

## County Councillor report May 2020

### County Council leaders working with schools for pupils to return ‘when it is safe to do so’

Education leads at Cambridgeshire County Council are working with schools, Academy Trusts and the Diocese from across the region to look at bespoke plans for the safe return of pupils – based on Government scientific advice which is expected to be released on 28<sup>th</sup> May. While the final decision on when and how to open individual schools rests with their head teachers and the governing bodies who run them, the Government has asked schools to consider beginning to re-open education provision from 1<sup>st</sup> June. This will mean additional Primary provision for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils and Secondary schools working with pupils from Year 10 and Year 12 to ensure they are supported for important exams next year. Special schools will also begin to welcome more pupils. In Cambridgeshire the education leads have confirmed, ‘*the safety of our children, their families and school staff is always our number one priority and we are supporting schools to make decisions based on their individual circumstances*’. Schools have said it will be difficult to maintain the two-metre social distance guidelines at all times, particularly very young children, leading to problems with the number of children allowed on-site. There are also concerns about staff and children who fall into the very vulnerable ‘shielded’ groups.

Clear in the knowledge that there is no ‘one size fits all solution’, council education leads have been working with schools to create bespoke plans specific to each one and their circumstance, which include revised cleaning regimes, sourcing appropriate PPE, and allowing for phased re-openings. The County Council has confirmed that no penalty fines will be issued to any parent or carer who doesn’t send their child to school between now and the start of the next school year. Clarification is also being sought from Government about the extension of free school meals for eligible children whether in or out of school. Nursery and early year’s settings are also being encouraged to re-open from 1<sup>st</sup> June, and have been asked to prioritise places for three and four year olds – along with vulnerable children and those of key workers.

Data from yesterday (2<sup>nd</sup> June), in terms of schools it was about 75% open expected to rise to 95% next week and 96% the week after, but there is no available data yet as to the numbers attending. There has been an increase in the numbers of children attending the early year’s settings in Cambridgeshire up to 1,500 which is about a 300 increase.

### Registration Offices

Registration services are opening on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June for the registration of births subject to the completion of risk assessments. There is 1,550 backlog to register alongside new registrations.

### Virus update - The Figures

**Nationally - As of 9am on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020**, a total of 3,918,079 tests have been carried out, of which 269,127 were confirmed positive. **As of 5pm on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020**, of those who tested positive for Coronavirus in the UK, 37,837 have died. This new figure includes deaths in all settings, not just in hospitals. The equivalent figure under the old measure would have been 30,319. These numbers are the latest figures available at the point this update was written.

#### *Locally – by Upper Tier Local Authority*

Peterborough – 396 confirmed cases

Cambridgeshire – 1,122 confirmed cases

Area	Total cases	Rate per 100,000	95% CI	
			Lower CI	Upper CI
Cambridge	225	178.9	157.0	203.8
East Cambridgeshire	112	125.3	104.2	150.8
Fenland	181	178.3	154.2	206.3
Huntingdonshire	398	224.4	203.4	247.5
South Cambridgeshire	206	130.8	114.1	149.9
Cambridgeshire	1,122	172.2	162.4	182.6
Peterborough	396	197.0	178.5	217.3
East of England	13,754	221.8	218.1	225.5
England	149,802	267.6	266.3	269.0

### Key points:

- The rate of confirmed cases of Covid-19 per 100,000 population is statistically significantly lower in Cambridgeshire (172.2), Peterborough (197.0) and most of the districts, when compared to the region (221.8) or England (267.6)
- The rate of confirmed cases of Covid-19 per 100,000 population in Huntingdonshire (224.4) is statistically significantly higher than the Cambridgeshire rate but statistically significantly lower than the England rate.

