

COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANNING HIGHLIGHT REPORT

SERVICE AREAS:	Education
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REPORTING PERIOD:	6 th July to 17 th July (Weeks 16 and 17)

NEW GUIDANCE AND IMPACT

- Ofsted have just released more details on their [proposal for activity for the autumn term](#). In schools their focus will be –
 - identifying the barriers schools have faced and are still facing in managing the return to full education for pupils
 - how leaders are ensuring pupils resume learning the school's extant curriculum, including the blend of classroom teaching and, where necessary, remote education
 - how pupils are settling back into expected routines and behaviours
 - how any identified and specific health and well-being issues for particular pupils are being addressed and what may be needed at local and/or national level to support this
 - safeguardingThey will visit all inadequate schools and a sample of schools across the other Ofsted grades (outstanding, good, requires improvement). The visits will be based around a series of professional conversations with senior and middle leaders.
- Funding for the PE and Sport Premium will once again [continue at this higher rate of £320 million next year](#). It builds on the School Sport and Activity Action Plan launched last year and underlines the importance of PE and sport in the Government's manifesto. The average one form entry primary school (210 pupils) will receive roughly £18,000 per year.
- Despite repeated promises, there has been no further guidance from the DfE, we have taken the provisional decision to adopt the following approaches to the provision of home to school transport from the start of September in both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough:
 - Primary schools - Transport will be planned and organised so that where we have children from different year groups on the same vehicle, children from the same year group are seated together.
 - Secondary schools - Children travelling on Local Authority provided transport will be expected to wear a face covering provided by their parents/carers in line with the requirements for children travelling on public transport. This will enable children to travel with their peers without the need for other social distancing measures to be put in place, or to separate children into their bubbles when travelling to and from school.
 - Special schools - Transport will be planned and organised, where possible, to maintain the integrity of schools' bubble arrangements. Parents will have the option of requesting parental mileage as an alternative to using Local Authority provided transport. In cases where this involves an additional cost to the Authority, parental mileage will only be agreed up October half-term and will then be subject to review.
 - All schools - The Local Authority will only provide and fund transport for term-time only travel. Schools will need to make their own arrangements should they wish some children to be in school before the start of the new term.
 - Children with EHCPs attending mainstream schools - Parents can apply for parental mileage as an alternative to using Local Authority provided transport. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Opportunity Area – Fenland and East Cambridgeshire was designated as an Opportunity Area (OA) following the 2016 Social Mobility Index. The programme is being extended for a fourth year, running until 31st August 2021 and additional funding for schools and early years settings.
- The DfE have published guidance to help schools prepare for the next academic year. The intention is for the early years foundation stage (EYFS) profile and all existing statutory key stage 1 and 2 assessments to return in 2020/21 including the phonics screening check and year 4 multiplication tables check. The government have also announced that all pupils in year 1 who didn't sit the phonics screening check will undertake this check during the second half of the 2020 autumn term. Any pupils who do not meet the expected standard in the autumn check will be expected to take the statutory check in June 2021.

- The government has yet to announce the funding allocations for the £1bn catch up despite term ending nationally on the 17th July.

NEW CHALLENGES AND ACTIVITY

- Pupil number have remained static across schools following the full opening of available capacity for many of our schools from the 1st June (15th June for Secondary)
- Early years numbers continue to fill with children. The position on the 2nd July within early years provision can be seen below –

	Childminders		Early Years Settings		Overall Children (2 nd July position in brackets)
	Number	% Open	Number	% Open	
CCC	371	62%	271	77%	4,731 (4,588)
PCC	109	69%	91	85%	2,943 (2,748)

- We have provided schools with updated risk assessments for both full reopening and also individual staff members. This includes staff and pupils from the BAME communities. As per the first stage of reopening, the LA will be signing off all maintained schools risk assessment as responsible body. We will also share these risk assessments with unions prior to the reopening of schools in September.
- We are communicating daily with schools and settings giving updates and interpretation on government guidance. We have provided support on singing in schools, models of running classes, moderation, support for mental health, pupils and staff who previously were shielding, our outdoor centres offer, sourcing PPE, safeguarding training, PE in the autumn, guidance for schools about what to do in a lockdown, pregnancy and the reopening of health services to schools.
- A weekly report is provided to schools on the local public health data to help inform schools of position around Covid-19 including pillar 2 testing. The test and trace process continues to operate well. We have seen higher rates of suspected symptoms in line with increasing pupil numbers but very low reported cases of covid-19 in either staff or pupils. The operation of bubbles and the detailed risk planning undertaken by schools have been effective. Specific advice has been provided to Peterborough schools around the increase in confirmed cases including parental communications.
- New Maths & English Summer Learning Packs – our teams in Cambridgeshire have produced summer learning packs for English and maths. The main intent behind the resources was to support disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils over the summer holidays, so the activities in them do not require access to the internet to be completed, have resources such as digit cards included and consolidate learning from the pupils' current year group. The packs can be found by using this [link](#).
- Create a Community Challenge - Shortly after the government announced that schools would be closing to all but the most vulnerable pupils and children of key workers, we announced a competition for all schools with the chance to win an iPad. The Create a Community Challenge, a project for children of all ages, was launched to inspire children to think about what makes a good community and to design a settlement for the future. We had entries from schools across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, including contributions from children in Reception to Year 6. The winner was from Old Fletton Primary School in Peterborough. Their design for *Coville* was incredible and the 10 minute video presentation they made to advertise the town not only outlined its eco-credentials but also showed why it would be a great place to live.
- LA End of Term Letter for Parents / September opening – a letter was prepared for schools to send to parents from the LA covering all aspects on the current situation. A copy can be found [here](#).
- Briefing were held with Headteachers and SENCOs on the easement to Education Health and Care Plans. These legal changes which will be in place until the end of September.

RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

- Schools are developing risk assessments for September opening in line with government guidance. Our services are planning for reopening although it is likely our direct work in schools and settings will be limited in the autumn term until we have further easing of restrictions in schools.
- Twice weekly meetings are held with the Department for Education to seek clarity on arrangements.
- A maintained Headteacher Q&A session was held to support schools with reopening in September.

DECISIONS MADE SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

None

NEW FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

- Following the release of reopening guidance, we remain concerned around the lack of clarity on providing home to school transport. If social distancing is required, there is a significant additional cost if we can source suitable vehicles to provide transport. Our teams are currently working out the implication of this new guidance.

WORKFORCE CHANGES

- 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.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Daily positive news stories from Education continue to be published.
- The Service Director has written an article for the Trust Journal on [The importance of ethical leadership at a time of national crisis](#).
- The Service Director was interviewed by the BBC politics show in relation to Home to School Transport.