

COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANNING HIGHLIGHT REPORT

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| SERVICE AREAS: | Communities and Partnerships Service Directorate |
| REPORT AUTHOR: | Adrian Chapman |
| REPORTING PERIOD: | Period ending 19.7.20 |

NEW GUIDANCE AND IMPACT

Cambridgeshire Skills

- New Department for Education guidance released last week allows adults to come back to learning and skills settings. However we continue to be challenged by having few venues that will allow us back into a face to face environment. The Skills Board has discussed this and agreed a range of measures to mitigate this impact, including greater use of libraries as learning venues

City College Peterborough

- As above, adult learners can begin returning to the College. However, as many of City College's learners fall within vulnerable groups, the College has started running limited assessments and enrolments and a small number of courses this week. Comprehensive learner inductions have been developed to ensure learners understand their responsibilities for protecting themselves and others from COVID-19
- The Department for Health and Social Care has published guidance on the reopening of day services for people with learning disabilities. Many measures contained in the guidance were already in place, however further work will be undertaken to increase the number of service users that can attend the College's day opportunities services
- Following the government announcement to allow adult education to reopen, the Health and Care Sector Work Academy welcomed its first face-to-face class on 14 July at the Brook Street, Peterborough campus

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Service

- The Domestic Abuse Bill Draft Statutory Guidance framework was published last week: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/896640/Draft_statutory_guidance_July_2020.pdf
- Once agreed this will place responsibilities on councils to undertake a needs assessment of accommodation and provide appropriate safe accommodation for victims of domestic abuse

Prevention and Enforcement Service (Peterborough only)

- New legislation is due to be passed by government on 21 July around pavement licences; once passed a new application process will commence

NEW CHALLENGES AND ACTIVITY

Trading Standards

- Despite non-essential retail now permitted to open, product safety continues to be the dominant issue for the team with an increase of people shopping online. Items of concern being reported include plugs, travel adapters, trampolines, electric fires and high chairs!
- Newmarket July Race Course was issued with a new Safety Certificate which no longer allows for any spectators to attend racing. This was issued prior to the start of the 'behind closed doors' racing season on 9 July. Although spectators cannot be admitted the Certificate does permit a maximum of two owners per horse to attend for a limited amount of time allowing the owners to watch their horse race

Licensing (Peterborough only)

- Currently around 70% of businesses in the hospitality sector have re-opened in Peterborough, some choosing to wait until they better understand the measures needed and likely demand before re-opening. Throughout the opening weekend the Police held regular multi-agency Sit-Reps which the on-call licensing officer dialled in to. There were no issues reported in Peterborough with the weekend portrayed positively in local media. Businesses have been reminded of the need to record

staff, customer, and visitor information to assist the NHS Test and Trace service

Environmental Health (Peterborough only)

- Environmental Health Officers have supported and advised a business operating from Peterborough Market who have temporarily closed as two members of staff tested positive for coronavirus. It is thought the members of staff contracted the virus from a mutual friend they had been in close contact with outside of work. Thanks to the good control measures inside the workplace no other staff have caught the virus, and as a precaution all staff are isolating for fourteen days. Environmental Health will continue to support the business to re-open, sharing risk assessments and guidance on working safely
- Effective measures have been observed at the market, with a one way system, space to allow for social distancing, hand wash points throughout and clear signage reminding people of social distancing measures

Coroner Service

- The first jury inquests at Peterborough and Huntingdon Town Halls are scheduled. Although none have taken place so far the benefit of having the additional venues is already being seen. The additional space at both Town Halls will allow for families to safely attend inquests, improving the service for families during a difficult time. The additional venues also mean more cases can be heard, assisting in clearing the backlog, something other Coroner Services across the country have been unable to benefit from

Cambridgeshire Registration Service

- In the week commencing 6 July, 305 births were registered; this is almost double the figure for the same time last year (158). Of the remaining backlog of registrations, 60% have an appointment booked. Letters have been sent to parents of babies born between February and May reminding them they must register the birth
- 11 ceremonies were conducted on 4 July, this being the first day they could take place. One couple thanked the service “for making a much longed for event finally possible” and sharing that their small party of guests “felt that the ceremony was very meaningful and conducted with grace and style”
- The General Register Office has advised that private citizenship ceremonies, and face to face ceremonies, can now take place. The service has offered some urgent private ceremonies this week. There are 185 new citizens awaiting a ceremony, initially priority will be given to those who had ceremonies cancelled during lockdown

