

20th March, 2020

Dear all

I am hoping by keep sending you information it is helpful so you can see that we are making sure we are responding to your issues and managing the situation as best we can.

I have discussed the issue of Keyworkers and the stance that schools are taking re two parents have to be keyworkers. Both Edwina and Sarah are clear this is not the right thing and a letter is going to schools today to rectify the situation. Please let me know if this is not happening and I will pass on to Edwina and Sarah.

I am creating a template letter should you need to show school that you are a keyworker, this will be ready today and signed by Edwina.

I have discussed the need for vulnerable children to include looked after children and should foster carers wish to use the school opening for children in their care this will be fine, this also applies to young people in residential homes.

I will make sure all the papers pertaining to court work is sent to you so we can manage the situation in the safest way possible. It may be that there will be a need to attend court but where possible this will be undertaken using technology.

Mandy Williams and Andy Smith are putting together a guidance around home visits and we are securing personal protection equipment should it be necessary for you to visit homes that are self-isolating and we need to enter.

We have sent out an ask for volunteers to undertake shifts in the children's homes. We need to cover shifts and if you feel you are in a position to help it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact john.simpson@lancashire.gov.uk or mike.nunn@lancashire.gov.uk

During this period we have realised that our care experienced young people are struggling both emotionally and financially. We are working hard with local businesses and several staff have agreed to co-ordinate a donation drive. They are requesting toiletries and food, Jane Hylton is the lead and would be happy to coordinate collecting any donations you may be in a position to support with Jane.hylton@lancashire.gov.uk

Work is taking place to make sure laptops and spider phones are available to everyone who needs them please make sure your manager knows if you need equipment.

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I want to thank you all again for your resilience and positivity in this very strange time, I hope you manage to get some well needed rest at the weekend if you are not having to work and if you are working I hope it is not too busy. I think we are preparing well but the next few weeks will be let's face it madness but I know you will be doing your best for the most vulnerable families and I thank you on their behalf. When this is all over the cakes are on me!!!!!!!

Sherou Wobber