

27 July 2020

Local context

Volunteer sector impact survey

The Hampshire CVS Network, led by Community First, is conducting a survey with the voluntary sector with the aim of understanding the local impact of Covid-19. This comes as organisations are beginning to move from response into recovery. The Hampshire CVS Network would like to use the findings to help identify their role in supporting groups in Hampshire as efficiently and effectively as possible.

To take the survey please visit: <https://forms.gle/k3ktfARYirJn3qpR7>

2020 Municipal Journal achievement awards

Hampshire County Council's Children's Services Department has been announced as a finalist in the 2020 Municipal Journal Achievement Awards, in the category of Workforce Transformation. Hampshire's Children's Services has also been commended in the category of Innovation in Children's Services. The winners will be announced at a virtual awards ceremony on 2 October.

In the [press release](#), Councillor Patricia Stallard, Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and Young People, is quoted: "This is excellent news and is timed perfectly to give staff in the Department a well-deserved boost of positivity, after what have been challenging times for all of our services. Hampshire's children's services staff always go above and beyond but their dedication to children and families over these past months particularly, has been exceptional. The way they have adapted quickly to new ways of working and maintained contact with children, young people and their families to continue supporting them and to keep them safe is testament to the transformation journey the department has undertaken over the past six years."

Domestic abuse

Hampshire County Council has completed another cycle of social media messaging on domestic abuse support, with specific themes and target audiences. All messages were shared with partners for a coordinated approach. The first theme was economic abuse, the second theme was substance misuse and also targeted those who use drugs or alcohol as an excuse for abusive behaviour. The final wave has been aimed at the LGBTQ+ community to highlight the inclusivity of providers and services. All social media posts provided links to support at [Hampshire Domestic Abuse Service](#). The campaign has proved successful and has had a good reach across social media platforms, for example the economic abuse messages made 7,601 impressions on Twitter in a few days.

National context

Communities

Places of worship

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has [updated](#) the guidance for the safe use of places of worship and special religious services and gatherings during the pandemic. MHCLG has produced a special religious services and gatherings Covid-19 checklist, which includes some key principles to ensure people can take part in special religious services and gatherings safely.

Wills

The Ministry of Justice has [announced](#) that the Government will legalise the remote witnessing of wills in September– making it easier for people to record their final wishes during the Covid-19 outbreak. Reforms will be backdated to 31 January 2020 and will remain in place as long as necessary.

Local Digital Fund

The MHCLG has [announced](#) that funding will be allocated to councils to continue to modernise and improve the way they deliver public services. Eleven projects across the country have been awarded funding.

Grassroots music venues

The Government has [announced](#) that the first tranche of funding from the £1.57 billion cultural recovery package will be used to save around 150 grassroots music venues from insolvency. The package of support will be administered by Arts Council England and will be used to cover essential on-going costs for venues including rent, utilities, maintenance contracts and other bills.

Children and education

Summer 2020 results

Ofqual has [published](#) an open letter to Heads of centre regarding process for awarding results in summer 2020 along with information and resources available.

Ofqual has also [published](#) a guide for students to help them understand their qualification grades this summer. The guide outlines how the results will be calculated, support and other resources available.

Early years and childcare providers

The Department for Education has [updated](#) the guidance for early years and childcare providers to reflect changes in legislation to the 30 hours free entitlement and information on the validity of Paediatric First-Aid certificates.

Adults' social care and public health

Obesity strategy

The Government has [confirmed](#) details of their new [obesity strategy](#). Measures will include: a ban on TV and online adverts for foods high in fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) before 9pm; end of discount deals on HFSS foods and; calories to be displayed on menus.

Public Health England (PHE) has [launched](#) the Better Health campaign, as part of the Government's new Obesity Strategy. It encourages adults to introduce changes that will help them work towards a healthier weight.

PHE has [published](#) a new report which suggests that being obese or excessively overweight increases the risk of severe illness and death from Covid-19. The report summarises findings from evidence published during the pandemic on the effects of excess weight and obesity on Covid-19.

Covid-19 confirmed in pet cat

The UK's Chief Veterinary Officer has [confirmed](#) that the virus responsible for Covid-19 has been detected in a pet cat in the UK. The advice from Public Health England is for people to wash their hands regularly, including before and after contact with animals. Pet owners can access the [latest government guidance](#) on how to continue to care for their animals during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Environment, place and transport

Travel corridors

The Government [announced](#) that Spain was removed from the travel corridor list from 25 July. This means that people returning to the UK from Spain will have to self-isolate for two weeks. The FCO is advising against all but essential travel to mainland Spain.

Managing beaches and the countryside

The MHCLG has [updated](#) the guidance for the owners and operators of beach, countryside and coastal destinations during Covid-19 with a new section on managing local outbreaks.

Transport hubs and airports

The Department for Transport (DfT) has [updated](#) the safer transport guidance to incorporate the change to the rule on wearing a face covering in transport hubs. In addition, the DfT has [updated](#) the guidance on safer air travel to reflect the fact that people must wear a face covering in airports and on board commercial air flights.

Economy and business

Small Business Grants scheme

The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Alok Sharma, has written to chief executives of billing authorities notifying them of his decision that the Small Business Grants Fund, the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grants Fund and the Discretionary Grants Fund should close by Friday 28 August.

Insolvency

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has [outlined](#) proposals to make it fairer for consumers and reduce the risk of them missing out if the company they have pre-paid for goods from becomes insolvent.

Reporting outbreaks

The Department of Health and Social Care has [issued](#) guidance for businesses and organisations on how to recognise, contain and report incidents of Covid-19.

National Covid-19 data

Cases

As of 4pm on 27 July, the total number of lab-confirmed cases was **300,111**. The daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **685**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths was **45,759**, with **7** new deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

Additional links

- Hampshire County Council webpages on coronavirus (including links to press releases): <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus>
- Latest information on coronavirus: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- NHS information on coronavirus: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- FAQ from the Cabinet Office:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>
- PPE guidance hub: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>
- Guidance for local government:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-government>
- County Councils Network (CCN) coronavirus information pages:
<https://www.countycouncilsnetwork.org.uk/coronavirus-information-for-local-authorities/>
- Local Government Association (LGA) councillor guidance: <https://www.local.gov.uk/covid-19-outbreak-councillor-guidance>

Deborah Harkin
Assistant Chief Executive