

**East Central Bristol Families in Focus (FiF)** is continuing to operate as normally as we can do during these unsettled times. We are moving from face to face to telephone and online contact, and our **Strengthening Families Team** and **Family Support Workers** continue to do meaningful work with families across the area. We are developing new and innovative ways of maintaining contact and continue to provide the highest levels of support while enabling families to find their own ways to make the best of current changing social dynamics. FiF workers are helping families to establish their own safety planning: what to do if a family member becomes unwell, how to socially isolate, where to access help and resources and so on. Families can come together in times of crisis, but it can also put a strain on relationships and FiF are doing all that we can to support people when they need it most. As a team, we are still accepting new referrals and look forward to finding creative new ways to work with new clients.

As always, if anyone would like information or advice, please feel free to call us on: 0117 3576460 or by email at [FamiliesinFocusEastCentral@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:FamiliesinFocusEastCentral@bristol.gov.uk)



**FiF Parenting Practitioners** have continued to provide one to one parenting support and are now in the process of setting up virtual parenting **classes** using IT solutions such as Zoom, What's App and other means of drawing people together. Allowing people to be virtually in the same room for a parenting class not only allows people to see each other, share experiences and reduce isolation, but also has the added value of introducing people who can then use the same methods to "meet up" and connect with each other outside of the group.

Our Specialists are all keeping very busy during this time. The **Drug and Alcohol Link Workers** have seen a marked rise in referrals as social distancing is putting a strain on substance users and bring about a sort of forced detox. This is mainly the case for cannabis and alcohol users, where people in opiate substitute treatment have increased fears over getting hold of their prescriptions. Both of our drug & alcohol specialists have noticed that people have found it easier to talk with them by phone where there is no risk of a home visit; this is something that we can learn a lot from in the future.



Our **Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs)** have also seen an increased workload which may be a predictable result of both family tensions being increased through enforced closer living and by vulnerable victims feeling even more alone and isolated. Either way, our IDVAs are there to offer help, support and signposting.

FiF's **Adult Mental Health Specialist** is equally aware of the impact that isolation can have on people and is ready and at hand to support our workers with issues as and when they arise. Unfortunately, our **CAMHS** specialist left FiF for a new opportunity back within her home organisation just last week. What a time for her to start a new job!



Our **Team Around the School (TAS)** Social Workers are continuing to run TAS meetings across the area via phone rather than in person and these are working as well as they always have. Schools no longer being generally open to pupils will change the focus over what children and young people are of priority need and so the meetings need to continue to match this.

Similarly, **Team Around the Family** meetings cannot and will not stop just because we are in isolation; it is more important now than ever that they carry on and staff continue to find ways to make this happen

Weekly **Locality** and **Safer Options Meetings** are carrying on as normal, just over "Zoom" which has become everyone's most used piece of software. We had the first virtual multi agency locality meeting last week and it worked really well. **Locality Meetings** will continue to run every Wednesday afternoon as before and **Safer Options Meetings** every Thursday PM.



## Other Important Bristol City Council Services

### Bristol City Council Social Care Team

The East Central Social Care Team is, as far as possible, continuing to deliver their statutory services. Most meetings are being arranged virtually, but some face to face meetings will still go ahead on an individually risk assessed basis.

### Bristol City Council First Response

First Response is continuing to operate as usual with a possibly reduced service depending on their day to day staffing. They are currently stable, but people should anticipate possible delays where they may be working with reduced staffing levels.

If you need to report your concerns about a child as a member of the public, contact the First Response Team on 0117 903 6444. If calling outside of normal working hours, call the Emergency Duty Team on 01454 615 165.

Professionals working with children should complete the First Response form to report their concerns. Information around this can be found within the following link: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/social-care-health/first-response-for-professionals-working-with-children>

### Bristol Education Welfare Services

As of LAST week The Education Welfare Service remained unchanged, but following the recommendation that schools remain open only to the children of keyworkers, the situation may now have changed. The way things stood last week was as follows:

Contact methods remain largely the same (at the moment):

EWS Duty Helpline – [educationwelfare@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:educationwelfare@bristol.gov.uk) 0117 3521438

Elective Home Education enquiries – [eh@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:eh@bristol.gov.uk) or 0117 3521438

Penalty Notice enquiries – [educationpenaltynotices@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:educationpenaltynotices@bristol.gov.uk) or 0117 3521439

Children Missing Education enquiries – [childrenmissingeducation@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:childrenmissingeducation@bristol.gov.uk) or 0117 3521438

### Youth Provision in Bristol

The attached mapping tool shows Youth Provision in Bristol. This includes support, sport, art, uniformed groups and play.

There are maps for three areas of Bristol and a Citywide map. Use the search tool to find address and then click on the symbol on the map to view the details of that service.

Information within this guide will remain regularly updated and it contains contact details to gain further information on services across the city.

[Youth Provision in Bristol](#)