

### Update for foster carers – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020

I hope you and your families are all continuing to keep well and safe.

Thank you for all the positive support you are providing to our looked children and young people during these challenging times.

#### **Coronavirus testing extended to all essential workers in England who have symptoms**

Good news: The government has announced that all essential workers in England and members of their households who are showing symptoms of the coronavirus will now be able to get tested. The link below provides details on how to book a test should you need one:

[www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus).

#### **The Department for Education laptops for care leavers and children with a social worker**

The Department for Education (DfE) has announced that it will be providing laptops to;

- Care leavers and children with a social worker.
- Disadvantaged children in year 10, ahead of GCSEs next year (these children will be identified by their school)

The full details of the scheme have not been worked out yet, but for our care leavers and children with a social worker the DfE will send the laptops to Nottinghamshire County Council for onward distribution.

The laptops will be made available to children and young people that do not currently have one. Apologies for not being able to provide more details, at this stage, but I will keep you updated.

#### **Legislative and regulatory changes**

The government has introduced some changes as a result of The Adoption and Children's (Coronavirus) (Amendments) Regulations 2020. The changes are effective from the 24<sup>th</sup> April until 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020, and provide flexibility for local authorities, fostering providers and services to meet statutory duties while maintaining a focus on safeguards and promoting the welfare of children. Most of the changes are procedural, for example: easing administrative burdens, allowing visits and contact to take place remotely and relaxing strict timescales where possible. Should you like more details about the amendment, then please speak with your SSW, and I will include details of any significant changes we may make to our procedures/practice in a future update.

#### **Fostering Fortnight 11<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

A reminder, that we want to celebrate you as foster carers, particularly during this year's fostering fortnight, and the difference you are making to the lives of our looked after children and young people. It would be a great to see any drawings or painting that children are willing to share, some of which we can then share on our webpages and social media platforms.

## Resources

The following resources identified by our fantastic fostering staff and foster carers:

Virtual quizzes via [www.kidzworld.com](http://www.kidzworld.com)

free activities and recipes via the [bbcgoodfood.com](http://bbcgoodfood.com) site, offering cheap family baking ideas, which may be good for children to get involved in and help with building connections and attachments with their carers.

For carers learning the Beacon house website resource section: <https://beaconhouse.org.uk> is really good.

For teenagers the following websites are brilliant and offer supportive advice to help young people to keep a positive mindset:

<https://youngminds.org.uk>

<https://www.themix.org.uk>

<https://Kooth.com>

Do make use of our foster carer website: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/fanotts> for updates re; COVID-19 and where there is lots of good information and resources and our facebook page:

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/fosternotts/>

Thank you for all you are doing and for your ongoing support to our looked after children and young people. I will keep you all updated of any changes to our working practices impacted by any further government guidance.

Ty Yousaf

Fostering Service Manager

30<sup>th</sup> April 2020