

My ref: 10th May PM announcement
Date: 10th May 2020
Contact: Jonathan Lewis
Telephone: 01223 507165



To parents/carers of children
attending Cambridgeshire and
Peterborough early years and
childcare settings

People & Communities
Education Directorate

Dear Parent / Carer,

I write following the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday of a phased plan to beat the virus and provide a road map for re-opening society. This may lead to an easing of the restrictions that have been put in place to minimise the spread of COVID-19 in relation to early years and childcare settings, though this is subject to national conditions being met.

I recognise that this may have been a stressful time for children and their families. I am sure we are all looking forward to children returning to settings when it is safe for this to happen. Settings will be following government guidance, as soon as it is released, to enable this. The Local Authority will help and support individual early years and childcare providers to make the necessary arrangements.

Our top priority is the safety of children, their families, and staff. We will support any early years and childcare providers if safety has to take priority over any other consideration. Every setting's circumstances are unique. Not all early years and childcare providers will be able to respond to the government's decisions in the same way. For some, the size of the indoor environment and outdoor space may limit the number of children who can be accommodated safely under social distancing rules. In others, staffing shortages will limit the speed at which children can return. Some of the services that children and parents are used to – such as cooked meals and wraparound care, may not be available immediately in every setting.

We are awaiting further advice from the Department for Education and early years and childcare providers will need time to plan. They will work as quickly as they can to make the necessary arrangements. I know that they will communicate those arrangements to parents as quickly as they can. To support your child's setting at this time, please try not to make contact about re-opening arrangements unless your enquiry is an urgent one. Settings will continue to welcome critical workers and vulnerable children in line with national guidance but capacity will be limited especially with more people returning to work. They will also continue to provide support for home learning activities until guidance for doing so changes.

Please be assured that further to the announcement, both your child's setting and the Local Authority, will communicate with you as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Jonathan Lewis', is written over a horizontal line.

Jonathan Lewis
Service Director – Education
Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council