

P&C COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANNING HIGHLIGHT REPORT

SERVICE AREA:	Communities and Partnerships Service Directorate
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KEY ACTIVITY HEADLINES

Cambridgeshire Libraries and Archives

- The Library at Home service has restarted with 42 deliveries to some of our most vulnerable residents, with little or no other forms of recreation. Delivered with full compliance of the social distancing guidelines, and including a safe and well chat, residents were thrilled to get their stories back
- The Library Van service is maintaining its delivery service to corporate sites as well as delivery of key IT equipment to shielded /self-isolating colleagues
- The Library Presents 'In Your House' is now in full swing, with the team focussed on promoting the programme which has 19 projects, with 52 different 'events', all funded through Arts Council grant. The programme commenced in May, and will run through the summer. 3,000 people downloaded the VE Day event ('Time & Again')
- We have seen an increase in demand for support to museums, especially those that are small and voluntarily-run. We have supported some emergency funding applications which have been successful, as well as for arts organisations including Babylon Arts and 20Twenty productions

Cambridgeshire Skills

- Our Sewing Bee Scrubs bags initiative has created much interest, with over 60 packs being sent out to Cambridgeshire citizens. One lady has already made 13 bags! We have established drop off points in the community to enable those made up scrubs bags to be deposited

City College Peterborough

- There has been a very positive response to our social media request for face shields including a donation of 70 visors and ear protectors from BGL
- Over 95% of young people to date have engaged with online, distance learning and wellbeing support from the college
- Having got the vast majority of Adult Education Budget-funded learners completing their qualification courses online, we are now starting to offer Family Learning online, with 16 enrolling this week

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Service

- Referrals to our service have stabilised but outreach services are reporting increases over the past two weeks
- We have worked in partnership with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to develop processes for domestic abuse and sexual violence charities to bid into COVID-19 Extraordinary Ministry of Justice funding

Prevention and Enforcement Services (PES) – Peterborough-only:

- The service is involved with the planning for supporting the City recovery plans to ensure a safe and smooth reopening of the commercial centre

Regulatory Services

- The Office of Product Safety and Standards have advised that homeware stores, such as Furniture Village, Dunelm and Matalan are able to open. Officers will support these businesses to safely open, advising on matters relating to social distancing
- Licensing (Peterborough) are working with Public Health to update guidance for taxi and private hire drivers and operators following updated guidance from the Department for Transport
- Services are evolving in the way they communicate and work remotely, for example officers have successfully conducted an interview with a driver for their taxi application via Microsoft Teams

- Trading Standards continue to assist with assessing the suitability of PPE for Adult Social Care, as well as dealing with reports of fake PPE

Cambridgeshire Registration Service

- Health and Safety assessments of Registration buildings have taken place to enable the Service to begin planning how ceremonies can safely be conducted in preparation for current restrictions being eased, although there is currently no definitive date
- MP Shailesh Vara praised the Service for the thorough and prompt response to an enquiry from a concerned constituent regarding their wedding ceremony

Coroner Service

- The intention is to aim to recommence inquests which require a jury from 1st July, subject to it being safe to do so with appropriate safeguards in place
- Inquests that do not require a jury will continue to be held virtually, with an Assistant Coroner in place to assist with the volume of inquests
- Following a complex inquest that was held virtually, the family involved expressed their thanks for the “brilliant communication” they received from the service

RISKS / CHALLENGES (AND MITIGATION)

Cambridgeshire Libraries

- We are working on how best to manage a series of library projects within social distancing guidelines, for example, Histon Library closes down for a rebuild in mid-June, and Sawston Library moves to new home in early July

Prevention and Enforcement Service (Peterborough only)

- There has been a return to visible rough sleeping in the city centre following a number of evictions from hotels for repeated poor behaviour. A task and finish group has been stood up to revisit options, in consultation with housing colleagues and the city centre recovery group. Additionally we have agreed a joint initiative with the Police aimed at reducing begging (Operation Luscombe)
- CCTV camera replacement works have been carried out this week by our CCTV contractor, Quadrant Security Group. Two cameras have been upgraded which cover Saxon Road and Eyrescroft Park

WORKFORCE UPDATE

- A significant number of service directorate staff are deployed into the hub or across other services. However, services that are required to continue are operating effectively
- As part of the national Mental Health Awareness week, Cambridgeshire Skills held a Wellbeing Awareness day on Wednesday 20th May. Staff shared their wellbeing tips (and photos), a raft of health and wellbeing resources were distributed throughout the day and the staff highly valued hitting the “pause” button. We also asked for interest in becoming wellbeing champions for the service

FINANCIAL IMPACT (increase in costs / reduction in income)

- The Coroner Service will incur additional costs when it can begin to hold inquests once again, and we will need to invest in additional assistant coroner capacity to help remove the increasing backlog of cases as quickly as possible
- Similarly, there will be a significant backlog of registrations and ceremonies to deal with in the Registration Service when the lockdown measures are lifted, and this will result in the need for additional staff capacity. The service is also experiencing a significant reduction in income
- Both Cambridgeshire Skills and Cambridgeshire Libraries rely on income generated through room hire and other services; in the current climate, this income is not being received
- We had planned to implement a restructure of our Domestic Abuse service as a result of a

Government grant ending. However, to ensure we maintain sufficient capacity to support people affected by domestic abuse, the restructure is being delayed, leading to a possible service overspend

- There are also some direct costs associated with the work of the Countywide Hub, notably the supply of food and essential supplies

RECOVERY ACTIVITY (plans being considered / future steps)

- Recovery for all the service directorate's services will build on the positive features of the new ways we are currently working, which in turn, build on the Think Communities principles that have been well established
- Although not expected to reopen until 4.7.20 at the earliest, we are considering how the Cambridgeshire Libraries service can resume safely
- At City College Peterborough, Study Programmes will reopen to learners from 1 June; risk assessments and Covid 19 operational plans are in the process of being updated to ensure the safety of staff and learners

COMMUNICATIONS

Cambridgeshire Registration Service

- Cambridgeshire Registration Service have put together a video about how the work of the service has been affected by lockdown. The video can be viewed [here](#)

Cambridgeshire Libraries and Archives

- We have maintained a strong online presence with the daily Lego challenge...although not a patch on one of our volunteers inspiring the community, see <https://www.cambstimes.co.uk/news/man-creates-lego-displays-during-lockdown-1-6648301>
- Our Archives service is maintaining daily social media activity. The service is also actively keeping stakeholder groups and National Archives up to date via direct communications with them

Cambridgeshire Skills

- Please see content below



H Huntingdonshire Community Group ***
Official
15 hrs

UPDATE
ALL PACKS NOW ALLOCATED

Our Huntingdonshire Community Group, Covid 19 Community Response Team are working in partnership with Cambridgeshire Skills to distribute craft packs to vulnerable/needier children in our community. We thank Cambridgeshire Skills for their generosity and will start sending these out ASAP.

If you feel your child would benefit from one of these packs pm me or email us at:
huntingdonshirecommunitygroup@gmail.com

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Cambridgeshire Skills

The organisation is offering free online training sessions - covering English, maths, food safety, and computing.

If you'd like to learn a new skill or need help building confidence for a new job, there's information on their website cambals.co.uk.



Cambridgeshire Skills's post