### Weekly confirmed positive Covid-19 cases, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, at 25<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Area	Date, week starting												
	02-Mar	09-Mar	16-Mar	23-Mar	30-Mar	06-Apr	13-Apr	20-Apr	27-Apr	04-May	11-May	18-May	Total
Cambridge	0	5	7	19	26	43	36	28	22	21	14	4	225
East Cambridgeshire	0	0	1	10	21	19	10	14	12	15	8	2	112
Fenland	1	2	4	13	30	24	23	19	28	20	11	6	181
Huntingdonshire	0	1	13	26	34	39	32	54	72	41	61	25	398
South Cambridgeshire	1	6	16	31	31	28	26	29	13	18	6	1	206
Cambridgeshire	2	14	41	99	142	153	127	144	147	115	100	38	1122
Peterborough	0	2	14	24	41	32	43	68	58	66	35	13	396

Notes: Each weekly total refers to reports in the period Monday to the following Sunday (e.g. 2<sup>nd</sup> March refers to period 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> March). **Last updated Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at 5:52pm.** Partial data may be accounted for in recent days.

Source: PHE, <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>

### Key points:

- The week starting 6<sup>th</sup> April (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> April) has the largest number of Covid-19 confirmed cases for Cambridgeshire (153). In the last three recording weeks numbers of confirmed Covid-19 cases have continued to decline in Cambridgeshire.
- The week starting 20<sup>th</sup> April (20<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> April) has the largest number of Covid-19 confirmed cases for Peterborough (68). The number of confirmed Covid-19 cases has declined in last two recording week in Peterborough.
- Huntingdonshire has the largest weekly number of confirmed Covid-19 cases compared with all other districts since the week starting 20<sup>th</sup> April though it has declined in the past week; the week starting 27<sup>th</sup> April has recorded highest number of Covid-19 confirmed positive cases in Huntingdonshire (72).

Changes in the number of Covid-19 positive cases may be affected by changes in local testing capacity or the speed at which tests are processed.

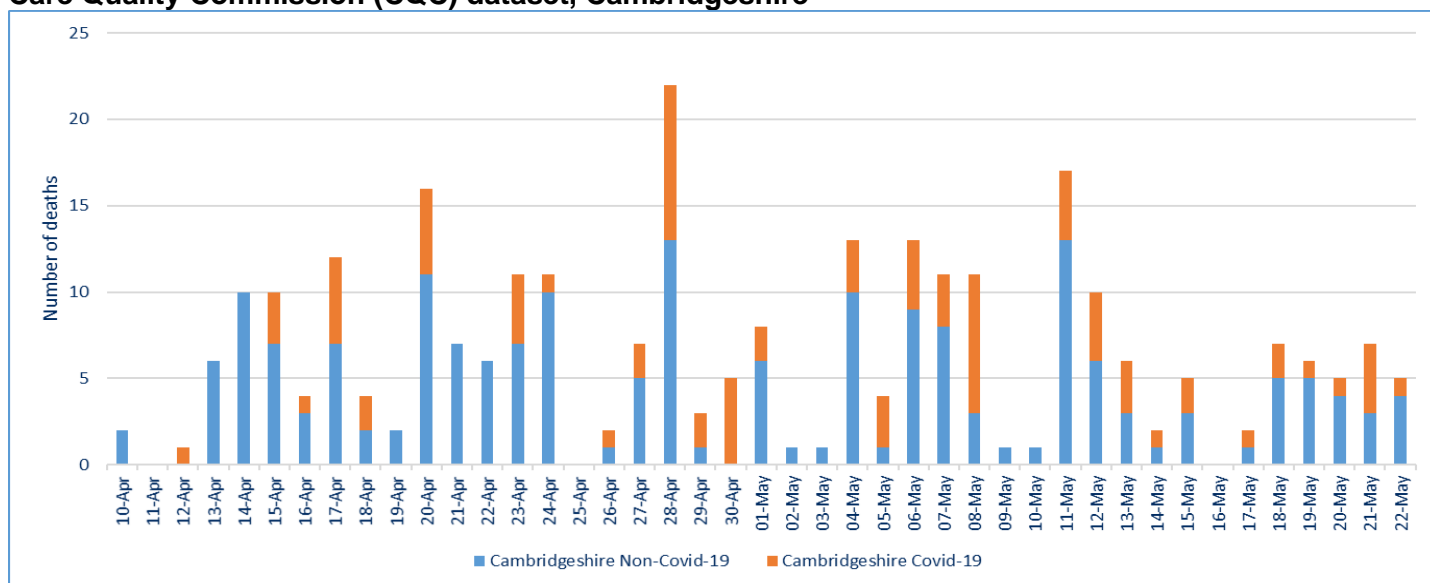
## Covid-19 outbreaks in care homes – Care Quality Commission Data

