

Sandwell Foster Carers

5 NOVEMBER 2020

Welcome to this special edition newsletter

National Lockdown

As you know, we have entered a new lockdown in England today and so I wanted to reach out and reassure you that the Trust Executive Management team have been working hard to revise guidance on staying safe over the next month and beyond.

Visits

The Pre-Visit Risk Assessment (PVRA) remains the cornerstone of our approach to making sure that you and the children you care for are safe. Please make sure the visiting social worker completes the PVRA before each visit and that they apply the rules around social distancing and use PPE where necessary.

Family Time (in the community or at the Hollies)

The contact between children and their birth parents is incredibly important, so we are making sure our risk assessment and control measures in place for the Hollies takes account of the rules around this lockdown to make sure that family time can continue. As venues potentially close and our opportunity for community-based contact reduces with darker nights and winter weather, I know there is a capacity issue at the Hollies which means that we are not able to carry out the number of family time sessions we would like to. To address this, we are preparing risk assessments and speaking to our colleagues in Public Health, Trade Unions and Health & Safety, to look at alternative ways and venues to facilitate family time. I will keep you posted about this.

Direct work with children, young people and families

We must recognise the need for some services to be able to carry out face to face direct work with their children and young people. We are in the process of preparing risk assessments that take account of the new lockdown measures to keep you and the children you care for safe. Again, I will keep you posted about this.

Supporting our most vulnerable carers, children and young people

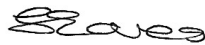
During the last lockdown, many of our partners rallied round to provide additional support to our most vulnerable - a great example of this was the council run food bank. Whilst we are still waiting to see if there will be anything like this coordinated again we have strong links with our partners – we are refreshing our lists of vulnerable carers, children and young people so whatever it takes we will be there to support those that need it.

We are keeping a watchful eye on the guidance from central government and from Public Health England and will let you know of any significant changes. If you want to access the guidance it can be found here:

www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november



Don't forget that your Supervising Social Worker is always here to provide any help, support and advice that you may need. Please continue to take care and stay safe. I look forward to speaking to you again at the end of the month.



Shanti Eaves
Head of Service, Children in Care, Care Leavers and Fostering

DON'T FORGET TO CONTACT US! IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER!

This is your newsletter, so do you know about any great fostering resources, or perhaps just an article or web link you want to share? Anything that could be useful to fellow foster carers – we'll help you let them know. Or if you have an idea, comment or request about fostering in general or what should be in your newsletter, contact your allocated Supervising Social Worker or email us at

Fostering_Info@sandwellchildrenstrust.org
