

E-Newsletter – 19th November 2020

www.bera.co.uk



© Andrew Armstrong Photography

1) Information Corner

Local Government Association (LGA) Award

Ron has just received an award from the LGA for his significant and much valued contribution to the work of the LGA and LGA Independent Group. This is the second award that Ron has received from them and I am sure you would all agree that this is much deserved and now you know what Ron does in his spare time! Congratulations Ron.

Photos for the website

If any photographers have any high resolution images for the website of our area that we can display, please email them to either Ron at ronwoodley@hotmail.co.uk or Mike at cllrstafford@southend.gov.uk and we will include them on the new website. Could you please ensure that the orientation is in landscape and not portrait. Thank you.



Charity Football Match



A charity football match is being hosted at Southchurch Park arena on the 6th December.

This is organised by Basildon soccerbility who are players with disabilities and any money they raise will go towards friends of Essex and London homeless charity.

There is no charge for the use of the facilities.

Low traffic and bike lanes to move cycling up a gear

Thousands of miles of new cycle lanes will be built under a government plan to double the number of journeys made by bike. Boris Johnson's 10-point green plan includes proposals to designate more "low-traffic neighbourhoods", where roads are closed to through traffic, with roads also closed around schools to promote cycling among pupils and boost air quality.

Possible Scams

Please be aware, especially at this time of year of all the scams that are taking place.

a) New Covid Antibody Test Now Available – The Online Clinic

We have been contacted by a member saying that they have never heard of the online clinic and that they are certainly not a patient as they state. The member did not even want to click on the link to unsubscribe as this may also be a way for them to get into his PC. Please see the email the member received below:

From: The Online Clinic <admin@theonlineclinic.co.uk>
To:
Date: 17 November 2020 at 10:59
Subject: New Covid Antibody Test Now Available

The Online Clinic

We have added a new SARS-CoV-2 antibody test to your patient dashboard. This new test is a total antibody test for the virus that causes Covid-19. The test is designed to detect antibodies generated by the immune system following a Covid-19 illness. The test can be taken 14 days or more after the onset of symptoms or possible exposure.

The required blood sample is collected using a CE-marked medical device that is specifically designed for patients to use at home. The device is approved by the UK's Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency.

The test we are using is the Roche IgG/IgM Total Antibody assay. The test has a sensitivity of 97.4% and a specificity of 100% and has been validated and CE-marked for capillary testing.

Results are normally available within 24 hours of the sample being received. Samples are returned using a Royal Mail 24 tracked envelope that can be posted in any street post box. The return postage is included.

The kit is available for immediate purchase from your patient dashboard.

Get Tested

Please do not respond to this email address, as the in box is not monitored around the clock. If you want to contact us, please use customerservice@theonlineclinic.co.uk

We look forward to being of service to you.

Kind regards,

Claire Davenport
The Online Clinic
www.theonlineclinic.co.uk

b) PDS (Parcel Delivery Service)

As Christmas is fast approaching, the Royal Mail and The Trading Standards Office are making people aware of the following scam:

A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a Premium rate number).

If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £315 for the phone call.

If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 020 7239 6655.

For more information, see the Crime Stoppers website: <http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/crime-prevention/helping-prevent-crime/scams/postal-delivery-scam>

Please be aware that the premium rate number may change but nevertheless please DO NOT call any number stated on a card from PDS.

c) Insulation

A member had a phone call from an insulation company who said they were working on an energy saving project on behalf of the Government. The member declined and put the phone down. When he called the number back, there was no such number.

Please be aware of who is calling you and if you are unsure, always put the phone down and call them back.

Council supports local retailers

Do you offer a click and collect service? If so, SBC would like to help promote it, to both residents of the borough of Southend-on-Sea and to visitors.

SBC would like to ensure that all businesses that have a click and collect service (new or established) are featured on their VisitSouthend (www.visitsouthend.co.uk)

website. If you offer such a provision, please complete a simple online form. The VisitSouthend team will then check, approve and add the information to the website.

