

## County Council – 13 October 2020

### Written Question under Council Procedure Rule 9.2

#### 1. Question from Councillor Susan van de Ven

Cambridgeshire's two universities are reopening at a time of considerable concern over a rise in the number of Covid-19 cases particularly among young people aged 18-30, as well as a strain on the capacity to process lab tests, a responsibility of central government and supplemented by the University of Cambridge for its staff and students, a unique and welcome arrangement but with finite resource.

While government guidance has been published on Covid-19 public health protocols and protections for the reopening of institutions of higher education, there is some ambiguity about responsibilities at national versus local level. A further realm of ambiguity exists where protocols are recommended but not required.

Arrangements for meeting and then monitoring standards by the multitude of individual organisations and settings that make up a university, such as individual colleges and various other accommodation arrangements, is a complex operation, and a matter of public concern.

How will the Cambridgeshire County Council Public Health directorate and its district council and university partners demonstrate assurance around meeting Covid-19 protections in our university settings? Equally, what are their channels for voicing concern, whether local or relating to national support, as they strive to deliver an unprecedented brief? And within the assessment of county infection control, will the ongoing results from Cambridge University testing be shared with the local public health team throughout the coming months?

#### Response from Councillor Peter Hudson, Chairman of Health Committee

Cambridgeshire County Council Public Health Directorate and Cambridge City Council have been working very closely with our colleagues from the regional Public Health England (PHE) Health Protection team in partnership with both the University of Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin since the summer on the issue of the safe return of students.

Key aspects of this work have included providing support on questions of COVID prevention, setting up new pathways to deal with single and multiple COVID cases and putting together COVID outbreak plans in both universities. Whilst the Local Authority (LA) and PHE Health Protection team have been acting in an advisory capacity on the universities' plans to make the environments COVID secure, there has been a greater degree of oversight and assurance provided in terms of the outbreak management plan. These plans were drafted in collaboration with the Local Authority and PHE and required sign off by the Director of Public Health. As a result both universities have very clear processes whereby:

- There is agreement that every positive result from a staff or student will be notified to the Local Authority.
- Both the LA and university will track numbers and patterns to identify any evidence of outbreaks
- There are clear steps, defined in a Standard Operating Procedure, to take in the case of an outbreak. These steps will be decided by an outbreak control team made up of Local Authority, PHE and university partners. An outbreak is defined by PHE as "two or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 among students or staff who are direct close contacts, proximity contacts or in the same cohort in the university or halls of residence within 14 days. A cohort might be a tutorial group, lecture group, lab session, social club, or other defined group within the school".

A high level summary of the work that has been put in place can be seen below:

|                        | University of Cambridge  | Anglia Ruskin   |
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| <b>Governance</b>      | A COVID-19 Outbreak Management University Working Group (CUWG) has been set up including members from the County Council Public Health Directorate, Environmental Health Cambridge City Council. This sits within the Education Cell of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Outbreak Control Plan and reports into the daily Outbreak Management Team and into the weekly Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health Protection Board. |   |
| <b>Weekly meetings</b> | The Upper and Lower Tier LAs sit on the UoC COVID-19 Management Team, the Rapid Response Group, and both of the UoC incident management teams - Gold for strategic decision-making, Silver for operational response.   | The Upper and Lower Tier LA sits on the ARU COVID-19 Advisory Group would partner with ARU to inform strategic decision making in any COVID-19 outbreaks. |

|                            | University of Cambridge   | Anglia Ruskin |
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| Codes of conduct           | Both universities have drawn up codes of conduct for students that include complying with the COVID-19 protective measures, taking a COVID-19 test if symptomatic and informing the university Single Point of Contact of any positive result. For ARU this is presented as <a href="#">Covid-19 Safe Behaviours Community Pledge</a> . For UoC this is the <a href="#">COVID Community Statement</a> .   |               |
| Social distancing          | Social distancing is a key component of the Universities' plans. They have put in place measures to reduce social contact and maintain social distance keeping people 2m apart from those they do not live with wherever possible.  |               |
| Face coverings             | Staff, students and visitors are expected to wear a face-covering, unless exempt, where it is not possible to maintain social distancing of at least two metres on university campuses. For education activities, face-coverings will be needed if consistent two metre distancing is not possible and other control measures such as physical shielding are not possible.  |               |
| Attendance registers       | Attendance registers are kept for any teaching space to facilitate rapid identification of possible close contacts if needed.   |               |
| Infection control measures | Enhanced infection control protective measures being put in place in both universities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enhanced cleaning measures, especially for frequently used areas, surfaces, touchpoints and washrooms;</li> <li>• increased availability of handwashing and hand sanitisation facilities;</li> <li>• reducing congestion through measures such as changes to timetables to stagger arrival or departure times or reduce attendance on site</li> <li>• utilising outdoor space;</li> <li>• managing entrance to, exit from and movement around buildings, as well as signage with such measures as one way entrances, exits and staircases.</li> <li>• Air handling and ventilation arrangements have been fully reviewed to ensure continued supply of fresh air in the workplace.</li> <li>•</li> </ul> |               |
| Segmentation of students   | Segmentation (such as, the creation of small, sub-networks of students and staff) is one of the suite of possible measures to manage and mitigate risks, and to make it easier to identify and limit those who need to take action in the event of a case or outbreak. ARU and UoC have tried as far as possible to segment students and  |               |

