

To: All Headteachers

Ealing Council
Perceval House
14-16 Uxbridge Road
London W5 2HL

Tel 020 8825 5000

17th August 2020

Dear Colleagues

COVID– 19 Recovery Phase: Arrangements for the provision of Children's Services from September

I do hope that you were able to have a good break over the summer and are looking forward to welcoming all children and young people back to school as we all are.

As we plan for a wider re-opening, I know that staff and parents may have some concerns about staff from outside of the school attending school, for example, where they are visiting a number of schools and community settings to deliver services. To reassure you, I wanted to share with you the arrangements the Council has put in place to ensure that the risks to school communities and our staff that provide services to schools or children and young people are managed well.

The pandemic has been a catalyst for developing and speeding up new ways of service delivery and we want to build on these developments. We will continue to provide services remotely where this is the most efficient and safest way for schools and our staff. For example, many support functions can be delivered in this way as can meetings with staff and parents.

In other cases, for example, provision of therapies and EP and social worker assessments of children's needs, it is absolutely essential that more face to face provision is reinstated with appropriate safeguards in place. The national guidance is that these services should be admitted to schools. However, in these cases, staff will only remain in your school for the time necessary to complete their work.

To ensure a co-ordinated approach cross the Council, during August, all service managers have undertaken individual and service risk assessments. Any change from remote working and reopening of services is agreed by the Council's Senior Leadership Team. Similar arrangements exist in our Health service providers.

I can assure you that staff that need to attend schools will have had an individual risk assessment, understand the general and any specific protective measures that they need to follow in schools and between visits and be provided with appropriate PPE based on risk assessments.

Arrangements for visitors to your school

You know your school facilities and its community best and you will have your own arrangements in place in respect of Council staff visiting your school. These may include, which entrance to enter, who to report to on arrival, arrangements for ensuring social distancing at any face to face meetings etc. If at all possible, it would be helpful if you were able to publish on your website or send to Service Heads details of these arrangements. Staff have been advised to contact the school to clarify the arrangements you have in place for their visit. Except in very exceptional cases, there will no unscheduled visits to schools.

Service specific information

Individual services will publish updates on their service delivery on the EGfL. Should you have any specific concerns please do raise these with the Head of the Service in the first instance.

Review and monitoring of new working arrangements

We will monitor how these arrangements are working generally through the Schools Consultative Group and Heads' meetings and will seek to clarify any concerns with regard to the arrangements made by partner organisations.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judith Finlay', written in a cursive style.

Judith Finlay
Executive Director Children, Adults and Public Health

Tel 020 8825 5426
email finlayj@ealing.gov.uk