Area	Week starting										All outbreaks	Number of care homes	Percentage of care homes that have reported an outbreak
	09-Mar	16-Mar	23-Mar	30-Mar	06-Apr	13-Apr	20-Apr	27-Apr	04-May	11-May			
Cambridge	0	1	0	0	4	2	1	0	1	2	11	15	73.3
East Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	0	1	7	21	33.3
Fenland	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	3	5	1	13	28	46.4
Huntingdonshire	0	0	1	1	0	4	2	3	2	2	15	34	44.1
South Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	2	0	3	5	1	3	4	18	33	54.5
Cambridgeshire	1	1	2	3	6	10	11	9	11	10	64	131	48.9
Peterborough	0	0	0	1	1	4	4	3	1	1	15	35	42.9
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough	1	1	2	4	7	14	15	12	12	11	79	166	47.6
East of England*	3	19	69	58	101	89	107	103	58	55	662	1676	39.5

### Key points:

- In total 79 out of 166 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough care homes have reported a suspected or confirmed outbreak of Covid-19 to CQC since early March 2020.
- The percentage of care homes in the East of England who have reported a Covid-19 outbreak is 39.5%. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have higher percentages reporting (48.9% and 42.9% respectively).
- Of the Cambridgeshire districts, Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire have the highest number of care homes who have reported a Covid-19 outbreak (34 and 33 care homes respectively).
- Cambridge has the highest proportion of care homes reporting a Covid-19 outbreak (73.3%).
- East Cambridgeshire has a relatively low proportion of care homes reporting a Covid-19 outbreak (33.3%).

### All cause and Covid-19 related deaths occurring in care home residents, 10<sup>th</sup> April to 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020, Care Quality Commission (CQC) dataset, Cambridgeshire



### Key points:

- The CQC were notified of 277 deaths from all causes in Cambridgeshire care homes between 10<sup>th</sup> April and 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020. 88 (32%) of these deaths were Covid-19 related.
- The highest daily number of notifications of care home deaths in Cambridgeshire to the CQC was on 28<sup>th</sup> April. There were 22 notifications of deaths, and 9 (41%) were Covid-19 related. 11<sup>th</sup> May also had a fairly high number of notifications overall; 17 deaths, though fewer were Covid-19 related (4 deaths, 24%).
- Although the number of deaths from all causes wasn't notably high in Cambridgeshire care homes on 8<sup>th</sup> May, this date had a high number of Covid-19 related notifications; 7 out of the 10 deaths were Covid-19 related.

- Notifications of death are typically provided within 2-3 days of death, with low levels of reporting at the weekend and high levels on the first working day of the week.
- Figures only include care home residents who died in a care home.

**Provisional number of deaths occurring related to Covid-19 in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough residents in week ending 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (week 20), but registered to 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2020 and proportion in care homes**

Local authority name	Place of death							% in care homes - Cambridgeshire & Peterborough local authorities	% in care homes - England & Wales
	Home	Hospital	Care home	Hospice	Other communal establishment	Elsewhere	All settings		
Cambridge	1	1	1	0	0	0	3	33%	42%
East Cambridgeshire	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	50%	42%
Fenland	0	2	4	0	0	0	6	67%	42%
Huntingdonshire	0	10	2	0	0	0	12	17%	42%
South Cambridgeshire	0	3	2	0	0	0	5	40%	42%
Cambridgeshire	1	17	10	0	0	0	28	36%	42%
Peterborough	0	6	3	0	0	0	9	33%	42%
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough	1	23	13	0	0	0	37	35%	42%

**Key points:**

- In ONS recording Week 20 (ending Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020), there were 37 **Covid-19 related deaths** across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- Of which 12 (32%) of deaths relating to Covid-19 in all settings occurred in Huntingdonshire.
- 28 of these occurred in Cambridgeshire, and 9 occurred in Peterborough.
- In Week 20, the percentage of Covid-19 related deaths, which occurred in a care home setting was 42% nationally.
- In Week 20, in Cambridgeshire the percentage of Covid-19 related deaths, which occurred in a care home setting was 36%. In Peterborough the percentage of Covid-19 related deaths which occurred in a care home setting was 33%. The highest percentages observed were in Fenland (67%) and East Cambridgeshire (50%).

