needs assessments to include information on cases in progress on 1 May 2020 when the amended regulations came into force, annual reviews requirements for those with EHC plans who are transitioning between phases of their education, actions following a tribunal ruling, and the unchanged duties in relation to social care provision.

The guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-law-on-education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-due-to-coronavirus>

#### **Modification notice: EHC plans legislation changes**

Added a second notice for June 2020. Updated 29 May

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modification-notice-ehc-plans-legislation-changes>

#### **Changes to the law on education, health and care needs assessments and plans**

Annual reviews for those changing phase of education; actions following a tribunal ruling; and unchanged duties in relation to social care provision in plans  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-law-on-education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-due-to-coronavirus>

## Feedback & Your Stories

A little snippet from Radcliffe Locality from Gill Mirabatur - Early Years Advisor

*Although there are still a lot of concerns you have shared around practice, many settings are telling us **that** children have returned very positively – of those we have spoken with. Settings are focusing on settling the children back in and supporting their wellbeing. It would appear that the good work you have done by keeping in touch with children and families during lockdown has supported children back. This in turn has supported parent's confidence when settings have discussed with them what practice will be like when their child returns.*

## Training and information

### Bereavement Training

Free on-line training for all education providers

<https://www.childbereavementuk.org/bereavement-awareness-training-for-education-providers>

Child Bereavement UK are offering training webinars currently

<https://www.childbereavementuk.org/webinars>

You can now access the E-bulletins on Bury Directory

<https://theburydirectory.co.uk/services/early-years-provider-newsletter>

Advice for practitioners on helping families and children settle back in at their early year's settings. It's from the Anna Freud website, a well-regarded national mental health and well-being centre for families and children for whom HRH Duchess of Cornwall Princess Kate is the patron of.

<https://www.annafreud.org/media/11730/early-years-return-040620.pdf>

The link below provides some really useful guidance on how to disinfect and care for wooden resources during the pandemic

<https://www.communityplaythings.co.uk/learning-library/articles/covid19-care>

Also just in case people haven't picked up information about the new Anna Freud EYs learning network. A fabulous resource

<https://www.annafreud.org/insights/news/2020/06/new-learning-network-launched-for-early-years-workers/>



Bury Directory has been updated and is now easier to use than ever, you can find activities and resources and activities that are taking place over summer, ranging from reading challenges to biking sessions

### **Life after lockdown**

As some childcare providers are returning to a fuller environment and some re-opening after closure, we would like to encourage you to share any positive stories, hints and tips that you feel others may find useful in their practice and to champion the good work here in Bury. So if you feel you have anything you would love to share please email [S.McLaren@bury.gov.uk](mailto:S.McLaren@bury.gov.uk).