



To All Headteachers

Children, Young People and Education

County Hall
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Date: 25th January 2021

Dear Colleague

As we start another working week, we can see that the infection rates in the County have continued to fall, but details of when the wider reopening of schools will happen remain unknown. Pressure continues to mount on Government for school staff to be prioritised for vaccination, something we hope will be agreed in advance of full reopening.

Wellbeing for Education (WER) funded offer for Headteachers

KCC have agreed that some of the Wellbeing for Education Return funding can be used directly to support Kent Headteachers. Headteachers can now request a conversation of up to an hour with Kelly Hannaghan our Mental Health and Wellbeing Consultant who has been delivering the WER training. You can find information about Kelly on our website <https://www.theeducationpeople.org/our-expertise/mental-health-wellbeing/>. She can talk through practical strategies of self-care to reduce stress and anxiety and signpost other organisations including coaching support accessible through your SIA for further help if required. To access this support please contact your senior adviser listed below.

Secondary - Contact either:

South and East Kent - Siobhan Price Siobhan.price@theeducationpeople.org or North and West Kent - Kim Gunn kim.gunn@theeducationpeople.org

Primary - Contact your Senior Improvement Adviser

North - karen.claxton@theeducationpeople.org

South - Mary.priestley@theeducationpeople.org

East - Catherine.wilson@theeducationpeople.org

West - Polly.sharman@theeducationpeople.org



WER offer for HT.pdf

Mainstream Core Standards

As you are aware, we published the new SEND Mainstream Core Standards guide earlier this month. Please could I ask that you ensure both the guide and the parent version is signposted on your website, with the links below. Links to the old documents will need updating to these.

MCS guide:

https://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/117256/Special-educational-needs-mainstream-core-standards.pdf

Parent version:

https://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/117257/Special-educational-needs-mainstream-core-standards-guide-for-parents.pdf

Guidance on further testing after a positive COVID test

The guidance, found here, [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) states that

“After your isolation period has ended

If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you will probably have developed some immunity to the disease. However, it cannot be guaranteed that everyone will develop immunity, or how long it will last. It is possible for PCR tests to remain positive for some time after COVID-19 infection. Anyone who has previously received a positive test result for COVID-19 should only be re-tested within a 90-day period if they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19.”

However, some schools have been advised that this is not the same for Lateral Flow tests and weekly testing should also continue for those who have previously tested positive. We have sought further clarity and been informed that further updates will be made to the guidance this week. We will provide clarity on this as soon as it is available.

Mass testing – storing of information.

Schools have to log the test kit numbers, the details of who had the test, and the result. The guidance says schools should retain the information for 12 months after last record is made, however the spreadsheet provided for this recording says retain for 8 years. We have sought clarification and been advised that the correct time is 12 months.

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) – Primary schools

A standard operating procedure document for primary school mass testing has been issued and can be found in the Primary Google Drive. The link will take you to all the documents required including the SOP.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1X4fLxy6_ppmpmKrv3hT2M6cduAN_GS54

Contact tracing period

We have been made aware that some schools have been advised that for contact tracing they have to go back 5 days (not 2). We are not aware of any changes and again have sought clarification. While this is awaited our Public Health Team advises we continue to use the published advice of 2 days.

CYPE contact with Service Users

A [Contact with Service Users Grid](#) has been created as a guide to the type of contact colleagues in KCC CYPE are having with young people. The document will be subject to amendments as the pandemic progresses and the numbers of staff able to carry out visits and assessment work in the community changes, however, it provides an indication of when face to face or virtual contact is most likely to be applicable. You should discuss arrangements for individual children with their social worker or the team involved.

Keeping Children Safe in Education Update

The DfE have issued a revised version of [KCSIE 2020](#) with changes strictly limited to those related to the UK leaving the EU. From 01 January 2021 the TRA Teacher Services system will no longer maintain a list of those teachers who have been sanctioned in EEA member states. Candidates from overseas **must** undergo the same checks as all other staff in schools, including obtaining an enhanced DBS certificate with barred list information. This still applies even if the candidate has never been to the UK.

Further information can be found in Paragraph 172 of the revised document, which can be found [here](#). For link to related blog and full document, click on the link below.

<https://www.theeducationpeople.org/blog/keeping-children-safe-in-education-2020-post-eu-exit-update/>

KCC Concessionary Leave

You may be aware that KCC's management team decided to give their employees an extra day off work on the 23 December. I am advising you of this decision because support staff unions have queried whether this decision applies to schools' staff on Kent terms and conditions. As this is not a change to Kent's terms and conditions, it was the Council's Corporate Management Team exercising their discretionary powers, the decision does not apply to school staff. Management discretion regarding matters of this nature in schools rest with headteachers acting within the policies set by their governing bodies.

Yours sincerely



David Adams
Interim Director of Education