

COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANNING HIGHLIGHT REPORT

SERVICE AREAS:	Communities and Partnerships Service Directorate
REPORT AUTHOR:	Adrian Chapman
REPORTING PERIOD:	Period ending 21.6.20

NEW GUIDANCE AND IMPACT

Regulatory Services

- The Health and Safety Executive have this week prohibited the use of 'KN95' masks as PPE. The masks are also not permitted to be repurposed as face coverings if embossed labelling cannot be removed. Regionally Trading Standards are looking to challenge this to prevent the significant loss to local businesses as well as preventing millions of masks going into landfill

Cambridgeshire Registration Service

- Government announced that Registration Services can begin to take appointments for notices. The service will only be offering appointments for urgent notices at this time allowing for the team to focus on continuing to manage the birth registrations

Cambridgeshire Libraries

- Libraries remain in Phase 3 of the Government's recovery plan meaning they can open from 4 July. We are planning to open the 9 hub libraries w/c 6 July on a model in line with the draft DCMS/Libraries Connected Toolkit informed by Public Health England. In headline terms this will be a book collection and drop off service enabled by internet/phone plus appointment-based access

NEW CHALLENGES AND ACTIVITY

Think Communities

- Work is underway to refocus and reenergise our system-wide work on the Think Communities approach. An internal workshop has been held in Cambridgeshire, and one is planned in Peterborough for the end of June
- An internal 'road map' has been produced to ensure there is pace and focus to the work, taking us up to the end of March 2021 in the first instance
- There will be extensive engagement in the next few weeks with our partners across the wider system

Vivacity (Peterborough-only)

- Vivacity, Peterborough's culture and leisure trust, has announced that they are ending their contract with the council due to the impacts of the pandemic on their business
- There is a 90-day transition period which will be used to review services and to make decisions about the ways in which they will be delivered in the future

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Service

- Referrals to the Independent Domestic Violence Adviser Service and to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) have stabilised, and the need for additional MARACs continues to be reviewed on a weekly basis as lockdown eases and some schools return. We are prepared should there be an increase in reported incidents

Prevention and Enforcement Service (Peterborough-only)

- City Centre recovery has commenced, footfall in the city centre has increased and this has presented new challenges around engagement /enforcement for low level environmental crime and parking
- Several non-essential traders have returned to the city market and have failed to comply with the request to wait until measures had been introduced to allow for social distancing. Discussions are taking place to enable us to safely complete the works necessary to open the market to all traders

Regulatory Services

- Environmental Health Officers in Peterborough have been out and about in the city centre to gauge business compliance with the Covid-19 secure workplace requirements, which at these early stages has been positive. The team will continue to monitor as the weeks go on
- Trading Standards are working with Opportunity Peterborough to bring together support services for businesses to assist with the re-opening of Peterborough City Centre. This offer of support has been extended to the Economic Recovery sub-group members in respect of wider Cambridgeshire business
- Officers have been proactively contacting licence holders to offer support in preparation for the hospitality industry reopening, although at time of writing Government are yet to confirm a date
- Licensing staff in Peterborough have continued to work with Public Health to deliver the most up to date safety guidance for the licensed taxi and private hire trade to ensure they are able to continue working during the pandemic. The guidance has also been shared with District and City Councils
- There have been safety concerns raised in relation to increased visitor numbers and activities at Hampton Beach in Peterborough. Environmental Health have been assisting O&H Hampton, the land owners, on how to improve the safety at the site

Cambridgeshire Registration Service

- Officers have been busy managing the backlog of 1600 birth registrations that have built while restrictions were in place. In the first week 222 births were registered, accounting for 4% of all births registered in the country

Coroner Service

- Plans continue to be finalised for the use of Peterborough Town Hall for jury inquests from 1 July. Plans are also being finalised with Huntingdon Town Council for the use of their Town Hall

Cambridgeshire Libraries

- Digital engagement continues to grow; our latest timetable of events has reached more than 10,000 people in just four days. 120 new members joined online with a further 50 refreshing their old membership cards in the first two weeks of June
- A new website developed with Civic called Library.Live is about to enter pilot stage. This will enable library customers to ask questions answered by library staff

