

COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANNING HIGHLIGHT REPORT

SERVICE AREA:	Education
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KEY ACTIVITY HEADLINES

- Schools and Early Years settings were on half term last week. In conjunction with Health we agreed that schools would not universally open to support the preparation for reopening. A number chose to continue to open for key workers and vulnerable children.
 - Around 25% of primary schools in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough opened during half term.
 - The position on the 28th May within early years provision can be seen below –

	Childminders		Early Years		Overall Children
	Number	% Open	Number	% Open	
CCC	244	41%	108	40%	1174
PCC	61	40%	14	13%	321

- The government released new guidance for opening of early years provision and secondary schools over the bank holiday weekend. The early years guidance provided clarity on distancing and ratios in settings. The secondary guidance outlined that from the 15th June, young people from Year 10 and Year 12 can attend schools for some face to face support. The guidance outlines that only a quarter of pupils can attend from these year groups at any one time. There is still no specific guidance for special schools.
- Data was collected from Primary and Nursery schools on their intention to open from the 1st June.

	Cambs	Peterborough
% of Reception provision expected to open?		
W/C 1st June	71	77
W/C 8th June	95	90
W/C 15th June	96	90
% of Year 1 provision expected to open?		
W/C 1st June	68	71
W/C 8th June	85	88
W/C 15th June	88	96
% of Year 6 provision expected to open?		
W/C 1st June	60	57
W/C 8th June	73	75
W/C 15th June	77	77
% of overall parental uptake in year groups opening		
- Nursery School	43	45
- Primary	47	46
Average Size of Bubble in Primary Schools		
- Nursery	8	12
- Primary	10	10

Over 90% of schools have altered the timing of their school days, around half will be reducing the length of the school day and around 40% of schools will be closing for half a day to allow for cleaning and to allow teacher to plan and prepare for in class and home learning. Nearly 50% of schools are using teaching assistants to lead classroom learning. ¼ of schools will have a reduced curriculum.

- Confirmation was received from the DfE on Thursday of half term that schools could provide free school meal vouchers to pupils who met the deprivation measure. This will be £15 for the week.
- A meeting was held with Nursery, Primary and Special Headteachers on the 29th May with over 250 attending. Updates were provided on DfE advice on reopening, risk assessments, the new test and trace procedures and the local position with Covid-19. In light of the Prime Ministers announcement, the local public health advice is for schools to follow the national direction for limited opening

providing the school risk assessment supports this. We advised schools to review their risk assessments if they chose to review their plans for opening.

- We are communicating daily with schools and settings giving updates and interpretation on government guidance. We have provided support this week on shielded pupils, SEND support, first aid, GDPR for keeping records around pupil contact, attendance recording, updates to school behaviour and complaints policies, staff risk assessments, signage and a series of webinars from our education psychology teams to support with challenges in returning to school.

RISKS / CHALLENGES (AND MITIGATION)

- Anxiety in leaders / staff in schools is a huge concern – the announcement of school reopening has caused a huge amount of concern in schools. We continue to speak to Headteachers and settings on a regular basis and reply to a significant volume of emails to support their concerns.
- Financial viability of providers in early years – due to the challenges of government funding and uncertainty over numbers, we have prepared business cases in both local authorities for providing sustainability funding to those providers that need it. We also intending investing in further marketing of early years provision from September to ensure high take up.
- Opening building used by early years provision – we are having some challenges getting landlords to reopen buildings to support early years provision. We have managed to resolve the issues around early years provision based in Church buildings.
- School wrap around provision – under the government guidance, schools are required to form bubbles and keep children in the same group. The downside to this is that existing out of school clubs (breakfast and after school clubs) cannot operate with this bubbles due to the staff needed to maintain the bubbles being unviable. We have asked the DfE for advice. This means parents will have to consider shorter working hours if there isn't any alternative childcare available.
- Schools financial position – we continue to work with schools in financial difficulties. We are unable to undertake restructures during the period of closure. The grants available to schools are limited to cleaning, meals and increased premises costs results from opening in holidays and run out in May.

WORKFORCE UPDATE

- There are no critical issues currently with staff absence although the workforce has worked extended hours for nearly a 3 month period. Our capacity for business as normal activity is impaired.
- Four members of the regional Ofsted team continue to support the work in Education.

FINANCIAL IMPACT (increase in costs / reduction in income)

- Education has quantified all its financial impact for overall council reports. All training and selected non-contracted traded service have been cancelled until September.
- The cost of PPE has been funded from the LA resources for all schools and early years provision.

RECOVERY ACTIVITY (plans being considered / future steps)

- All maintained Schools in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Schools have developed plans for reopening and risk assessment. These have been reviewed by our school improvement teams and shared with the trade unions.
- Our early years team have provided advice are working well with settings on their plans for reopening. Surgeries continue to be provided for reception leads and settings and these have been fully booked up. Positive feedback has been received.
- Services will be running to support Early Years and Schools during the upcoming week.
- A number of our services will not be running until the new academic year providing schools are fully reopen at this time.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Daily positive news stories from Education continue to be published.
- Media interviews have taken place with Look East and Radio Cambridgeshire on reopening.
- We have weekly meetings with the Trade Unions to discuss key concerns for their members. These continue to be productive.