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|                         | staff by course, year group, accommodation in teaching and accommodation situations in order to support easier detection of linked cases and enable more targeted closure or quarantine if necessary. Use of segments means that certain classes or student households could be quarantined instead of wider groups. |   |
|                         | UoC has created household bubbles for those students resident in colleges. These bubbles will be part of the regular asymptomatic testing programme being run by the university.   | ARU has created household bubbles for those students living in our owned and managed accommodation.   |
| Staff                   | University staff will continue to work from home where possible, reducing the number of people on campus and helping to ensure social distancing.  |   |
| Teaching                | Both universities are taking a blended approach to teaching, in which large lectures for the 2020/21 academic year will be delivered online, with small group teaching, lab and practical work delivered in person in a safe and secure manner.  |   |
| Events                  | It has been agreed that any events planned will be subject to the advice of a Safety Advisory Group (SAG) meeting convened by the District Local Authority. It was in consultation with the SAG that ARU significantly curtailed its face to face fresher week social events and put them online instead.            |   |
| International students  | Measures are in place in both universities to ensure international students that are required to self-isolate on arrival into the country are safe and well looked after.  |   |
| Single point of contact | Both universities have established a 7 day a week COVID-19 Helpdesk function to provide advice and oversight of COVID-19 related support and act as a single point of contact for positive cases and information sharing between the Local Authority and PHE.  |   |
| Testing                 | UoC have their own pathway for rapid testing for all staff and students with symptoms. In addition the UoC are rolling out a   | ARU will use the NHS national testing system. To enhance access for students the LA has been working to get macro-level approval to have a Local Testing Site (walk-in site) in Cambridge City in an area that is accessible to Anglia Ruskin students. |

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|                       | weekly asymptomatic testing programme for all students resident in College accommodation.  |               |
| Surveillance          | Both universities have procedures in place to notify the LA of <b>every</b> positive student and staff case, whether it comes from the symptomatic testing or the asymptomatic testing programme in the UoC. These cases will be monitored by the LA Surveillance Cell to identify changes in rates of infection over time with increases flagged if necessary to the LA Outbreak Management Team and Health Protection Board.   |               |
| Identifying outbreaks | <p>An outbreak is defined by Public Health England as two or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 among students or staff who are direct close contacts, proximity contacts or in the same cohort in the university or halls of residence within 14 days. A cohort might be a tutorial group, lecture group, lab session, social club, or other defined group within the school.</p> <p>The LA surveillance cell and both universities are keeping a record of every positive case to enable them to proactively identify the signs of an outbreak in order to take immediately action. This information is passed to the Environmental Health Team to have an overview of the wider community issues.</p>   |               |
| Outbreak management   | <p>Outbreak Management plans have been written by both universities in close collaboration with the LA and PHE and signed off by the LA Director of Public Health. There are clear protocols in place for actions on identification of an outbreak with roles and responsibilities agreed. The Local Authority and PHE sit on the highest decision making bodies relating to COVID-19 in both universities. Scenario planning exercise have been carried out with both universities to test the processes in place on identification of single cases and outbreaks. More complex scenario testing has been carried in the UoC and is planned with ARU to look at situations including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increased prevalence of infection locally that requires interventions on the whole community, including students and staff;</li> <li>• a large-scale outbreak that may result in substantial restrictions implemented at a local level that impact on the activities of the university;</li> <li>• a localised outbreak in student accommodation;</li> </ul> |               |

