

## Appendix 2 - COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANNING HIGHLIGHT REPORT

<b>SERVICE AREAS:</b>	Education
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<b>REPORTING PERIOD:</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> September to the 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2020

### NEW GUIDANCE AND IMPACT

We continue to receive significant amounts of government guidance since the start of term.

**Remote Learning** – the DfE has published a [temporary continuity direction](#) which places a duty on schools to provide remote education for state-funded, school-age children unable to attend school due to coronavirus (COVID-19). This will come into effect from 22 October 2020 and run to the end of the academic year. The direction poses no additional expectations on the quality of remote education expected of schools beyond those set out the guidance. The legislation changes requires:

- Where a class, group of pupils, or individual pupils need to self-isolate, or there are local or national restrictions requiring pupils to remain at home, schools are expected to provide immediate access to remote education.
- This requirement applies to pupils who are of compulsory school age and pupils who are below compulsory school age but who would usually be taught in a class with compulsory school aged children (most commonly in a reception class). This Direction does not apply to post 16 education.

The DfE have also published good practice on remote learning which can be [found here](#). The Cambridgeshire ICT Service is supporting schools to access DfE funded routes for support including online learning platform and has published some [great guidance and support](#) for schools. We have pulled together a guide to [Remote Learning requirements](#) for schools.

**Providing Free School Meals** - DfE has amended [guidance](#) on school food from September 2020. The key areas of the guidance are:

- These meals must still comply with the [School food standards](#).
- DfE expects drinking water be provided free of charge at all times to pupils on the school premises.
- Support for pupils who have to stay at home - schools should work with their suppliers to prepare meals or food parcels for pupils who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals and who are not in attendance because they:
  - are self-isolating
  - have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves
  - are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)
  - are not attending as a result of local lockdown arrangements
- Food parcels should contain food items rather than pre-prepared meals due to food safety considerations. They must contain appropriate packaging sizes for household use, rather than wholesale sizes and contain items which parents can use to prepare healthy lunches for their child/children across the week.

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) catch-up premium allocations** - In July, the government announced a one-off universal £650 million catch-up premium for the 2020 to 2021 academic year to ensure that schools have the support they need to help all pupils make up for lost teaching time. Schools are receiving £80 for each pupil aged 4 and over recorded in Reception to Year Group 11 in mainstream schools and £240 for each high needs place recorded in a specialist setting. The allocation by school can found [here](#) and our schools will receive around £9.8m.

**Laptops for Pupils Unable to access remote education** – The government has set up a new scheme to provide laptops for pupils who need them ('digitally disadvantaged') who are otherwise unable to access remote education. Examples of this include disadvantaged children with no digital devices in their household, whose only available device is a smartphone, with a single device in their household that's being shared or who do not have a fixed broadband connection at home.

Orders can be placed when:

- face to face education within a school is disrupted following official advice
- a school supports a [clinically extremely vulnerable child who is shielding](#) following official advice
- a school is supporting disadvantaged children who live in an area subject to local restrictions which means they're unable to attend

Each school have been allocated a number of devices which takes account of previous allocations of laptops and the socio-economic context of the schools. Young people in years 12 and 13 are not included within this scheme. These students may be eligible for support through the [16 to 19 Bursary Fund](#).

**Ofsted supportive visits** have started. These visits are to assess how schools are responding to Covid-19 and will inform DfE policy and Ofsted's approach from January. We had 3 pilot visits and the feedback from Headteachers was collated and shared with all heads. To date we have had 4 supportive visits in Peterborough reviewing 4 key areas in school – attendance, curriculum, behaviour and safeguarding. We are supporting all schools with the visits and all have been positive to date. We have also had a number of telephone calls from the Health and Safety Executive and 3 visits are due to take place during the w/c 12<sup>th</sup> October.

**Assessment and Accountability Measures** – the government have confirmed that all primary assessments for 2021 will continue unchanged from previous years. There is a catch up scheme for those pupils who didn't undertake the phonics assessment in the second half of the autumn term. There remains no update from Ofqual on GCSE / A-Levels examinations although some of the examining bodies have reduced expectations around the curriculum coverage.

**DFE Public Health Hotline** - In response to a rise in cases and Public Health England struggling to deal with demand, the Department for Education set up a helpline for schools to deal with confirmed cases. In Cambridgeshire and Peterborough our local system was working well but the new DfE approach caused confusion. We have also had to correct repeatedly the poor advice from this helpline. Due to the strength of the relations we have with schools and settings, they have continue to notify us of all cases and seek advice on areas such as contact tracing.