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Service

- Quarter One data shows an 11% increase in referrals to the Independent Domestic Violence Adviser Service compared to same period last year
- A bid into the Child Sexual Abuse Transformation Fund has been agreed by the DASV Board from Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis Group to support counselling for children who have suffered sexual violence. This will be submitted early August
- Two Cross Keys Homes properties are now available as temporary accommodation for victims of domestic abuse with priority to Peterborough residents
- A plan is being developed to pilot an outreach worker to link directly with A8 and other minority communities in Peterborough. Some funding has already been secured and further funding is being sought
- Refuge have secured funding through the Innovate and Cultivate Fund to pilot an outreach worker who will link with GP surgeries in Huntingdonshire and Fenland raising awareness of domestic abuse and supporting victims who are referred from the GP

Cambridgeshire Libraries

- The library re-opening taskforce successfully completed work on creating an updated stock reservation, select and collect form, and public information updates, to support the new library offer
- Libraries are now in the second week of phased re-opening. As of 13 July more than 240 people completed the online form to request a selection of books by library staff and over 500 reservations on individual titles to pick since the systems went live on 26 June

- Both Archives Service offices at Ely and Huntingdon are now open to the public with a limited service (including pre-bookings only) in line with National Archives guidance. A full remote enquiry service is now operational. Discussions are underway on the education outreach project with the Heritage Lottery Fund with the aim to re-scope the project so that it does not contain as much emphasis on school children meeting directly with care home residents

City College Peterborough

- Plans are being drawn up for Study Programmes to ensure that all learners can safely return in September using pre-organised bubbles, control measures to mitigate COVID-19 risks, and compliance with the most recent DfE guidance
- In collaboration with Cambridgeshire Skills, work has commenced on the project to test the Virtual Support platform AutoMe, supporting people with learning disabilities to develop employability and independent living skills. Five bids were accepted out of fifty local authority expressions of interest. The project will run until March 2021

Prevention and Enforcement Service (Peterborough only)

- City Centre recovery has continued, including the planning for the re-opening of cafés, restaurants and bars. The service is working with Licensing colleagues around the provision of outside seating arrangements going forward to ensure a co-ordinated approach and that any decisions made do not impact on other departments or agencies
- There has been an increase in the number of people rough sleeping and begging in the city centre – joint patrols with Housing Needs outreach workers have commenced and work is ongoing with the police to manage this effectively
- There has been an increase in the number of calls relating to anti-social behaviour and environmental crime which require a multi-agency approach

National Citizen Service

- The workload remains incredibly high for our two NCS teams as they finalise plans for this summer's "Keep Doing Good" youth initiative. We hope to work with up to 200 young people across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough from a variety of communities and backgrounds including our vulnerable groups. Young people will be supported over two weeks virtually and in small groups within the community to proactively explore social action, learn about community responses to COVID-19, develop personal and social, group and practical skills, and participate in meaningful social action within their own communities

RECOVERY ACTIVITY

Regulatory Services

- Trading Standards are working to put measures in place, completing risk assessments, work planning and acquiring PPE so most business as usual activity can recommence from 1 August.
- The only customer facing elements of the Cambridgeshire Registration Service that are not yet planned to re-commence are non-legal ceremonies (renewal of vows/naming), outgoing birth declarations and the re-opening of the Wisbech and Addenbrookes offices. The Service is also considering 'celebrations of life' services for those who had funerals during the lockdown

Vivacity Peterborough

- We continue to work closely with Vivacity to achieve a successful transition of services by the end of the formal 90-day notice period. It is anticipated that some services will begin to re-open in the coming days, and further details will follow as soon as possible

DECISIONS MADE SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

Cambridgeshire Skills

- Due to the unpredictable nature of increasing our community-based activity, an options appraisal has been completed to agree a new delivery model to support skills recovery. The Governing Board have agreed to use up to 40% of our Combined Authority contract to subcontract to other providers to ensure we have full geographical coverage. The other 60%+ will be directly delivered by the service either online or in a classroom setting (or a mixture of both)

NEW FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD**Cambridgeshire Registration Service**

With private citizenship ceremonies able to take place there will be some revenue generated for the Registration Service

WORKFORCE CHANGES

No workforce changes to report

COMMUNICATIONS**Regulatory Services**

- Following an increase in reports of rogue traders, Trading Standards have a programme of communications planned, the first of which was shared via our Facebook pages earlier this week. These will also be shared via other channels such as 'Friends Against Scams'
- The Licensing Team in Peterborough are working with Opportunity Peterborough and the Communications Team to direct messages to the hospitality sector, sharing the 'Eat Out to Help Out' information alongside the latest Government Guidance