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (SBC) is now meeting regularly with key representatives from each of the main shopping areas in the borough to see how they can work together to promote our local stores and businesses. At a recent meeting, they agreed to relaunch the “Shop Local Shop Southend-on-Sea” campaign with an added Christmas message, to coincide with the lifting of restrictions on 3 December 2020. Revised digital assets for both businesses and shoppers to share will be made available online soon at the Business-on-Sea Facebook page (@businessonsea). Please remember to use hashtag #shoplocal #shopsouthendonsea to promote your offerings and/or local shopping experience.

In addition to the Shop Local, Shop Southend-on-Sea campaign, they will continue to run the Best Festive Business Competition this Christmas. All small and independent businesses across the borough can participate in the competition by sending them a photo of your festively decorated shop front, office or business. This can be done either via Facebook Messenger (@businessonsea) or by email.

Residents, shoppers and visitors will be invited to vote for their favourite Christmas display by liking the photo on Facebook (@businessonsea). Prizes are available for both the winning business entry and one lucky voter.

In the longer term, they are investigating the development of an online shopping portal for independent businesses in Southend-on-Sea, which will be developed by working in partnership with “Totally Locally”. You can find further details about this platform at <https://totallylocally.org/>. The Yorkshire town of Hebden Bridge recently launched something similar; please also see this page for Hebden Bridge’s independent high street online.

SBC would like to hear from small independent businesses if you are interested in selling your goods and services through this potential online website. In order to make this work, they estimate that a critical mass of approximately 100 businesses will be needed. Once they have expressions of interest from enough businesses, they can start the discussion and development work with Totally Locally. The cost of selling on the website is currently £3 per week or £12 per month per shop, payable to Totally Locally. They will also be hosting meetings to discuss and agree next steps, so if you would be interested in joining these meetings or finding out more, please let them know by emailing economicd@southend.gov.uk

2) Temporary Road Closures

Address	CORNEC CHASE
Start End Works	02/10/2020 11/12/2020
Reference	AZ007-1000875002
Works Type	MAJOR
L.A.Ref	101619
Traffic Management	Some carriageway incursion – delays unlikely

Address **BOWMAN AVENUE**
Start End Works 30/10/2020 27/11/2020
Reference AZ007-1000875003
Works Type MAJOR
L.A Ref 101620
Traffic Management Some carriageway incursion – delays unlikely

Address **GRANGE CLOSE**
Start End Works 16/11/2020 07/12/2020
Reference AZ007-1000875057
Works Type MAJOR
L.A Ref 101618
Traffic Management Some carriageway incursion – delays unlikely

Address **INDEPENDENT FOOTPATH FRONTING 6 TO 28 CORNEC CHASE**
Start End Works 05/10/2020 16/11/2020
Reference AZ007-1000875099
Works Type MAJOR
L.A Ref 101629
Traffic Management Some carriageway incursion – delays unlikely

Address **INDEPENDENT FOOTPATH ADJACENT 381 TO 419A ARTERIAL ROAD**
Start End Works 11/11/2020 09/12/2020
Reference AZ007-1000875190
Works Type MAJOR
L.A Ref 101628
Traffic Management Some carriageway incursion – delays unlikely

Address **HIGH STREET**
Start End Works 05/10/2020 16/11/2020
Reference AZ007-1000876040
Works Type MAJOR
L.A Ref 101720
Traffic Management Some carriageway incursion – delays unlikely

Address **WOODCUTTERS AVENUE**
Start End Works 19/10/2020 27/11/2020
Reference AZ007-1000951741
Works Type MAJOR
L.A Ref 108084
Traffic Management Road Closure - delays likely

Address **EASTWOODBURY LANE**
Start End Works 09/11/2020 26/01/2021
Reference AZ007-1000964639
Works Type MAJOR
L.A Ref 109221
Traffic Management Two Way signals - delays possible

Address **AVIATION WAY**
 Start End Works 09/11/2020 26/01/2021
 Reference AZ007-1000964680
 Works Type MAJOR
 L.A Ref 109222
 Traffic Management Two Way signals - delays possible
 Address **WOODLEIGH AVENUE**
 Start End Works 27/10/2020 21/12/2020
 Reference AZ007-1000964751
 Works Type MAJOR
 L.A Ref 109226
 Traffic Management Road Closure - delays likely

