

## District Report for April 2021 from Cllr S Bhattacharya

### District Report – April 2021

#### Updates from MHCLG

#### Changes to the Test and Trace support payment for parents

On 22 March, the Department for Education announced that parents and carers of children who have been advised to self-isolate by their education setting or by NHS Test and Trace are now able to apply for a Test and Trace Support Payment or discretionary payment of £500, if they meet the eligibility criteria. The extension of the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, which is administered by district and unitary councils in England, ensures that parents receive the financial support they need if they are unable to attend work due to childcare responsibilities.

Parents and carers should apply to their council to receive a payment. Nurseries, schools, colleges and further education providers are required to provide a letter to all parents or carers of the children advised to self-isolate, to support their application to the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme.

A template letter is available for early years and primary schools on the primary schools document sharing platform titled with the code RP81 and for secondary schools and further education providers on the secondary schools and colleges document sharing platform titled with the code RP83.

Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme-claiming-financial-support/claiming-financial-support-under-the-test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme>

Correspondence:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1D4tI82\\_pvDmkAN-x7pX-Hja6Pf1PR69G](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1D4tI82_pvDmkAN-x7pX-Hja6Pf1PR69G)

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1MpvoF9prWE9LNCZB\\_IkjH\\_kC3W94U4IX](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1MpvoF9prWE9LNCZB_IkjH_kC3W94U4IX)

#### National survey from the Children's Commissioner

The new Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has begun a major review of the future of childhood, which will address the barriers holding children back in the 21st century. The review begins with 'The Big Ask': the largest ever survey of children in England, to gather children's views on what the Government should prioritise in planning the recovery from the coronavirus outbreak.

The 'Big Ask' will be launched on 19 April in the form of a short online questionnaire and schools will receive a link to the questionnaire shortly after it has launched. Councils and schools are encouraged to promote the survey to as many students as possible.

If you ask any questions about the survey, please contact [big.ask@childrenscommissioner.gov.uk](mailto:big.ask@childrenscommissioner.gov.uk).

Survey: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/>

## Vaccine transport reminder

A number of community transport schemes and taxi firms are available to support people with transport to their Covid-19 vaccination appointments. For residents needing help they can access <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination> or, if preferable, by calling 0345 045 5219 from Monday to Friday, between 9am and 5pm. The call operator will run people through the form to identify transport options available locally. Most transport providers require a minimum of 24 hours' notice for bookings and are DBS checked.

## Grants available for parents whose children are self-isolating

Parents who need to take time off work to look after children who are self-isolating can apply for financial support (including parents of children aged up to 25 with an EHC plan). Find out more about how to <https://www.scamb.gov.uk/coronavirus/financial-support-to-help-you-in-self-isolation/>

## COVID Recovery Community Chest Grant

Council's Covid recovery grant £30,000 has been earmarked from long-term Community Chest fund to help groups and projects resuming their activities in a Covid-safe in lockdown. The eligibility criteria for our Community Chest Grant scheme has been temporarily amended:

- to allow applications for grants of up to £2,000 (previously £1,000) for Covid recovery related projects and initiatives, and
- to open applications to all Parish Councils (in addition to community groups) until 10 May (previously, few parish councils could apply to the scheme).

Find out more about the application [process](#) or if you have any questions, please email: [Community.Chest@scamb.gov.uk](mailto:Community.Chest@scamb.gov.uk)

## Housing allocations (update following Cabinet meeting)

A total of 442 households moving into Council or social housing in South Cambridgeshire during the previous 2019/20 financial year. The slides that Heather Wood presented at the meeting are attached.

## Civil Parking Enforcement

Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) Board meeting on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March that they would fund work to look at civil parking enforcement in South Cambridgeshire. There was a recognition of specific local parking problems. It is expected that further reports will be considered by the GCP in the autumn. For reports, which include the agreement to fund this work, please see pages 42 to 125 of the [GCP Board agenda pack](#).

[https://cambridgeshire.cmis.uk.com/CCC\\_live/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=Uw085%2frTxxO%2fG2ZalESB0L5d0ssK1Jd32pQ4nZXntzDC9mRptWiQ6Q%3d%3d&rUzwRPF%2bZ3zd4E7lkn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNih225F5QMaQWCtPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzqA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IXnlq%3d%3d=hFfIUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFfIUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAJvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&FgPIIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5olA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd9](https://cambridgeshire.cmis.uk.com/CCC_live/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=Uw085%2frTxxO%2fG2ZalESB0L5d0ssK1Jd32pQ4nZXntzDC9mRptWiQ6Q%3d%3d&rUzwRPF%2bZ3zd4E7lkn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNih225F5QMaQWCtPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzqA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IXnlq%3d%3d=hFfIUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFfIUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAJvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&FgPIIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5olA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd9)

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## Latest vaccine briefing from CCG

The attached document titled 'CCG Vaccination Briefing' is the latest briefing from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group on their vaccination programme. It outlines the latest vaccination figures, the latest cohorts being vaccinated, updates on second doses and supplies, and addresses recent headlines relating to the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine concerns. It also contains some template social media posts, that are easy to copy and paste, if you would like to pass on information and guidance to your social followers.

## Update on virtual meetings

The powers for councils contained in the Coronavirus Act 2020 lapse on 7 May 2021. Lawyers in Local Government, the Association of Democratic Services and Hertfordshire County Council have made an application to the Courts to declare that councils already have the powers needed to hold online meetings.

SCDC asked Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to hold remote and hybrid meetings. The proceedings have been expedited but may not pass judgement until close to the 7 May 2021 deadline.

## Boat Race

For anyone interested in the boat race, I attach a direction notice from the CEO of the county council clarifying that it will not be a spectator event, even though it is being held in Cambridgeshire.

## MHCLG updates

Response to consultation on the use of receipts from Right to Buy sales

On 20 March, the Government announced a package of reforms to how councils can spend their Right to Buy receipts, helping them to build more council homes in their area, following a consultation on the use of receipts from Right to Buy sales. The consultation response, which has also been published, provides a summary of responses to the consultation and also sets out the changes the Government is making in response. The changes being made include:

- Extending the timeframe councils have to spend new and existing Right to Buy receipts from three years to five years
- Increasing the percentage cost of a new home that councils can fund using Right to Buy receipts from 30% to 40%
- Introducing a cap on the use of Right to Buy receipts for acquisitions to help drive new supply with effect from 1 April 2022, and phased in over 2022-23 to 2024-25
- Allowing receipts to be used for shared ownership and First Homes, as well as housing at affordable and social rent

These changes take effect from 1 April 2021, with the exception of the acquisition cap, which will be introduced from 1 April 2022, on a phased basis.

Announcement: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/councils-given-power-to-build-more-homes-for-first-time-buyers-and-for-social-rent>

Response: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/use-of-receipts-from-right-to-buy-sales>

## Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Cultural Awareness Training

I have attended the Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Cultural Awareness Training on 24th March. This GRT Inclusion Workshop helped me to ensure effective engagement with the Gypsy, Roma, Traveller communities in the area. Information helped me to understand the people from the Gypsy, Roma, Traveller communities and I have also decided to help the children in education and skills enhancement.

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