

## Early Years and Prevention Service Weekly News Bulletin: 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020

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### Department for Education Webinar for Local Authorities July 2020

Please find below the powerpoint presentation and FAQs follow the DfE webinar for local authorities

Topics discussed

EY Funding

EY Foundation Stage Reforms

EY Covid-19 Guidance and System Controls

Protective Measures Guidance (holiday childcare and out of school provision)

Entitlements

Early Years Professional Development Programme (PDP)

Procurement Support for LAs



DfE EY July Webinar  
slides.pptx



Final - Question and  
Answer following DfE

### Early years employers urged to hire apprentices

Nursery World

The scheme, which starts next month, offers employers £2,000 for each new apprentice aged under 25 they hire, and £1,500 for each new apprentice they hire aged 25 and over.

Employers will be able to start to claim the incentive payments from next month through the Apprenticeship Service, for all apprentices they hire between 1 August 2020 and 31 January 2021. This includes taking on an apprentice who has been made redundant.

Ministers said the plan was designed to create more high-quality apprenticeship opportunities.

Read more .....<https://www.nurseryworld.co.uk/news/article/early-years-employers-urged-to-hire-apprentices>

### More information

- Any employer who would like to recruit a redundant apprentice or offer new apprenticeship opportunities, visit [here](#), or call 08000 150 600 to find out more.
- Any apprentice who has been made redundant or is at risk of redundancy and would like to register for the ReSSA should visit [here](#), or for further support and to find out more call 08000 150 400 to speak to an adviser.
- Employers can start claiming the incentive payments for all eligible apprentices from 1 September, through the Apprenticeship Service.
- More information about the Financial incentive payments can be found [here](#).

## Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak

What all schools will need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak from the start of the autumn term.

7 August 2020

Updated 'Remote education support' in 'Section 5: Contingency planning for outbreaks'.

## Children's Social Care

- New research from the Women's Resource Centre has found that growing numbers of mothers are having their children taken into care following the COVID-19 pandemic. The research found that worsening economic insecurity, mental health problems exacerbated by the lockdown, and a rise in reports of domestic abuse, were all contributing to the rise of children going into care.
- Barnardo's has reported a 44% rise in demand for foster parents, while the number of foster carers coming forward has dropped 47%, and has warned that foster care is in a "state of emergency."

## Local Lockdowns

- [New powers](#) are to be granted to local authorities to help them respond to local COVID-19 outbreaks. Councils will be able to order immediate closures of public buildings, order mass testing, ban events, or shut down sectors of the local economy. Powers will also be put in place to limit school openings to specific year groups, and restrict travel to key workers only. This news comes as areas such as Leeds and Lancashire anticipate the implementation of [further lockdown restrictions](#).

## Testing

- The government has announced the roll out of [two new rapid COVID-19 tests](#) ahead of winter. The tests allow the virus to be detected in just 90 minutes and will be made available in NHS hospitals, care homes, schools and labs.

## Foundation Stage Forum

Welcome to the August FSF newsletter.

The sun has been shining and we hope you will find time to take a moment for yourself during August.

Uncertainty is all around us, and it can be hard to find a direction for our practice, our settings or classrooms, and our children's learning. Perhaps this is the time to reflect on what we *do* know rather than worrying about what we can't control. We can be sure of our own pedagogy and our knowledge about how children learn, at whatever stage or age we are working with. This can form the basis of how we can adapt and be flexible to the needs of children and their families, and make any new changes and guidelines work for our learning communities.

In the Early Years sector, a report commissioned by The Sutton Trust called [Getting the Balance Right: Quality and Quantity in Early Education and Childcare](#) has recently been published. Authored by Beatrice Merrick, Chief Executive of Early Education and Nathan Archer, an Associate at Early Education, it examines the tug-of-war between affordable, available and flexible childcare and high-quality early years provision offered by well-qualified, well-valued educators. It confirms the findings of [Steps to Sustainability](#), a report commissioned by the APPG for Childcare and Early Education. The APPG is sponsored by the Foundation Stage Forum, Cache, National Day Nurseries Association, The Early Years Alliance and Tops Day Nurseries, and it now has a new Chair. [Steve Brine](#), Conservative MP for Winchester and Chandler's Ford, takes over from Tulip Siddiq. He will be working with the early years APPG to highlight the many challenges facing the sector.

The Social Mobility Commission has [published a report](#) highlighting the crisis in the Early Years workforce, stating that it is 'underpaid, overworked and undervalued'. It seems there is a common theme underlying all the reports mentioned here this month: that policy makers need to recognise the impact of early life experiences on the adults children become, and therefore value the vital work early years educators do with our very young children to prepare them for their future. As headlines talk about the nation choosing between keeping open pubs or schools, the Children's Commissioner Anne Longfield has published a [briefing](#) stating that children must be put first in the event of future local or national lockdowns.

We wait to see what September brings.