

COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANNING HIGHLIGHT REPORT

SERVICE AREA:	Education
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KEY ACTIVITY HEADLINES

- Primary Schools and Early Years settings opened for additional children this week.
- In Primary schools, additional pupils were allowed to attend from early year's provision, reception, year 1 and year 6. Schools have had to follow guidelines around limiting group numbers (bubbles) and this has affected staffing capacity. They continue to prioritise vulnerable and critical worker children.
- Early years settings opened to additional children but were limited by group and physical size of buildings. Specific guidance for early year's settings has been provided by the DfE.
- Throughout the period of closure for Covid-19, the LA has had a full data return from schools to enable local planning and analysis. This has however meant duplicating the data collection undertaken by the DfE. In agreement with the DfE and in order to reduce burden on Headteacher, we stopped collecting data locally and moved to using the DfE data portal. This was supposed to be live on the 1st June but we have been told that no data on school opening will be available until the 9th June. We have also been told not to put in place LA data collection processes to make up for this failing. We have also raised concerns with the DfE over the complexity and brevity of the questions and the time is taking leaders in school to complete.
- We have been keeping in close contact with schools and we don't believe opening plans changed materially from those reported to the LA on the 26th May. The position at that point is below -

% schools expected to open	Cambridgeshire			Peterborough		
	Reception	Year 1	Year 6	Reception	Year 1	Year 6
W/C 1 st June	71	68	60	77	71	57
W/C 8 th June	95	85	73	90	88	75
W/C 15 th June	96	88	77	90	96	77

- We continue to receive data from Early Years settings although as a result of the previous issue, we don't have a full position on school based settings hence the figures are not comparable to previous weeks. The position on the 4th June within early years provision can be seen below –

	Childminders		Early Years		Overall Children (previous week in brackets)
	Number	% Open	Number	% Open	
CCC	519	55%	212	60%	1,804 (1,174)
PCC	86	54%	66	53%	1,647 (321)

- Secondary schools are developing plans for further opening from the 15th June. The guidance expects secondary schools to offer this face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of year 10 and year 12 pupils, which should remain the predominant mode of education during this term for pupils in these year groups. There is an expectation to continue providing full-time provision for children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils in all year groups. The LA has developed an opening guidance pack for Secondary schools and we are collecting data on plans for pupils.
- From a review of the position with secondary schools, over half of schools have seen a sharp increase in the number of critical workers requesting a place in school. This has been up to 35% additional children. The definition of critical workers was reviewed on the 1st June but remains unchanged.
- We are communicating daily with schools and settings giving updates and interpretation on government guidance. We have provided support this week on risk assessments for staff and pupils, summary of government guidance, exclusions processes, attendance coding, educational support for disadvantaged pupils, critical workers, updated schools policies on health and safety, equality impact assessments, pupil wellbeing, wrap around care and Covid-19 suppliers. The DfE issues around 5 updates a day and we continue to provide summaries for schools of the key points.

- All schools have been provided with PPE for cases where a member of staff or a child have symptoms of covid-19. We have provided additional PPE for special schools as their numbers increase and obtained visors for all schools that have requested these. This has come from a donation from www.makespace.org

RISKS / CHALLENGES (AND MITIGATION)

- Anxiety in leaders / staff in schools is a huge concern – all staff in maintained schools in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough now have access to the Employee Assistance Programme operated by both councils.
- Concerns around infection rates and potential impact in schools – we continue to take advice from the Director of Public Health who is monitoring community infection rates.
- Financial viability of providers in early years – due to the challenges of government funding and uncertainty over numbers, we have prepared business cases for providing sustainability funding. We also intending investing in further marketing of provision from September to ensure high take up.
- 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.
- 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 keep children separate. There remains a lack of DfE advice and we have put together a position statement for schools and settings which outlines that if it is not possible to keep children in the same groups that they have been in during the school day, then the provision should not operate. We are currently seeking clarification about the opening of holiday schemes that either run on school sites or in local communities.

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.
- 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.
- We have weekly meetings with the Trade Unions to discuss key concerns for their members. These continue to be productive.
- Peace Anumah from the Virtual School in CCC has created a "Thank you" animation video for everyone in the education setting. She had help from 3 children, a parent and a social worker, supporting the voice narration. The video can be found here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUwC5RufWu4>