

COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANNING HIGHLIGHT REPORT

SERVICE AREAS:	Communities and Partnerships Service Directorate
REPORT AUTHOR:	Adrian Chapman
REPORTING PERIOD:	Period ending 5.7.20

NEW GUIDANCE AND IMPACT

Environmental Health (Peterborough only)

- The Food Standard Agency (FSA) have advised that local authority food hygiene officers should now begin to restart routine inspections. This is dependent on resource availability and appropriate risk assessments. All high risk businesses identified in accordance with FSA criteria have been contacted to ascertain the current trading status, as well as the controls they have put in place to prevent the spread of the virus where they are trading. No business has been identified as posing an imminent risk. This work will inform the inspection plan moving forward

Cambridgeshire Registration Service

- Online bookings for wedding ceremonies from 1st January 2022 have now opened. Earlier bookings are not available at the moment, allowing for couples whose ceremonies have been affected by the pandemic to be given priority bookings for 2021. Any remaining availability will be open on the booking system at a later date
- The Service have been proactively contacting couples whose notice period is due to expire, offering them priority notice appointments

City College Peterborough

- The new DfE guidance on schools and colleges reopening was published on 2nd July. The guidance is currently being reviewed with systems and processes being assessed, to identify the best way to ensure that the college is fully compliant with safe systems of work

NEW CHALLENGES AND ACTIVITY

Vivacity (Peterborough only)

- Work is progressing to consider the consequences of the Vivacity contract ending later this year. The council has formed a taskforce, which regularly meets with senior Vivacity staff and trustees. It is too early to confirm what alternative service arrangements will be, but we hope to be able to begin sharing plans towards the end of July

Trading Standards

- There has been a sudden spike in reports of rogue trading incidents with 15 cases in June. The team is working to inform the local community to stay vigilant
- There have been 3,000 unique hits (from different IP addresses) in a month on Peterborough's Covid business pages, showing the value of these pages. There were 800 on Cambridgeshire County Council's website though other enquires will have gone to district councils across the Cambridgeshire area

Safety at Sports Grounds

- Racing 'behind closed doors' begins at Newmarket Racecourse on 9th July. Although no public will be admitted, owners will be able to attend. This means a new safety certificate is required, and this is in the process of being drafted

Licensing (Peterborough only)

- Ahead of the hospitality sector reopening on 4th July officers have been working closely with businesses to help them understand how to become Covid-19 secure, as well as the importance of promoting social distancing to their customers. Arrangements are in place for officers to be on call throughout the opening weekend to assist the Police

Environmental Health (Peterborough only)

- Statutory nuisance complaints continue to increase. In June they were up by 60% compared to the same period in 2019. The biggest rise in complaints is associated with loud domestic music
- Air quality monitoring results across the city show a significant improvement since lockdown compared to 2019 levels. Further data comparison would be required to conclude whether other factors have contributed to this reduction, rather than it simply being a result of less traffic
- Environmental Health Officers have worked with O&H Land regarding the safety at Hampton Beach after increased visitor numbers and anti-social behaviour. There is a temporary fence around the beach while O&H explore options of what to do on a permanent basis. The Police have also issued a Dispersal Order
- There has been an increase in reports of breaches of social distancing within businesses. It is expected this may increase once the hospitality industry reopen this weekend. Officers continue to support and advise businesses

Coroner Service

- Since lockdown on 23rd March the service has operated from only one courtroom but have managed to hear 103 live cases and closed 41% of cases during this period. With Peterborough and Huntingdon Town Hall open for inquests from 1st July court capacity has increased by 300% allowing the backlog of cases to begin to be cleared. The first jury inquests will be listed shortly
- With inquests taking place across 3 venues Coroner availability has become a challenge. The Service is working with the Senior Coroner to increase the number of Assistant Coroners available to the service. An existing Assistant Coroner is working on a full-time basis for 6 months which also helps alleviate the issue

Cambridgeshire Registration Service

- Since birth registrations recommenced on 8th June, 730 of the 1600 outstanding births have been registered in a 3 week period. For comparison, the number of births registered in the same period last year was 381. As of this week later appointments are being offered in Cambridge, meaning an additional 45 appointments a week are available

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Service

- The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice, has allocated £279K to support local charities delivering domestic abuse and sexual violence services during the COVID-19 crisis. Further details at <https://bit.ly/2NsUuoG>
- Supported by the Vulnerable People Recovery Group and the Constabulary, the OPCC and the DASV partnership team are jointly funding a consultant to carry out a mini needs assessment to understand issues locally, map what support is (and has been) available locally, undertake a brief literature review of the evidence-base for interventions, and research what is available in other parts of the country and develop a range of options for Cambridgeshire

Cambridgeshire Libraries

- Our library re-opening taskforce successfully completed work on creating an updated stock reservation, select and collect form, and public information update, to support the new library offer. We have seen more than 50 people complete the online form to request a selection of books by library staff and over 500 reservations on individual titles to pick since the systems went live on 26th June

RECOVERY ACTIVITY

Cambridgeshire Libraries and Archives

- Staff are currently on site preparing libraries to create new Covid secure environment for staff and the public. Floor stickers, hazard tape, hand sanitiser and wipes will be in place at 9 libraries opening on 6th July
- Our Archives Service will reopen from Tuesday 7th July at Ely and from Thursday 9th July at Huntingdon with a limited offer

Cambridgeshire Skills

- Our face to face, blended and online curriculum for August to December has been planned and the prospectus production will take place in mid-July. Face to face classes will run from 15 libraries and our 3 hubs
- For online learning, digital exclusion will be partly solved by a laptop loan scheme being available to approximately 50 learners with no device or internet connection from September onwards

DECISIONS MADE SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

No new decisions to report

NEW FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

No new implications to report

WORKFORCE CHANGES

No workforce changes to report

COMMUNICATIONS**Cambridgeshire Registration Service**

- The Registration Service continues to work with the Communications Team to ensure the public have the most up to date information following changes to legislation