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|                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a localised outbreak involving a particular student or staff member, faculty or department.</li> </ul>   |   |
| Off campus work with EHOs | <p>In partnership with Public Health, Environmental Health at the Cambridge City Council have been working with businesses to ensure that they are COVID-19 safe. Environmental Health have been proactively visiting businesses, in particular licensed premises such as bars, restaurants and pubs, to give advice and support for them to remain open safely and to ensure customers, including students, can have a safe experience of the City. Environmental Health have been working with the accommodation services at both ARU and UoC to ensure that the accommodation provided meets all the necessary requirements. Private housing providers have been given advice on how they should support students who need to self-isolate if necessary and on deep cleaning required with any positive cases found living in off-campus accommodation.</p>  |   |
| Comms                     | <p>Both universities recognise that clear and timely communications are key to managing the spread of the virus and dealing with outbreaks. They have set up websites (below) and are working with the LA to develop communications plans for returning students and to refine a campaign aimed at 18-30 year olds when they are off campus. The LA have supplied scripts for the universities to turn into their own video material warning about people's behaviour in their free time not being COVID-Safe, including translations and shared communications materials highlighting issues to do with living in houses in mass occupation. Supportive quotes from the Director of Public Health and the Leader of the City Council have been given to the universities for their press releases and all general campaign messages and materials shared. The LA have launched and continued to promote the harder hitting campaign #Cancel COVID aimed at people aged 18 – 30 which concentrates on avoiding the risk of a local lockdown. This is a mix of physical posters, social media posts using council channels - including Instagram and tiktok, both organic and paid for. It also includes personal messages from advocates designed to resonate with the target audience, which have so far included popstar, DJ and Love Island contestant Marcel Somerville, the members of Cambridge university elite boat squad, contestants from RuPaul's Drag Race, and actress Miriam Margoyles of Harry Potter and Call The Midwife fame whose video was viewed 12,000 times in its first two days. The next iteration of the campaign – along with a continued emphasis on advocate endorsements – will be to focus on symptoms, self-isolation and support.</p> |   |
|                           | <a href="#">University of Cambridge Guidance</a>  | <a href="https://aru.ac.uk/study/september2020/COVID-19-secure-campuses">https://aru.ac.uk/study/september2020/COVID-19-secure-campuses</a> |

The close partnership working between the universities, PHE and the LA with regular weekly meetings have allowed for clear and transparent communications, including highlighting areas of concern. The LA is part of a regional educational network brought together by PHE colleagues where issues can be raised on a regional level and request for national support escalated.

## 2. Question from Councillor Lucy Nethsingha

Following the convictions this summer of Keiran Burton and Guy Delph from Downham Market, and Lee Calder, from Whittlesey for extremely serious sexual abuse, will Cambridgeshire County Council be referring this case to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Safeguarding Children's Board for a serious case review? If so when will the review take place and the results be published. Given that these children were previously known to Cambridgeshire Social Services, if the case is not to be referred to the Safeguarding Board, what reasons are given for not referring the case for review?

Please could the membership of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Group be listed here, along with how to access any reviews carried out by the group.

## Response from Councillor Simon Bywater, Chairman of Children and Young People Committee

There has not been and will not be a Serious Case Review in this matter. While the offences committed are very clearly abhorrent, and I welcome the lengthy jail sentences for the offenders, Serious Case Reviews [now referred to as Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews] are only undertaken where it is clear that there have been clear missed opportunities to safeguard children from serious harm, and where the completion of a multi-agency review would result in learning for the future.

Children's services had been supporting the family for a period of time owing to the impact of the mother's mental ill-health. There was never any indication from any agency working with the family that the children were being sexually abused. All indications were that positive progress was being made. The children have made no disclosures of abuse to this day.

Our Quality Assurance Service continually reviews the effectiveness of our children's services, providing an on-going programme of learning and reflection. Actions by children's services were reviewed by the quality assurance service at the time the offending came to light, and found no indications of any missed opportunities to safeguard the children from sexual abuse.

Children's services can only act where there is evidence that harm is taking place. As soon as it became clear from police information that the children were being harmed, we acted immediately to safeguard them.

You also enquired about the membership of the Case Review Sub Committee. This is a multi-agency meeting that is administered through the Children's Safeguarding Partnership Board and chaired by an Independent person. I have detailed the membership below;

- Head of Safeguarding People (Incorporating Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Designated Doctor (Safeguarding Children) Cambridgeshire & Peterborough CCG (NHS)
- Detective Inspector, Protecting Vulnerable People Dept, Cambridgeshire Constabulary
- Assistant Director, Safeguarding & Quality Assurance, Children's Services, Cambridgeshire County & Peterborough City Councils
- Assistant Director, Early Help, Assessment & Family Safeguarding, Children's Services, Cambridgeshire County & Peterborough City Councils
- Service Manager, Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass)
- Probation Officer, National Probation Service
- Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children, Cambridge Children and Young People's Services, Children's Community Services (CCS)
- Named Nurse (Safeguarding Children), Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust (CPFT) (NHS)
- Specialist Nurse (Children) Cambridge University Hospitals (CUH), NHS
- Named Doctor (Safeguarding Children) Peterborough City Hospital (North West Anglia Foundation Trust NWAFT) (NHS)
- Senior Adviser for Leadership, School Improvement Service, Education Directorate, Cambridgeshire County Council
- Legal Services, Peterborough City Council
- Head of Youth Offender Services, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough
- Head of Service, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board (Adults & Children)

Information about child safeguarding practice reviews, including links to those reviews that have been published, can be found on the safeguarding partnership boards website.

[Serious Case Reviews](#)