**Testing or Swabbing for COVID-19**

Testing or swabbing is an important part of the COVID-19 plans to ensure that people can return to work as quickly as it is safe to do so and take the appropriate actions if they test.

Testing is also now available to any member of the public (over the age of 5) with symptoms. All of the latest information about how to book a test at one of the national testing facilities located in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough please visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-gettingtested>.

Please note, all tests must be booked in advance.

**Test and Trace**

From the 29<sup>th</sup> May, people across Cambridgeshire are being urged to support a new NHS Test and Trace programme which will aim to track every single case of coronavirus in our communities to stop the infection spreading.

In a briefing the Secretary of State for Health urged everyone to support the programme, which aims to gradually replace the national lockdown with individual isolation for those who have been in contact with the virus, and local action where it is necessary to respond to a flare up of coronavirus cases.

From now on, everyone is being asked to follow this three-step plan:

**Step 1** - If you have one or more of the symptoms of coronavirus – a fever, a new continuous cough or a loss of taste or smell – you and the people you live with must immediately self-isolate.

**Step 2** – You then must book a test on the <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/> website and if you don't have internet access dial 119. Do not leave home for any other reason. If you test positive, you will then be contacted by the NHS Test and Trace service within 24 hours.

**Step 3** – If you do test positive, NHS Test and Trace will help you establish who you have been in contact with and might have infected. This could be members of your own household already isolating or someone you have been within 2 metres of for more than 15 minutes. You will also be given clinical advice and support for dealing with the virus. NHS Test and Trace will then contact those contacts anonymously. If you are one of those contacts, you will be advised to isolate for 14 days, even if you don't have symptoms or feel perfectly well. If you developed symptoms, you would be required to get a test.

For people who may need help while they are self-isolating there is a network of COVID-19 hubs is working across the county to help people who need support at this time and don't have family, friends or neighbours they can ask for help.

People who need help whilst isolating should visit [www.peterborough.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/coronavirus) or [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or call 0345 045 5219.

### County Council Co-ordination Hub

The county council co-ordination hub team have been very busy, and are doing a remarkable job. The numbers are important as they show the extent of the impact of Coronavirus on our communities.

The numbers also mask the realities for every single individual who is having to shield, and especially those without their own support network in place. Every one of the 18,166 people that are registered as shielding is an individual with their own circumstances and needs, and in fact there are over 31,000 people across the county that should be shielding right now. They are the ones the hub staff are most determined to help. They have been contacting people who should be shielding but who haven't responded to the formal contact they've had from the NHS or the national shielding team. They have managed to reach the majority of these people now, which is a huge relief, but in so doing have come across people who were without support and didn't know where to turn. Some people were rapidly running out of food and other essential supplies, and there were some who couldn't read or write and who therefore hadn't understood the letters they'd received from the Government saying they should be shielding. The County Council Hub staff have of course been able to put all the support they need in place now. So, as the lockdown measures continue to be eased, for many people there is no change.



### Strategic Coordinating Group (SCG) Category 1 responder update

In a **track and trace group** update from Dr Liz Robin, Director of Public Health gave an overview of the work happening locally and regionally to set up track and trace operations. The track and trace operation will follow the national system - a three tier response which starts from Public Health England, which is expected to be launched with nationwide communications as soon as possible. Locally and regionally, work is being done to action a local strategy to support particularly vulnerable communities or potential cluster areas - such as homelessness hostels, schools or houses of mass occupation - building on the work already in place locally to support care homes where outbreaks are notified. One issue the group is considering in particular is the ability of particularly vulnerable communities to use the national track and trace app if they don't own the right sort of smart phone. The local group is using the resource of the local intelligence cell to support it with detailed demographic information, is linking into the vulnerable people's group and to the countywide co-ordination hub to make sure that there is capacity to support people, with no other resources, who might be asked to self-isolate if they or those who they have come into contact with, are tested positive. The local group is to look into how local GPs are receiving alerts of positive cases from people who are requesting their own tests, as this is typically only being forwarded to GPs when the tests are being done through hospitals.

