

Peer Support Network round-up

27.04.2020

As we enter into the second month of lockdown, the Peer Support Network seek more reassurance from regular contact with fellow families, carers and support workers. Blanket bans on families visiting loved-ones in residential care settings continue. This is causing increased anxiety for individuals and their families. It is vital that families are involved in decision-making regarding maintaining contact. The Peer Support Network promotes families, care-providers and case-managers working co-operatively to assess the risks in preventing family contact, especially where an individual lacks capacity to communicate their wishes. Social distancing measures are in place, but people's rights to private and family life under the Human Rights Act remain. For more information visit:

<https://www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk/learning-disability-assets/restrictionsoncontactwithfamily.pdf>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for care staff supporting adults with learning disabilities and autistic adults

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-supporting-adults-with-learning-disabilities-and-autistic-adults/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-care-staff-supporting-adults-with-learning-disabilities-and-autistic-adults>

This new guidance from Central Government may also be useful to families supporting a loved-one with complex needs. It covers the importance of having a contingency plan for care in place in case primary carers/ support teams show symptoms of Covid-19. It highlights the importance of clear and accessible communication and consistency in care to reduce anxiety. We are reassured to see that government also signpost resources from The Challenging Behaviour Foundation including a visual summary of [what to do if the behaviour of the person you support changes and begins to challenge](#).

IPSEA update on COVID-19, school closures and SEN provision

Independent Provider of Special Education Advice (known as IPSEA) have a useful and up-to-date FAQ on how the COVID-19 measures will affect children and young people with special educational needs ("SEN"). This includes reference to a letter from Minister for Children and Families, Vicky Ford addressing children and young people with SEN and their families. This resource makes a point of highlighting the risk to a child or young person's health and wellbeing if they do not receive provision as outlined in their EHCP.

<https://www.ipsea.org.uk/news/ipsea-update-on-covid-19-school-closures-and-sen-provision>

Council for Disabled Children FAQ

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/field/attachemnt/FAQs%20-%20Covid-19%20-%20Final.pdf>

Real questions from real people. This FAQ shares questions sent into the CDCQuestions@ncb.org.uk email inbox. Each week the questions received are collated and

shared with the Department for Education (DfE) as well as colleagues with specific areas of expertise within CDC. Each FAQ includes questions received before Wednesday lunch time of the week in which it is published.

Carerscast Podcast

This episode features an interview with a support worker and service manager in Adult Social Care supporting a man with autism through the experience of lockdown. It reveals huge dignity and sensitivity in an approach to person-centred support during a time of crisis.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/episode-6/id1505964670?i=1000472684959>

Visit the Covid-19 Resources from Project Art Works here:

<https://projectartworks.org/covid-19/>

Find out more about the Peer Support Network at www.projectartworks.org

Contact esther@projectartworks.org if you have any questions.