

CORAMBAAF COVID 19 ADVICE

At the current time, communication is crucial so I just wanted to set out the CoramBAAF (CB) position in terms of CB advice to health professionals working in adoption and fostering.

We know that national bodies in health and social care, and professional organisations are all working on national level guidance to address many areas of service provision.

In addition locally, NHS organisations and local authorities/agencies are putting in place their contingency plans and local policies.

It is clear that Health Services will be operating as per COVID-19 Prioritisation Instructions.

We expect that named and designated LAC health professionals will be key partners in these local planning arrangements for looked after children including those with adoption plans.

We will advocate strongly for a mechanism of availability of health advice for social care/carers regarding LAC population including provision of health recommendations in priority situations, urgent referrals where needed and maintenance of standards of care. We do not expect that LAC health and adoption service provision will continue in the same way and under the same timescale requirements but we await national decisions which may occur after emergency powers legislation in parliament this week.

When the parameters of temporary suspension of regulations are clear we will work with others to produce practice guidance and resources, and we will publish further information, including guidance about LAC health assessments and other health related aspects of adoption and fostering work.

Due to our UK wide presence CB are in a good position, to share and interpret emerging relevant national guidance in our sector and share examples of practice that members may find helpful.

We can also send information about areas of difficulty/ confusion to relevant bodies and organisations, utilising our links that exist via our health group advisory committee (HGAC) members. Other organisations such as RCPCH regularly consult the committee for expert advice.

HGAC communicates frequently by electronic means, we do not need to be in a room together and this will continue.

The team at CB has strong links and expertise in the social care and legal sector, so we are in a good position to triangulate information and share with health group members as appropriate.

Please do continue to contact me directly to highlight emerging issues, and use our enquiry line.

We have introduced extra capacity to allow us to make better use of our website over the next few weeks and all our normal information sources such as Digest and CB News will continue.

I will send out further information about the situation for planned events, trainings and events over the coming weeks.

CB guidance will be updated regularly at
<https://corambaaf.org.uk/coronavirus>

CB has produced some advice re virtual panels
<https://corambaaf.org.uk/updates/coronavirus-adoption-and-fostering-panel-virtual-meetings>

RCPCH guidance

<https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/covid-19-guidance-paediatric-services#safeguarding-looked-after-children-and-vulnerable-children-processes>

Best wishes

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