

Peer Support Network round-up

3rd June 2020

As lockdown measures are easing and schools are encouraged to take in more pupils we caught up with schools and parent carers. SEN Schools in East Sussex are taking a measured approach to reopening, assessing the risks and paying careful attention to the practical ramifications of delivering teaching and learning in-line with social distancing. There is hesitation expressed on behalf of parents around sending their children to school and whether the easing of lockdown is premature. Some parents are worried that if they make the decision not to send their child to school when encouraged to attend, this may impact negatively on their education choices, control and provision going forward.

Below are some resources that have been gathered this week to support you in your decision-making and general updates from the Peer Support Network.

Resources to support Families with caring for children and young people

Sector Letter to Children & Families Minister

The National Network of Parent Carer Forums are one of a number of organisations that have written to Children & Families Minister Vicky Ford about the impact of Coronavirus on children with SEND including the legal changes; preparations for the return to school, and the urgent need to progress the SEND Review.

The letter also covers lack of therapeutic interventions and the potential impact of this on children's physical and mental health and wellbeing both now and in the longer term.

<http://www.nnpf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Sector-letter-to-the-Childrens-Minister-May2020.pdf>

Widgit Back to School Toolkit

Widgit have produced a Back to School Toolkit of resources to help support signage, wayfinding and personal care around a socially distanced school environment. The toolkit also includes a set of wellbeing and mental health resources to assist children returning to school after such a major disruption to their normal day-to-day lives.

https://www.widgit.com/resources/popular-topics/back-to-school-june/index.htm?utm_source=Widgit+Bulletin+List&utm_campaign=c3971fa03b-WIDGIT-JOURNAL-MAY-2020&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_ff234fd52c-c3971fa03b-501025825&mc_cid=c3971fa03b&mc_eid=0616486c4b

Government guidance:

Coronavirus (COVID-19) implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings

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

General Peer Network resources and information:

Infection Control Fund

Do you employ carers and PAs via Direct Payments of a Personal Health Budget? Are you facing increased financial pressure to ensure standards of cleanliness and hygiene are maintained in your home for infection control to protect you, your loved-one and care team? Or do you need further resources such as sanitising systems? We want to hear from you.

In our last meeting we discussed the governments **£600m infection control fund** to combat Covid-19 in care homes. The allocation for East Sussex County Council is **£10,737,440 based on 8,332 registered care home beds in May 2020**. 75% of the initial funding received is to be passed straight to care homes within the local authority's geographical area. The remaining 25% must also be used for infection control measures, however local authorities are able to allocate based on need.

We have been asked to report back to East Sussex Country Council on those in need. Please contact Esther – esther@projectartworks.org

Fit testing face masks to avoid transmission during the coronavirus outbreak

This week two members of the Peer Support Network on the shielding list have been contacted by their CHC case managers to check their PAs and support teams have adequate PPE including testing face masks to avoid transmission. The Peer Network advise to make contact with your case manager if you have not received any PPE or instruction for use.

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/face-mask-ppe-rpe-coronavirus.htm>

Learning Disability England webinars

LDE have recorded video webinars covering a range of issues during Covid-19 from how to stay connected, advocate for loved-one needs and putting in place emergency care plans. <https://www.learningdisabilityengland.org.uk/what-we-do/events/lde-webinars/>

The next webinar (9th June) is on basic principles of law underpinning decision making like the Mental Capacity Act and DoLS and Esther will be attending on behalf of the Peer Support Network. She will report back with relevant information and key headlines.

Carers Voices Conference

Care for the Carers have announced a series of online events throughout July as part of their annual conference. At a time when carers are even more isolated, Carer for the Carers are encouraging parent carers and young carers to share their views. Topics include young carers' health and wellbeing, exploring ways for parent carers to be heard above the noise and making Health & Social Care Systems work for carers.

The free conference is open to all unpaid carers in East Sussex. Find out more and book your place: <https://www.cftc.org.uk/make-a-difference/have-your-say/carers-conference/carers-voices-conference-2020/>

News

Shielders resist new guidance on going outdoors

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/news/2020/june/shielders-resist-new-guidance-going-outdoors?fbclid=IwAR0YyAL7Oo7zpLxZEmNZHwqxZnBlyfe249cMtSVCV5z8v5EYXFo9pcJ4O5>
Y
