

August 2020

Dear parent-carers,

As we prepare for children and young people to return to school and settings, we want to ensure you have some of the information you might need to make this as smooth as possible.

### **Schools and settings reopening**

Schools and settings have been planning their re-opening. Each individual school will have made arrangements for the first days and weeks to help children to arrive in safely distanced 'bubbles'. As schools manage the large numbers of pupils, some will have changed where you go in and start times to keep pupils in their bubbles and to manage the challenges of the building layouts. If you have not heard from your school or setting already, you should check their website for announcements or contact them directly. They will confirm if the school/setting has training days or an agreed phased or approach to start days and times.

All schools and settings have been required to complete a risk assessment that details how they will ensure that school is as safe as it can possibly be for staff and pupils. These risk assessments have been reviewed and agreed by the Local Authority. We are following the national guidance and supporting a full re-opening of schools/ settings, as quickly as possible for all children, excepting those who continue to have critical conditions – see the paragraph below. Some schools/ settings may need a phased return to full opening so they can support individual children's needs. Any phased approach should be for a short period only; the Local Authority have made it clear to all schools and settings that any phased or part-time attendance should only be used if it is in the best interest of the individual pupils. It must be fully supported by a risk assessment that is agreed with parent-carers and, where possible and appropriate, pupils.

We know that some children will find a return very difficult and will need extra support. Please talk to your school / setting about any concerns and together you can agree the best way forward.

### **Children on the critical risk list**

The 'shielding' list is now paused. Many children who were on the list have been removed from it, as scientific evidence shared by The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) guidance indicates that they should return to school. Some children will still be at greater risk. It is important that parents-carers discuss any concerns with the appropriate medical professional and ask them to communicate with the school or setting to ensure that no undue risk is being taken for individuals. Schools and settings will need to be fully informed about what precautions will need to be included in any risk assessments for attendance to be both possible and appropriate.

### **Transport**

The education transport teams have been working to provide suitable solutions to meet the new national guidance. All schools/ settings have completed an individual consultation and there are now agreed transport plans in place. You should, by now, know the arrangements for your child or

young person. If you haven't heard, or have more questions, then please get in touch with the team – details are listed below.

You will want to know:

- All Personal Assistants will be required to wear a face covering and some drivers, if they have direct contact with passengers
- Children and young people are not required to wear face coverings, but if they or their parents have a preference and it is appropriate, they may wear one in the transport vehicle
- Every vehicle will be appropriately cleaned before and after every journey, in line with government guidance

The Local Authority is encouraging any parent-carers who can, and wish to, manage the transport of their own children to take advantage of the parental mileage scheme. Parent-carers will receive 40p per mile for up to four journeys for each school day. This recognises the need for parent-carers to travel back home, or to their place of work, after dropping off their child in the mornings and then return at the end of the day to collect them. This has been agreed initially until the October half-term but may be extended. If you would like to know more about this please contact the transport teams:

Peterborough

Email: [childrentransport@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:childrentransport@peterborough.gov.uk) Telephone: 01733 317355 (call centre)

Cambridgeshire

Email: [edtransport@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:edtransport@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) Telephone: 0345 045 5208

### Delivery of Specialist Services

Under the initial phase of the pandemic some services were interrupted. Many have now developed virtual offers and will continue with these, where it is appropriate and effective to do so. This is to ensure that we continue to maintain a safe approach to protecting 'bubbles', in line with government guidance.

Some individual services will need to be delivered face-to-face and these will be provided on a case-by-case basis. Your school/setting will be able to outline how they will be accessing support from various services. Although they will always be able to explain the local context best, the following list provides contacts for parent carers who wish to access support or information directly:

|                                      | <b>Peterborough</b>   | <b>Cambridgeshire</b>  |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Occupational Therapy Services        | <b>0300 555 5965</b><br><a href="https://www.cpft.nhs.uk/training/childrens-services-welcome">https://www.cpft.nhs.uk/training/childrens-services-welcome</a> | <b>0300 029 50 50</b><br><a href="https://www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/what-we-do/children-young-people-health-services-cambridgeshire">https://www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/what-we-do/children-young-people-health-services-cambridgeshire</a> |
| Speech and Language Therapy Services | <b>0300 555 5965</b><br><a href="https://www.cpft.nhs.uk/training/childrens-services-welcome">https://www.cpft.nhs.uk/training/childrens-services-welcome</a> | <b>0300 029 50 50</b><br><a href="https://www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/what-we-do/children-young-people-health-services-cambridgeshire">https://www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/what-we-do/children-young-people-health-services-cambridgeshire</a> |
| Physiotherapy Services               | <b>0300 555 5965</b><br><a href="https://www.cpft.nhs.uk/training/childrens-services-welcome">https://www.cpft.nhs.uk/training/childrens-services-welcome</a> | <b>0300 029 50 50</b><br><a href="https://www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/what-we-do/children-young-people-health-services-cambridgeshire">https://www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/what-we-do/children-young-people-health-services-cambridgeshire</a> |

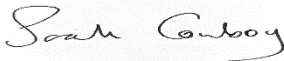
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|--|--|---|
| Visual Impairment / Multi-Sensory needs Services | Sara Brierton<br><b>07970 492948</b><br>Guide dog for the Blind – buddy service :<br><b>0800 7811444</b>             | Sensory Support Team<br><b>01480 373434</b><br><br><a href="mailto:sensory.support0-25@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">sensory.support0-25@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a> |
| Behaviour Support and / or ASC / ASD support     | Jill Groutage<br><b>01733 864009</b>   | Help line for children with EHCP's – Ed Psychology, specialist teachers and specialist practitioners <b>01353 612812</b>                                    |
| Statutory Assessment Support                     | SEND Team:<br><b>01733863996</b><br><br><a href="mailto:senteam@peterborough.gov.uk">senteam@peterborough.gov.uk</a> | Statutory Assessment Team<br><b>01223 699362</b>  |

## Thank you

Since March, we've been living through unprecedented times. We know it's been a very challenging and difficult time for you and for your children. We are all keen to see some return to normality. Our children resuming their education in schools and settings is an important step towards this. We will all still need to be vigilant and maintain our test and trace approach, working together to stay safe.

We wanted to thank you for your understanding, support and patience as we, like you, have adjusted to a very different life from the one we were in before. And we also want to recognise the enormous support our children and young people have had from you during this time it has not gone unnoticed.

Many thanks and best wishes,



Sarah Conboy  
Chief Executive Officer  
Pinpoint



Louise Ravenscroft  
Family Voice



Toni Bailey  
Assistant Director for SEND & Inclusion  
Peterborough / Cambridgeshire