



LA Briefing for PCF – Tuesday 9th June 2020

As the Coronavirus pandemic continues to affect our lives in ways which would have been unimaginable just a few months ago, I hope you are all continuing to stay safe and strong. This week we have a couple of updates covering the NHS test and trace systems, carers week and the Specialist Teaching Service.

NHS Test and Trace:

As you may have seen on the news the government have announced a new NHS test and trace system for coronavirus.

The NHS test and trace service:

- Ensures that anyone who develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can quickly be tested to find out if they have the virus, and also includes targeted asymptomatic testing of NHS and social care staff and care home residents
- Helps trace close recent contacts of anyone who tests positive for coronavirus and, if necessary, notifies them that they must self-isolate at home to help stop the spread of the virus

If you are contacted by the NHS to say you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, please self-isolate for 14 days as advised and help to stop the spread of the virus in our communities.

Please take time to read the latest information and advice on what to do if you need it.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>

Public Health England has published guidance that explains what you should do if the NHS Test and Trace service notifies you that you are a contact of a person who has tested positive for coronavirus and you do not live with that person.

The guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

Guidance for parents and carers as schools and other education settings in England open to more children and young people including details about opening secondary schools to years 10 and year 12 pupils from 15 June and to provide links to guidance on safer travel:

The guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

There is also updated guidance on the provision of free school meals during the coronavirus outbreak to include updated information on the provision of meals for pupils attending school, the national voucher scheme and the use of food parcels:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance>

Further education settings can invite learners aged 16-19, who have key assessments and examinations next year, back into education settings for face-to-face support from 15 June where it is safe to do so and following any required risk assessments. The government has published guidance that sets out considerations for preparing to open to more learners and putting in place protective measures to limit the transmission of coronavirus:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-further-education-provision>

Specialist Teachers Service Update

Changes to Leicestershire Autism Outreach Offer

There are some planned changes to the Leicestershire Autism Outreach offer. Parents and carers whose children are directly affected by these changes have already had a phone call and the opportunity to clarify any issues or questions with colleagues from the service.

These changes include:

- A change to premises used for support
- Recruitment of more staff to join the team
- Working with those at risk of school refusal before they stop attending
- Working collaboratively with the Inclusion Service to support 'Pupils Missing Education' where there is a diagnosis of Autism

Changes to premises

The Intensive Support Team currently provide support from a range of settings including some Alternative Provisions and a Bungalow at Braunstone. From August 2020 we plan to provide all support for pupils using our staff, this may be done at a range of settings but will consider working in the school that the pupil is on role in the first instance. The Bungalow at Braunston will no longer be used

Pupils currently supported by the Intensive Support team

Pupils who are currently supported by the Intensive Support Team will continue to be supported. During the current Covid 19 pandemic, the service is working using video calls and virtual teaching and meetings. As the situation changes the service will continue to work with pupils and families to provide support in the best possible way. The service will also aim to allow pupils to visit the Bungalow to say goodbye to it, if they wish to do so. Each pupil will have a new plan created to support them to be ready to attend education again and their transition back to school.

Recruiting more staff

More and more children are receiving a diagnosis on the Autism Spectrum and there are increasing numbers of requesting Education, Health and Care Needs Assessments. In Leicestershire, a pupil does not need an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) to get support from the Autism Outreach Team. We have a team of teachers and practitioners who

can support all schools at no cost to the school. We have had approval to increase this team by 2 teachers and 2 practitioners. This will enable each teacher to support a smaller number of schools, allowing earlier support, attendance at more annual reviews and better early intervention across Leicestershire.

How we work with pupils not able to attend school:

From August 2020, we will continue to work with pupils who are showing signs of struggling to attend school. The significant change will be that we would expect them to still be attending some time at school, and our support will be to increase attendance, identify triggers, help students understand their diagnosis, how it impacts them and build coping strategies for the pupil to use in school.

Pupils Missing Education:

If a pupil is on role to a school but not attending, they are classed as a 'Pupil Missing Education'. In these cases, after following the school's attendance processes, schools may refer to the 'Inclusion Service' who work with the school and family to increase attendance. A pupil may miss education for many reasons, where the reason is related to a diagnosis of autism, the Autism Outreach team will work with the Inclusion Service to reach the best support plan for the pupil.

We hope these changes will provide more support earlier to pupils with autism in Leicestershire. Further information will go out to families that are supported by the Intensive Support team soon. More information for schools will also be available shortly.