### NEW CHALLENGES AND ACTIVITY

- We continue to monitor the weekly local public health data reporting to help inform schools and early years providers of position around Covid-19 including pillar 2 testing. The test and trace process continues to operate well and we are working well with Public Health to provide advice and guidance to schools. Initially in September, we had very high numbers of suspected cases but this has now fallen slightly. The number of confirmed cases has started to rise but we are dealing with these effectively. We have had no full school closures in this time.
- As a result of the shortage of testing, we have worked with the CCG to ensure that testing is available to frontline education staff via direct booking system using pillar 1 testing. This testing has been operating since the 9<sup>th</sup> September and has allowed staff to return to work quickly. We believe this approach has supported high attendance in our schools. We have run locations in Cambridge and Peterborough and the CCG has agreed to fund this service until the 9<sup>th</sup> October. We are the only LA in the Eastern region that has been able to secure this type of direct access. There is expected to be a priority testing scheme for 'teachers' when new prioritisation for testing for key workers via pillar 2 testing becomes available in October.
- There has been a lot of confusion for both parents and schools over the difference between a cold and Covid-19. There is also confusion on the action they need to take if their child is unwell. We have produced 2 guides - [Self-isolation quick guide for parents](#) / [Parents - quick reference guide](#).
- Pupil attendance in our schools has been in the top 20% of the county since the start of term, consistently around 92% attendance. Attendance for pupils with EHCPs and those with a social worker have been lower but is increasing (between 87% to 89%). There is an emerging challenges with Covid-19 refusers and understanding what is a cold and what is Covid-19. We are monitoring part time timetables to support reintroduction into school. Attendance for the 20<sup>th</sup> October can be seen below -

Phase	Cambridge	East Cambs	Fenland	Hunts	South Cambs	Peterborough	Grand Total
Primary	95.6	96	93.9	96	95.8	93.7	95
Secondary	88.2	92.6	91	93	91.3	89.7	91
Special	90.5	84.6	88.6	81.2	78.2	88.5	84.9
Grand Total	17830	11695	12659	21395	21005	34120	118887
% of children in schools	93.2%	94.4%	92.3%	94.6%	93.6%	92.1%	93.2%

- Early years settings continue to be open but attendance is currently running at around 70% of previous year's attendance as parents remained concerned about Covid-19. The LA is funding settings in line with previous year's children numbers but this protection will end in January. We continued to be concerned around the viability of the sector although there are only a few closures so far, none which have been directly linked to Covid-19.
- Free School Meals – appendix 1 outlines the significant increase in free school meals claims since January. The increase in numbers will mean around £18m of additional funding over 6 years. We have

been working with the district council to support increasing FSM take up to support the likely poverty impact covid-19 will have on communities. We hope shortly to get a direct data feed into the Department for Works and Pensions which will identify eligible families through data matching to school census. We have updated our letters to parents which can be found here – [Cambridgeshire / Peterborough \(maintained Schools\) / Peterborough \(academy\)](#).

- We continue to provide advice to schools on all issues around Covid. During the last two weeks we have provided advice on Relationships and Sex Education, flu vaccinations, the application of the rule of six in schools, QR codes, complaint processes, changes to the DBS process, Covid-19 symptoms and attendance coding. We also provide a weekly data update on Covid infection rates across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough including maps.

#### RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

- We are developing advice and guidance for schools on catch up funding and remote learning.
- A workshop is being held in both Local Authorities to support Year 6 catch ups.
- We continue to provide extensive daily update to schools on all government guidance and Local Authority advice. Over 1,000 are subscribed.
- We have met with Independent Schools and FE providers in Peterborough to provide advice and support for Covid-19.

#### DECISIONS MADE SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

None

#### NEW FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

- The rising demand for Elective Home Education has meant we have a shortage of capacity to process all the applications and make contact with parents. Cambridgeshire has seen over 250 requests for EHE and Peterborough will be over 100. In both LA's this is around a 400% increase on previous years. Over half of applications cite Covid-19 as their rationale to remove children from school. A bid will be made to the MHCLG Covid-19 fund to make sure we have enough capacity to support this important function. We also have pressure on transport and will be adding additional resource to ensure we meet our statutory duties.