**Testing update** - while there is now more than adequate testing available in venues across the area with essential staff still being directed through their own HR protocols to hospital testing sites; more general testing can now be accessed via post from the national online portal, regional centres or mobile testing venues. However the main issue facing both our region and - reportedly other regions across the UK - was lab capacity for confirming test results. Generally while swaps are being delivered to labs within a day, or at least the day after they are taken, results are typically taking 7- 9 days to come through. The SCG

agreed escalating the local resilience forum's concern about this in a letter to the regional Test and Trace group.

With the continued, gradual move for organisations moving back into their own governance and reporting cycles, the SCG discussed its future operations. In particular how it could continue to fulfil Government requirements to oversee both the continued response to the emergency and recovery planning - and be ready to reactivate in the event of a serious upturn in the pandemic. It was agreed that the main Strategic Co-ordinating group with all LRF representatives would continue to meet on a Monday, and the SCG Category One responders group would meet once a week on a Wednesday. Some of the additional sub-groups are also being moved from active meetings to keeping a watching brief - for example the Excess Deaths Group – but with the ability to stand up again should there be a need for this to happen.

**Delivering thousands of items of PPE to key workers every day** - Ensuring a steady flow of the right kit at the right time has been the challenge of the local PPE team. Over 40,000 items of PPE are distributed across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough each day to a wide range of organisations including GPs, pharmacies, prisons, hospices, care homes, domiciliary care agencies, emergency dentists, children's homes, residential special schools, children's social care services, funeral services, hospital social care discharge teams, the fire service, highways and many others. At the PPE warehouse, the team is working with members of the NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG to organise thousands of pieces of PPE, taking orders from over 1,000 different service users, picking, packing and distributing PPE for next day delivery.

### **New website will support shielded residents to keep busy**



A new interactive website, believed to be the first of its kind in the country, has been launched by the County Council for people who are shielding to help them combat loneliness, keep busy and learn new skills.

The idea for the website was borne out of the fact that one of the challenges for people who are self-isolating is being able to keep busy in their own home.

The website will offer a set of leisure, pleasure and learning opportunities for shielded people to take part in.

This will include aligning the food deliveries from the county hub to a healthy eating class, either online or via recipe cards for those that don't have digital access. The food delivery from the county hub will include all the ingredients needed to cook the meal that will be taught online or via the recipe card.

In addition, there will be sewing classes taught through instruction cards for those that have no Internet access that would include a delivery of materials and instructions to learn how to sew alongside the food deliveries.

There is also a section of the website which supports families of pre-school children to help their children prepare to start school in September. For those people who don't have access to a computer, information that is on the website will be sent through the post.

This new website will allow everyone who is shielding, regardless of whether they have asked for help or not, to take part in a whole range of activities and sessions, whether it's cooking, learning a new skill or supporting our NHS by sewing masks and other items. Details of the website and how people can log in will be shared with those on the shielding list.

Creative at Home aims to provide residents with a positive distraction from the most serious and challenging aspects of coronavirus, as well as a productive focus for managing time and isolation during this period of social distancing.

### **Home Learning Hub offers comprehensive emotional and physical support for children and parents**

Resources and links to help support the mental health and wellbeing of children and parents during Covid-19 has been rolled out by Cambridgeshire County Council. Education and Public Health leads at the council have joined forces to provide a range of trusted and wide-ranging resources and links, giving children and parents somewhere to turn if they need help. The resources offer easy access to a range of free, confidential support services which are on hand to help anyone dealing with emotional or physical

issues, abuse, substance misuse, or mental health problems. Some of the services offer support over the phone, giving you a chance to have a chat with a professional, while others are available online, via text, or even through a dedicated app. Children and parents can find the resources through the county council's popular Home Learning Hub, which offers activities, challenges and lessons plans from across the curriculum – helping those currently learning at home. Covid-19 is having a profound impact on our lives and few of us will have ever experienced such a dramatic and enforced change to our daily routines. While it is great to see how schools, parents and school-aged children are adapting and keeping their spirits up, there is no doubt many of us are finding things a bit tough without our usual routine or social circles. People need to know the services are still here. Whether online, on the phone or over text, professionals are there and ready to help.

**Peter Hudson**  
**County Councillor**  
**Longstanton, Northstowe, Oakington, Westwick, and Over**