

COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANNING HIGHLIGHT REPORT

SERVICE AREAS:	Education
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REPORTING PERIOD:	8 th June to 19 th June (weeks 12 and 13)

NEW GUIDANCE AND IMPACT

- On the 8th June, the Secretary of State for Education announced in the House of Parliament –
 - The delay in reopening for all primary age pupils until September. Previously they has expected all pupils to return for a month before the end of term.
 - More flexibility for primary schools to admit pupils from other year groups if they had the capacity to do so.
 - The current Year 10/12 pupils will sit their exams in the summer of 2021. Those pupils currently in year 11 and 13 have had locally assessed grades and have not sat exams.
 - Free school meal vouchers would not be provided over the summer holidays.
- The Director for Education [wrote to parents on the 10th June](#) to outline some of the challenges from the announcements and to try and clarify expectations moving forward.
- The lack of government guidance in the following areas continues to cause challenges –
 - We are not clear on government expectation for assessment in the next academic year. We have a proposed new baseline assessment for early years from September. There has been no announcement of the intention for either phonics or SATS and the expectation for the GCSE and A-Levels in light of the significant gap in learning.
 - No clear intention for September opening – time is needed for planning.
 - The government advice continue to be that unless bubbles can be maintained before and after school clubs should not operate. This creates a significant risk for summer holiday clubs which may cause further issues for critical worker families. The scientific evidence continues to be reviewed to support further opening of childcare.
- On the 15th June, further guidance was released on giving Headteachers more flexibility to offer places to children but short of offering full opening.
 - Primary – open to spare capacity to pupils once demand has been met by critical workers, vulnerable pupils, reception, year 1 and year 6. No further funding is being provided to schools.
 - Secondary – other year groups can be invited in for face to face meetings before the end of term as long as protective measures remain and within number limits. This is to allow pupils to discuss their transition / home learning.
- On the 19th June, the government announced details of a £1bn investment into catch up support for pupils in schools including group support and 1:1 tuition. No further details have been released. We expect a further announcement on a similar scheme for early years and post 16 / FE provision.
- Free School Meals will be provided to eligible families via vouchers over the summer holidays. Each family will receive £15 per week per child via the Edenred DfE scheme. We continue to encourage parents to apply for free school meals as a lot of families circumstances have changed.
- 3 schools in Cambridgeshire are part of a Covid-19 testing regime study by the DfE and Public Health England. The aim of the study is to better understand rates of transmission in children and adults within schools by swab testing to see if they have the virus. This information is important because it will help with future decisions on bringing children and staff safely back to school after the lockdown.

NEW CHALLENGES AND ACTIVITY

- We have seen share increased in children accessing Early Years provision with the position on the 18th June outlined below -

	Childminders		Early Years		Overall Children (4 th June in brackets)
	Number	% Open	Number	% Open	
CCC	332	56%	268	76%	2,854 (1,804)
PCC	91	58%	87	81%	1,983 (1,647)

- The amount of children accessing schools continues to increase. In his speech on the 8th June, the Secretary of State outlined that 70% of schools had opened to additional pupils (core year groups). This figure was 94.9% in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The position on the 8th June is below –

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	Normal headcount on roll	Covid headcount attending	Proportion
Total primary schools Open (Including key worker)	255	252	98.8%
Primary schools open to core year groups	255	242	94.9%
Children on roll at primary schools (inc. nursery aged)	70781	14440	20.4%
Primary school aged children on roll in core year groups at primary schools (Reception to year 6)	28830	9938	34.5%
Core year groups			
Reception	9617	3528	36.7%
Year 1	9637	3078	31.9%
Year 6	9576	3332	34.8%

- By the 11th June, the total number of pupils attending schools had risen to 17,603 and this peaked at 21,622 on the 16th June. Numbers of vulnerable pupils in school have doubled since May.
- A briefing was held with 300 primary school leaders to give advice on the government guidance about flexibility. We continue to monitor Public Health data and our advice to schools is to follow their existing plans and risk assessments and open more places cautiously. Many of our schools have gone to extraordinary efforts to open and have filled all capacity they have – the main challenge to further opening is the availability of staff. This has led to challenges from parents with more critical worker staff wishing to return.
- We are communicating daily with schools and settings, giving updates and interpretation on government guidance. We have provided support this week on staff appraisal, annual safeguarding reports, mental health support, relationship/sex education, transitions, initial teacher training, school deferrals, swimming pools, school funding and insurance claims for cancelled school trips.
- Test and Trace processes are working effectively and we continue to work with Headteachers to ensure that we are making appropriate decisions on closure on classes.
- The first shipment of government funded laptops (around 1,700) has arrived for children with a social worker and care leavers. We hope the laptops for disadvantaged Year 10's will be received in July.
- Secondary schools reopen for year 10 and year 12 from the 15th June. The majority of schools will open for pupils at some point and will support some teacher for core and practical subjects. The majority (75%) intend providing some online teaching via Zoom/Teams.

RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

- We continue to develop our advice and guidance for Secondary Schools reopening.
- Development of a primary recovery curriculum and getting ready for restarting.
- Twice weekly meetings are held with the Department for Education to seek clarity on arrangements.

DECISIONS MADE SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

- We are establishing processes to make grants available for sustainability for early year's settings. Provisional funding of £200k for Cambridgeshire and £150k for Peterborough have been identified. These grants are to ensure the LA can continue to meet its statutory duties for sufficiency.

NEW FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

- Funding for Early years settings (see previous notes)
- We have emerging costs relation to the delay in delivering school capital projects. Discussions are taking place with contractors to try and minimise this.

WORKFORCE CHANGES

- There are no critical issues currently with staff absence although the workforce has worked extended hours for over 3 months. Our capacity for business as normal activity is impaired.
- We continue to be concerned around the stress and anxiety in schools and settings and are providing whatever support we can to leaders. Sickness around stress is rising across the education sector.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Daily positive news stories from Education continue to be published.

- The work of the Education service in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough was featured in an article by Leora Cruddas (CEO of the Confederation of School Trusts) in the recent [Trust Education Journal](#) on ethical leadership during Covid-19.
- Cambridgeshire Music online orchestra have released their latest collaboration - [La Bamba](#) – which had around 120 entries from pupils.
- Our Home Learning website had nearly 10,000 page views during May.