

ACL update no 22

Dear All,

If you come across anything that you think would benefit other providers do please let me know and I will add it to the weekly updates. Please do share what you think is relevant to your contacts.

Please do contact us if you need anything else.

Keep safe and well

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Latest update from DfE – COVID testing

DfE recognises that there have been some difficulties getting through to the local public health protection teams for advice on action to take on a positive case in the setting. As a result, from yesterday (17 September), there will be a new dedicated advice service available to advise nurseries, schools, colleges and FE providers who have been informed of a confirmed case(s) of coronavirus (COVID-19) in their setting (i.e. a pupil, student or staff member testing positive). This new service can be reached by calling DfE's existing helpline on 0800 046 8687 and selecting the option for reporting a positive case. The line will be open Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm, and 10am to 4pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

New on the VLE

If you have not visited our VLE recently then do check out the [tutor handbook](#), which contains a section on online learning.

HA upcoming CPD Events

- Polls and Quizzes – using interactive technology (21st 11-12pm)
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/119442087499>
- RARPA + Quality Documentation (30th 2=3pm)
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/119442687293>

- Safeguarding adult learners (refresher) 9th Oct 9.30-11am or 14th Oct 1.30-3pm or 29th Oct 7-8.30pm
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/119443210859>
- Supporting Dyslexic learners = 5th October 2-3pm
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/119443710353>

Keeping mental well

As schools return and restrictions are eased many of us are being to enjoy life outside of the home. The return to pre-covid activities can also bring about anxieties and worries. Mental Health Foundation have produced some useful resources to help us ease out of lockdown and reduce anxieties that this may bring.

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus>

Actions for staying safe and productive:

- 1) Do something different – have a go at something new
- 2) Ask your family or friends about their thoughts and feelings
- 3) Write a letter or send a card to a loved one that you haven't seen in a while

Celebrate Hampshire's history and beauty with Heritage Open Days

Up until 20 September, various Heritage Open Days events will be taking place across the county to celebrate Hampshire's beauty and history. From online virtual tours to outdoor events, it's all for free so get exploring!

Some of the events being organised by County Council venues include:

- a [virtual tour](#) of the secret and hidden places of The Great Hall (19 and 20 September, 11am-3pm)
- nature trails, bird watching, and a D-Day exhibition curated by the D-Day Lepe Heritage Group, at [Lepe Country Park](#) - if you'd prefer to stay at home there will also be a virtual tour through the history of Lepe and its surrounding areas from 70,000 BC right up to present day (11-20 September, check individual events for specific times)
- outdoor painting, a GPS treasure hunt and Friday-night online bingo at [Royal Victoria Country Park](#) (from 11-20 September)

For further details about these events and many others in Hampshire, explore the [Heritage Open Days website](#).

Domestic abuse: refuge and housing options

Do you have a safe space?

If you aren't safe in your home because of violence, abuse or threatening behaviour, you can get help with a safe place to stay or support to stay in your home safely. We understand that due to self-isolation staying with family and friends might not be an option.

Help making your house safer

In many situations, we can support you to remain in your own home by supplying and fitting a variety of security measures. Specialist support workers are also available to help ensure you can remain safely at home rather than having to move. Call the [Hampshire Domestic Abuse Service](#) Advice Line who will signpost you to the right service for your area.

Find a place in a refuge

You might be able to get safe housing and support in a refuge.

- Refuge services could still be an option for you. You can find out about available refuge places by calling the [Hampshire Domestic Abuse Service](#) Advice Line on 03300 165 112, asking another support service or the police to help you.
- Refuge services are still open and accepting referrals. There is guidance for refuges on how to provide support during the Covid-19 pandemic including for survivors and children who may need to self-isolate with them.
- You may be able to get free rail travel to take up a place in a refuge. Ask the Hampshire Domestic Abuse Service about this.
- There are some refuge options available to male victims of abuse. You can call the Hampshire Domestic Abuse Service, the You Trust or the Men's Advice Line for help finding refuge or similar accommodation.
- Pets: many refuges are unable to accommodate pets. But there are specialist pet fostering services that can provide a solution. For more information please contact the [Dogs Trust Freedom Project](#) or [Paws Protect](#).

Ask the council for help

You can ask any council for homelessness help if you're at risk in your home or can't stay there because of domestic abuse. The council must help with emergency housing if you're classed as priority need.

You have an automatic priority need if:

- you have children with you
- you're pregnant
- you're a care leaver under 21

Even if none of these apply, the council must help with emergency housing if they think you're vulnerable. For example, because of the abuse or due to physical or mental health problems.

Your local authority housing department still has a responsibility to give you information about your housing options. You will need to contact the department by phone or email.

Help is available from:

- [Hampshire Domestic Abuse Service](#)
Advice Line (provided by Stop Domestic Abuse) 03300 165 112 weekdays 9.30am-8pm
- **YOU Trust, Dorset**
Offers a service to support male victims and families with older boys who would not be able to access most refuge spaces, and people from LGBTQ+ and BAME communities.
Telephone: 0800 032 5204
Email: youfirst@theyoutrust.org.uk
- **Men's Advice Line**
The [Men's Advice Line](#) is a confidential helpline for male victims of domestic abuse and those supporting them.
Telephone: 0808 801 0327
- **Hampshire housing departments:**
[Borough, District and City Council housing departments](#)

- **Welfare benefits and housing advice**
The Department for Work and Pensions has published up-to-date [coronavirus-related welfare benefits information](#).
- **Shelter** provide free confidential housing information, support and legal advice on all housing and homelessness issues.
They also have an emergency helpline: 0808 800 4444
Webchat <https://england.shelter.org.uk/>
- **Turn2us**
If you are concerned about your financial situation, you can contact [Turn2us](#). They help people to access the money available to them through welfare benefits and grants. Their website has an income-related benefits checker enabling you to check that you are receiving all the benefits you are entitled to.