Health and Safety Measures in line with COVID-19 Government Guidelines for children returning to setting/school as well as general equipment checks and use of Hearing Aids (HAs), BAHs, Cochlear Implant Processors (CIs) and radio systems...

We need parents and carers to take responsibility for carrying out daily checks on your child's hearing aid equipment (and radio system if your child has one) before your child goes into their setting/school. Please also change batteries regularly and/or charge equipment as necessary to ensure equipment works for the whole day.

We are asking their setting/school staff to carry out minimal checks so that the 2m distancing rule can be observed and to reduce contact with equipment.

Advice has gone in to the setting/school regarding how to carry out a more thorough check if staff have concerns that a child's equipment is not working correctly. You will appreciate that we want to minimise the need for other adults to touch the children's equipment so your help by carrying out these daily checks is crucial.

Advice has gone into the setting/school regarding radio use, minimising the number of staff who will be using the transmitter and how to ensure that it is cleaned each time it is passed from one member of staff to another.

Please clean the radio transmitter and lanyard each day and place it into a clear plastic bag before it goes into the setting/school.

Here is the cleaning advice:

- Only use wipes that have a water based disinfectant e.g. Phonak Cleaning and Care Wipes (C&C Wipes) are manufacturer recommended.

<https://www.connevans.co.uk/catalogue/9907595/Cleaning-tissues---wipes>

- Do not use sprays
- **When wiping, avoid the microphones, the seams in the plastic and the power connectors (microphones marked with red circles below)**
- Clean the mute button and power button very carefully and try to avoid getting moisture into the surrounding seams
- Pay attention particularly to cleaning the crocodile clip on the Inspiro lapel mic and the leather pull tab on the Touch



Thank you for your support in these unprecedented times to keep your child hearing well in setting/school and to protect everyone.

Please follow appropriate link below for demonstration of radio transmitter cleaning:

Phonak ROGER Inspiro TX - https://youtu.be/5qDZf_rCwbM

Phonak Roger Touchscreen Mic - <https://youtu.be/7vbTv98W6Zk>

Phonak Roger Easyden Mic - <https://youtu.be/Nx-FuDgTBCM>

Phonak Roger Clip-on-Mic - <https://youtu.be/h2JSDSExMKg>

Recognition and Support for Carers

This week is Carers Week and we wanted to take the opportunity to highlight the significant contribution that carers make to individuals and wider society on a daily basis and especially during COVID 19. Caring can be a rich source of satisfaction in people's lives. It can be life-affirming and it can help deepen and strengthen relationships. It can teach you a multitude of skills and help you realise potential you never thought you had, but carers too need support and without this caring can have a significant impact on individuals. Evidence shows that caring can cause ill health, poverty and social isolation.

The focus for Carers Week 2020 this year is 'Making Caring Visible', to ensure that carers get the information and support they need from services and the wider public. On Wednesday 20th May 2020 the six national charities supporting Carers Week 2020, sponsors, NHS England, ADASS and local government representatives joined a virtual round table discussion with the Care Minister, Helen Whately to discuss the vital role of unpaid carers in the COVID-19 pandemic and highlighted the additional pressures upon them.

If your caring responsibilities are taking a toll on your health and well-being, please speak up and seek help, advice and support at:

<https://www.supportforcarers.org/>

You can also get in touch through the Support for Carers office and telephone advice line is open from Monday to Thursday from 9.00am to 5.00pm and on Fridays from 9.00am to 4.30pm on **01858 468 543** or email:

maureen@supportforcarers.org

There is also a contact address however during the Covid-19 pandemic you are urged to contact by phone or email in the first instance:

1st Floor, Torch House, Torch Way, Northampton Road, Market Harborough, LE16 9HL.

Support for Carers is also on Facebook, on Twitter and can be subscribed to on YouTube. There is also a range of training videos on [YouTube](#) and new content is regularly uploaded. Useful numbers for carers:

NHS 111 – for non-urgent medical concerns

Leicestershire County Council - Adult Social Care Emergency Team helpline

Call: 0116 255 1606

NHS Carers Direct helpline (excluding Bank Holidays)

Call: 0300 123 1053

During this time of social distancing and isolation, please remember, you are not alone.

The right support for you or your loved ones is just a click or a phone call away.

**For further support on where to turn if you're struggling, feeling lonely
or worried about drug or alcohol use, go to**

www.startaconversation.co.uk

Remember to follow Government guidelines on social distancing at all times

PM Sumner

Regards,