#### WORKFORCE CHANGES

- Education services have been responding to the Covid-19 crisis since early March. Most services continued to operate over the summer. We continue to be responsive to schools need – we have responded to over 2,500 emails from schools in September from our shared mailbox. Staff are becoming exhausted and we are trying to protect our staff ensuring they do not work excessively.
- We have had to redirect staff from other key functions to support the test and trace process. This is not sustainable and we will need further support.
- The stress being placed on education leaders (especially Headteachers) is significant. The relentless nature of new government expectations coupled with the additional work from Covid-19 is leading to staff absence. We have worked with Headteacher groups to provide additional support.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

- The Service Director for Education [wrote to parents](#) at the end of term to thank them for their efforts and to outline some of the challenges around managing Covid-19 and remote learning.
- We have held two Headteacher meetings this term – both at the 300 capacity where we have shared updates. We have also briefing over 150 governors / board members on the Covid-19 situation. Two early years briefings are taking place in October and November.
- It has sometimes been challenging to get parents and children to adhere to social distancing requirements outside of school. In response to this we produced a series of posters for schools to share with parents - [Teacher 1](#) / [Teacher 2](#) / [Social Distancing](#) / [Remote Learning](#) / [After School Play Date - Boys](#) / [After School Play Date - Girls](#) / [Hanging out with Mates](#) / [Hanging out with Mates 2](#) / [Sleepover - Boys](#) / [Sleepover - Girls](#) / [Sleepover - Girls 2](#) / [After School Kick About](#) / [After School Kick About 2](#)

Appendix 1 - Changes in Free School Meal Take Up during Covid-19

	Total Pupils on Roll Jan 20	Total Number of live FSM Claims								No. of new FSM Claims area since COVID 19	% of children on roll on FSM Jan 2020	% of children on roll on FSM July 2020	% increase in FSM Uptake between Jan and July 2020
		Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20				
<b>East Cambs</b>													
Bottisham, Burwell & Soham		707	737	746	807	821	823	796	855				
Ely, Littleport & Witchford		913	944	951	1031	1047	1061	1006	1100				
<b>Total</b>	<b>11994</b>	<b>1620</b>	<b>1681</b>	<b>1697</b>	<b>1838</b>	<b>1868</b>	<b>1884</b>	<b>1802</b>	<b>1955</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>13.51%</b>	<b>15.02%</b>	<b>1.52%</b>
<b>Fenland</b>													
March & Chatteris		1161	1187	1199	1317	1334	1335	1300	1380				
Whittlesey		383	399	404	437	438	444	415	437				
Wisbech		1262	1289	1323	1406	1420	1449	1430	1452				
<b>Total</b>	<b>12837</b>	<b>2806</b>	<b>2875</b>	<b>2926</b>	<b>3160</b>	<b>3192</b>	<b>3228</b>	<b>3145</b>	<b>3269</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>21.86%</b>	<b>24.50%</b>	<b>2.64%</b>
<b>Huntingdonshire</b>													
Huntingdon		1360	1418	1435	1515	1520	1552	1528	1615				
Ramsey, Sawtry & Yaxley		831	844	864	953	960	981	967	1015				
St Ives		387	423	431	450	453	466	451	503				
St Neots		781	808	816	893	899	925	923	973				
<b>Total</b>	<b>23808</b>	<b>3359</b>	<b>3493</b>	<b>3546</b>	<b>3811</b>	<b>3832</b>	<b>3924</b>	<b>3869</b>	<b>4106</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>14.11%</b>	<b>16.25%</b>	<b>2.14%</b>
<b>South Cambs</b>													
Bassing., Melb., Comb. & Gam.		839	861	866	950	957	974	985	1039				
Cottenham and Swavsey		524	535	543	594	595	610	578	643				
Sawston and Linton		396	399	412	437	437	446	409	467				
<b>Total</b>	<b>19753</b>	<b>1759</b>	<b>1795</b>	<b>1821</b>	<b>1981</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>1972</b>	<b>2149</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>8.90%</b>	<b>9.98%</b>	<b>1.08%</b>
<b>Cambridge City</b>													
Cambridge North		1237	1272	1292	1404	1411	1430	1383	1470				
Cambridge South		1565	1578	1588	1662	1665	1699	1581	1699				
<b>Total</b>	<b>14911</b>	<b>2802</b>	<b>2850</b>	<b>2880</b>	<b>3066</b>	<b>3076</b>	<b>3129</b>	<b>2964</b>	<b>3169</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>18.79%</b>	<b>19.88%</b>	<b>1.09%</b>
<b>Total in Cambridgeshire</b>	<b>83303</b>	<b>12346</b>	<b>12694</b>	<b>12870</b>	<b>13856</b>	<b>13957</b>	<b>14195</b>	<b>13752</b>	<b>14648</b>	<b>1778</b>	<b>14.82%</b>	<b>16.50%</b>	<b>1.68%</b>
<b>New PCC Eligible Children</b>				<b>161</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>105</b>			<b>620</b>			
<b>TOTAL increase CCC &amp; PCC</b>										<b>2398</b>			