**Children and Families, Early Years Division**

**Weekly News Bulletin:** 02 June 2021

**Reminder of important information shared in previous weekly news bulletins in May:**

* Publication of statistics on childcare providers and inspections: consultation response published EY Bulletin 12th May
* Reported coronavirus (COVID-19) notifications by registered early years and childcare settings - Added data for weeks beginning 5, 12, 19 and 26 April 2021 EY Bulletin 19th May
* Consented addresses for childminders and domestic childcare: updated consented addresses for childminders & domestic childcare as at 31 March 2021 & 30 April 2021 EY Bulletins 12/19th May
* Joiners and leavers in the childcare sector: published data on joiners and leavers in the childcare sector in March 2021 and April 2021 EY Bulletins 12/19th May



# [Reported coronavirus (COVID-19) notifications by registered early years and childcare settings](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reported-coronavirus-covid-19-cases-by-registered-early-years-and-childcare-settings?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=51274807-2b68-415e-ab07-3b197081f2e5&utm_content=daily)

This data is published fortnightly. It gives the number of registered early years and childcare providers reporting one or more confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) by week.

Updated 01 June 2021

Numbers recorded in May have continued to be recorded at a level lower than April this year.

**Changes to childminder testing process**

Following feedback on the registration and uploading process since March, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS Test and Trace have been working to identify ways to make it easier for childminders to identify their profession when recording results on the NHS Covid-19 test results [portal](https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result).

The changes are due to come into effect from 2 June and are designed to allow us to monitor more clearly the effectiveness of our testing programme and identify any areas or groups within the early years childcare system that are not engaging in testing, so we can identify potential barriers.

Instructions on how childminders can access testing kits remains unchanged and can be found on the gov.uk webpage: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asymptomatic-testing-early-years-staff-in-different-settings/rapid-asymptomatic-coronavirus-covid-19-testing-in-early-years-settings#childminders-and-wraparound-childcare-providers>

This means that childminders will need to follow the process detailed in the attached document for each completed asymptomatic LFD rapid test.

If you have any questions about this change, please contact the Department for Education Coronavirus Helpdesk.  Information on how to contact them can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/contact-dfe>

## **Department for Education COVID-19 helpline**

The Department for Education COVID-19 helpline and the PHE Advice Service (option 1) is available to answer any questions you have about COVID-19 relating to education settings and children’s social care.

**Phone: 0800 046 8687**

Opening hours:
Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm
Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 6pm

[Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance and support - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

[Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures)

**Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2021**

Last week, several of you contacted us with questions about a telephone survey that some of your local providers have been invited to complete by the Department for Education. We would like to confirm that this contact is part of the Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2021 and is a legitimate request that has been issued on behalf of the Department for Education. We commission an independent research contractor (NatCen) to carry out the survey fieldwork. This research is very important to the Department and providers’ participation would be extremely valuable but is entirely voluntary.

When contacting school-based and group-based providers we do aim to limit calls to business hours unless an appointment outside of those times has been agreed, but we appreciate that this hasn’t always been the experience of some settings. If interviewers do call at a time that is not convenient for your providers, they are happy to call back at a time that suits respondents.

**DWP Lists**

We are writing to let you know that due to a technical issue the DWP lists are expected to be circulated w/c 7 June.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact earlyyears.entitlements@education.gov.uk .



[**Ofsted: coronavirus (COVID-19) rolling update**](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-covid-19-rolling-update)

Ofsted guidance and information relating to coronavirus (COVID-19) for schools, early years, children’s social care and further education and skills providers

Updated: 7 May 2021

**Safeguarding**



**Pan Berkshire online child protection procedures updates April 2021 newsletter:**



**Summary:**

**Updated Core Procedures
Child Protection Conferences -** this chapter was reviewed and updated and should be re-read.

**Updated Safeguarding Practice Guidance
Bruising / Suspicious Marks on Children Not Independently Mobile -** This chapter was updated in March 2021 to reflect local practice in Berkshire.
**Bullying -** this chapter was updated throughout including new links added to resources for addressing bullying
linked to race/faith, and resources to help make schools, colleges or another settings LGBT inclusive. See Section 4, Further Information.
**Criminal and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Gangs -** Children Affected by Gang Activity, Criminal Exploitation and Youth Violence Procedures have been grouped for easier access.
**Children from Abroad, including Victims of Modern Slavery, Trafficking and Exploitation -** a link was added in the Further Information section, to the statutory guidance Modern Slavery: how to identify and support victims 2020. This guidance replaces:
• Duty to Notify the Home Office of potential victims of modern slavery;
• Victims of modern slavery: frontline staff guidance;
• Victims of modern slavery: competent authority guidance.
**Children Living Away from Home -** The Children in Custody section was updated.
**Children Visiting Prisons -** this chapter was completely re-written and should be re-read.
**Children Visiting Psychiatric Wards and Facilities –** this chapter has been refreshed throughout and terminology updated, and additional information was added in to Section 3, Visiting Patients in the Special Hospitals: Ashworth, Broadmoor and Rampton, in line with the High Security Psychiatric Services (Arrangements for Safety and Security) Directions 2019 and associated Guidance.

**Dogs and Safeguarding Children -** this chapter was reviewed and updated. The language has been broadened to explain that any dog can be aggressive when antagonised, and risk assessments should take account of any pets in the household and their potential risk.
**Female Genital Mutilation -** this chapter was substantially reviewed and updated and should be re-read. Local links to resources, risk assessments and support remain.
**Pre-Birth -** this chapter was substantially updated and should be re-read.
**Whistleblowing or Raising Concerns at Work -** Section 5, Further Information, was updated to include useful websites and guidance.