City College Peterborough

- There has been a reduction in referrals to the Health and Care Sector Work Academy which is being mitigated with a significant increase in online posts across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn

Community Youth Team (Cambridgeshire)

- Safe Soulmate are a relatively young community interest company, set up in June 2018, providing a trusted friendships and dating matching service and social events for adults with additional needs supporting them to build a positive social life, tackle loneliness and offer respite for carers
- The Community Youth Team have been working with them for over a year to help them to secure funding. This week they contacted us to say:

“We have had an amazing week and we want to say thank you so much for all your support! We are so unbelievably grateful and happy to be able to continue with what we do. Thanks to you and Liz McKenzie, we got the £3,000 Fore money, we found out yesterday, whoop!!! Not only that, we got £23,145 from The National Lottery COVID Fund for staff wages for 6 months. As you can imagine, we nearly fell over and cried.”

RECOVERY ACTIVITY

Prevention and Enforcement Service (Peterborough-only)

- City Centre Operations Manager and PES officers are working with volunteers in the city centre to provide reassurance to visitors to the city as the shops started to reopen

- Parking enforcement has commenced for various offences across the city centre to ensure routes are clear and that deliveries can be made to shops reopening
- Plans to implement the re-introduction of parking charges have commenced including the uploading of the new tariffs agreed in March and social distancing measures around machines - start date for parking charges is 13 July

Counting Every Adult Service

- The CEA service has some new employees who are enhanced navigators as part of the Housing First response. These workers will provide additional resource within Cambridge City and Wisbech to relocate those rough sleepers / homeless accommodated as part of the response to Covid
- The service is communicating with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) every two weeks as part of the recovery planning for those who face multiple disadvantage, looking to see whether the Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) recovery planning document has relevance in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and what offer of support MEAM might be able to offer

CCTV (Peterborough and Fenland)

- The service is still its adapted shift rota to support safe work practices whilst maintaining commitment to 24/7/365 service delivery

Regulatory Services

- As part of the shared service contract with Rutland County Council, Environmental Health and Licensing in Peterborough have contributed to the service recovery work currently underway to make sure that PCC can continue to provide the agreed services to residents and businesses both now and in the future in accordance with RCC recovery plans

Cambridgeshire Libraries

- The Risk Assessments for hub libraries will be completed by 26 June, and the Head of Service is leading a new Project Team focused on planning the re-opening from 6 July
- The Library Presents programme is anticipating more digital work and other 'distanced' provision, and the service is taking the pulse nationally for live event advice. Some museums (mostly larger ones) are planning to open to a very limited extent
- The Archives Service have drafted a Covid-safe reopening service proposal with the expectation that both Ely and Huntingdon archives centres can reopen from July if staff are permitted on site during the week before to prepare. The service will be very limited, and the outline of the proposal has been shared with the County Advisory Group on Archives and Local Studies, our stakeholder group, for comment

Cambridgeshire Skills

- Curriculum planning will be complete by 29 June, and we will then go to market with an online, blended and face-to face skills offer during the second week of July. There is much provision planned around employability to help support our residents back into work

City College Peterborough

- The service is well underway with 2020/21 planning to meet local priorities and income targets
- The Day Opportunities (for people with learning disabilities) recovery plan is live as more parents/carers are seeking a return to buildings-based support due to escalation of need at home. All requests are agreed with Adult Social Care. Online activities for service users does continue to be delivered too

DECISIONS MADE SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

Prevention and Enforcement Service (Peterborough-only)

- Parking charges in Peterborough to commence on 13 July 2020, ticket machines to accept coins, cards and pay by phone. To reduce contact, we will be running a communications campaign to promote payment by app
- Work is currently being undertaken to open the market with social distancing measures to all traders to trade, while working on temporary stalls options elsewhere for some traders

NEW FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

No new implications to report

WORKFORCE CHANGES**Prevention and Enforcement Service (Peterborough-only)**

- Recruitment of the five additional Environmental Enforcement Officers is to recommence

COMMUNICATIONS**Counting Every Adult Service**

- Peterborough has been accepted on to the MEAM national network as one of 5 new areas. We are working with our communications team to announce this

Regulatory Services

- Posts have been shared on social media informing the public that appointments are open to register births of babies born in May and June in Cambridgeshire