Dear Early Years and Childcare Providers

In addition to the updates sent on Tuesday of this week, please see below another of this week’s Government updates for you and your staff.  We expect the Actions for Early Years and Childcare Providers During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak document to be updated accordingly, but this has not been done at the time of producing this email.

Also below you will also see a message from Kent County Council’s Reconnect Team regarding a new round of Locality Bids.

**Government Updates**

[Confirmatory PCR tests to be temporarily suspended for positive lateral flow test results](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/confirmatory-pcr-tests-to-be-temporarily-suspended-for-positive-lateral-flow-test-results?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=29133936-ab09-4ad6-b091-6438d44c9026&utm_content=daily) 5 January 2022

First Published: From 11 January in England, people who receive positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results for COVID-19 will be required to self-isolate immediately.

Under this new approach, anyone who receives a positive LFD test result should [report their result on GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result) and must self-isolate immediately but will not need to take a follow-up PCR test.

Lateral flow tests are taken by people who do not have COVID-19 symptoms. Anyone who develops 1 of the 3 main COVID-19 symptoms should stay at home and self-isolate and take a PCR test. They must self-isolate if they get a positive test result, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test – these rules have not changed.

**Message from the Reconnect Team**

The Reconnect: Kent Children and Young People Programme was created to try and reconnect children and young people with things they have missed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Young people have told us that they want to return to doing fun activities with friends and family, enjoy new experiences such as festivals and camping, start their hobbies again and take part in clubs, and enjoy the outdoors by taking part in activities such as climbing and kayaking.

Reconnect is a universal programme, focussing on providing positive experiences and opportunities for Kent’s children and young people, in recognition of the sacrifices they have made throughout the pandemic. More information about Reconnect can be found on our [website](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.kent.gov.uk%2Feducation-and-children%2Fschools%2Freconnect&data=04%7C01%7CFrancesca.Henderson2%40kent.gov.uk%7C6ff626279ae6496ba13a08d9d04c9338%7C3253a20dc7354bfea8b73e6ab37f5f90%7C0%7C0%7C637769849572851417%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=ySSD3SvxMZUmyQ%2F4YjHk3WIH5AxtY%2BwEatIBZL0JyP0%3D&reserved=0).

**Reconnect Locality Grant**

Kent County Council is looking to fund community-based organisations to deliver projects, activities, and opportunities as part of the Reconnect Programme.

Applications for the final round of Reconnect Locality Grants are now open. This grant funding can be used by community groups and organisations to deliver projects, activities and events for children and young people in summer 2022.

Full criteria and guidance for the grant, and details of how to apply, can be found here:

[https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/community-grants-and-funding/reconnect-locality-grant](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.kent.gov.uk%2Fleisure-and-community%2Fcommunity-grants-and-funding%2Freconnect-locality-grant&data=04%7C01%7CFrancesca.Henderson2%40kent.gov.uk%7C6ff626279ae6496ba13a08d9d04c9338%7C3253a20dc7354bfea8b73e6ab37f5f90%7C0%7C0%7C637769849572851417%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=8gcfvEJ2ZEAjaaFVJzNRW%2FhqFrojw7bRyLtmPd%2Frg7U%3D&reserved=0)

The deadline for applications is **10pm on Tuesday 1st February 2022**. No late applications will be considered.

If you have any questions, please contact reconnect.kentcyp@kent.gov.uk.

**Bid-writing Workshop**

Natalie Smith from Kent Community Foundation will be running an online bid-writing workshop **10:30 – 12:00 on Thursday 13th January**. This workshop will support groups and organisations with advice on how to write good funding applications. If you would like to join this workshop, please email reconnect.kentcyp@kent.gov.uk