The procedures can be found at: <https://proceduresonline.com/berks/>

**Health and wellbeing**

[Home - HWS Slough (healthandwellbeingslough.co.uk)](https://healthandwellbeingslough.co.uk/)

**COVID-19:**

[(COVID-19) Coronavirus restrictions: what you can and cannot do - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do#if-youre-in-an-area-where-the-new-covid-19-variant-is-spreading)

##### **Coronavirus: impact on schools and education**

**Source:** UK Parliament

**Date:** 26 May 2021

The House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts has published a report looking at the Department for Education’s (DfE) response to the coronavirus pandemic and the disruption to schooling and education in England. Recommendations include that the DfE should: carry out a systematic lessons-learned exercise, to evaluate its response to the pandemic; work with the Association of Directors of Children’s Services to understand why the number of referrals to children’s social care services remains below expected levels; work with the Department of Health and Social Care to identify the specific actions needed to help children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) recover from the damage caused during the pandemic; and set out a plan to ensure that all vulnerable and disadvantaged children have access to IT equipment to support their learning at home.

**Read the news story:** [Public Accounts Committee: third report - COVID-19: support for children’s education](http://email.nspcc.org.uk/c/1d8bq5kX2YYnz8HXgeIzKJg6SQ)

**Read the report:** [COVID-19: Support for children’s education](http://email.nspcc.org.uk/c/1d8brv6wEt40yqgltfhdsGLCRY)

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# New guidance for areas affected by variant of concern in England

The government in England has issued guidance for those living in areas affected by the latest coronavirus variant of concern. The variant (known as B.1.617.2 and first identified in India) is being carefully monitored by Public Health England which releases weekly updates on the number of confirmed new cases of variants of concern in the UK.

Note that Slough is not on the list however; the London Borough of Hounslow is.

[NEWS: New guidance for areas affected by variant of concern in England | PACEY](https://www.pacey.org.uk/news-and-views/news/news-new-guidance-for-england-areas-affected-by-v/)

[(COVID-19) Coronavirus restrictions: what you can and cannot do - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do#if-youre-in-an-area-where-the-new-covid-19-variant-is-spreading)

**Making the news and events:**

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# Government announces further education investment in England

Today the government in England has announced the next step of its education recovery plan, setting out measures to support all children aged 2 to 19 whose education has been affected by the pandemic.

The funding, which is allocated over the next three academic years, includes £153 million for evidence-based professional development for early years practitioners in England, focusing on specific areas such as speech and language development as well as addressing the impacts on emotional wellbeing caused by the pandemic.

[NEWS: Government announces further education investment in England | PACEY](https://www.pacey.org.uk/news-and-views/news/news-government-in-england-announces-further-educ/?fbclid=IwAR2ci7epvlcIWywcgrVG34l5xRAl2uBI2hd-ZjawgHSZl8kXiF0GHyO1JNk)

[Huge expansion of tutoring in next step of education recovery - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/huge-expansion-of-tutoring-in-next-step-of-education-recovery)

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# National Carers Week – 7-14 June

Carers Week is an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges unpaid carers face and recognise the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the UK. It also helps people who don't think of themselves as having caring responsibilities to identify as carers and access much-needed support. The theme for this year is ‘**Making Carers visible and valued’**.

Partners have come together through the Slough Carers Partnership, which comprises of representatives from SBC, the CCG, Slough Children First, community and voluntary sector and carers to develop a local programme of activities for the week. It includes everything from coffee mornings and singing sessions, to virtual royal palace tours, cooking sessions and mindfulness and happiness workshops. For more information of events:

[Carers week events - 7 to 13 June | Slough For You (sloughfamilyservices.org.uk)](https://www.sloughfamilyservices.org.uk/kb5/sloughcst/directory/event.page?id=lJ0CMGNzx4Q)

[Carers Week Events- 7-13 June 2021 – Slough Carers Support](https://sloughcarerssupport.co.uk/news/carers-week-7-13-june-2021/)

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# Education Recovery - a blueprint for a stronger and fairer system for all NAHT published 26.05.21

The NAHT report published last week; identified ‘The seven pillars of educational recovery’; including ‘prioritising the early years’.

The Blueprint Report recommends that investment in the Early Years should be at the heart of Government’s recovery plan, and calls for an ‘urgent review’ into the 30-hours funded childcare for working parents, as well as the funding that providers receive to deliver the offer.

NAHT says that the early years pupil premium should also be increased, in line with the primary pupil premium, to enable early intervention to be prioritised.

It agrees with the Sutton Trust, that funding should be provided for high quality continuous professional development for the early year’s workforce.

In addition it recommends the investment and expansion of multi-disciplinary children’s centres.

Read the full report here:

[Education Recovery - a blueprint for a stronger and fairer system for all (naht.org.uk)](https://www.naht.org.uk/news-and-opinion/news/leadership-news/education-recovery-a-blueprint-for-a-stronger-and-fairer-system-for-all/)

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# Cash boost for nurseries hosting T Level placements

The incentive fund is designed to offer support to employers impacted by the pandemic, to ensure that they can continue to host placements. Employers will be able to claim for up to 20 students for the available T Level subject areas from 27 May 2021 until July 2022.

[Cash boost for nurseries hosting T Level placements | Nursery World](https://www.nurseryworld.co.uk/news/article/cash-boost-for-nurseries-hosting-t-level-placements)

[Cash boost for T Levels - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cash-boost-for-t-levels)