Address **WAKERING ROAD**
 Start End Works 26/10/2020 07/12/2020
 Reference AZ007-1000964813
 Works Type MAJOR
 L.A Ref 109229
 Traffic Management Road Closure - delays likely

Address **GREAT EASTERN AVENUE**
 Start End Works 12/10/2020 08/12/2020
 Reference AZ007-1000973773
 Works Type MAJOR
 L.A Ref 110105
 Traffic Management Multiway Signals - delays likely

Address **SOUTHCHURCH AVENUE**
 Start End Works 21/10/2020 10/12/2020
 Reference AZ007-1000974112
 Works Type MAJOR
 L.A Ref 110132
 Traffic Management Multiway Signals - delays likely

Address **ELMSLEIGH DRIVE**
 Start End Works 26/10/2020 07/12/2020
 Reference AZ007-1000974161
 Works Type MAJOR
 L.A Ref 110136
 Traffic Management Two Way signals - delays possible

Address **INDEPENDENT FOOTWAY FROM LINCOLN CHASE TO SHERWOOD WAY**
 Start End Works 02/11/2020 27/11/2020
 Reference AZ007-1000986152
 Works Type MAJOR
 L.A Ref 111251
 Traffic Management No carriageway incursion – delays unlikely

Address	DRAKE ROAD
Start End Works	16/11/2020 30/12/2020
Reference	AZ007-1000987001
Works Type	MAJOR
L.A Ref	111335
Traffic Management	Give & Take - Delays possible
Address	AMBLESIDE DRIVE
Start End Works	30/10/2020 26/11/2020
Reference	AZ007-1000997345
Works Type	MAJOR
L.A Ref	112130
Traffic Management	Multiway Signals - delays likely
Address	KILWORTH AVENUE
Start End Works	30/10/2020 26/11/2020
Reference	AZ007-1000997347
Works Type	MAJOR
L.A Ref	112131
Traffic Management	Multiway Signals - delays likely
Address	MAPLIN WAY NORTH
Start End Works	20/08/2020 27/11/2020
Reference	AZ007-35010371
Works Type	MAJOR
L.A Ref	109848
Traffic Management	Give & Take - Delays possible
Address	WILLINGALE WAY
Start End Works	26/10/2020 04/12/2020
Reference	AZ115-1000965490
Works Type	MAJOR
L.A Ref	109294
Traffic Management	Two Way signals - delays possible
Address	WESTERN ESPLANADE
Start End Works	02/04/2020 01/04/2022
Reference	JR001-TEMPDIST2825
Works Type	MAJOR
L.A Ref	106534
Traffic Management	Some carriageway incursion – delays unlikely
Address	DRYDEN AVENUE
Start End Works	28/10/2020 25/11/2020
Reference	JR101-TEMPDIST2914
Works Type	MAJOR
L.A Ref	111555
Traffic Management	No carriageway incursion – delays unlikely
Address	MARLBOROUGH ROAD

Start End Works 30/10/2020 26/11/2020
 Reference KG027-SE-FTTH-PN028-10
 Works Type MAJOR
 L.A Ref 111820
 Traffic Management Some carriageway incursion – delays unlikely

Address **SANDRINGHAM ROAD**
 Start End Works 27/10/2020 20/11/2020
 Reference KG027-SE-FTTH-PN028-15
 Works Type MAJOR
 L.A Ref 111823
 Traffic Management Some carriageway incursion – delays unlikely

Address **KILWORTH AVENUE**
 Start End Works 16/11/2020 04/12/2020
 Reference KG027-SE-FTTH-PN034-05
 Works Type MAJOR
 L.A Ref 111935
 Traffic Management Give & Take - Delays possible

Address **SHAFTESBURY AVENUE**
 Start End Works 11/11/2020 22/12/2020
 Reference KG027-SE-FTTH-PN071-05
 Works Type MAJOR
 L.A Ref 112278
 Traffic Management Give & Take - Delays possible

Address **NORTHUMBERLAND CRESCENT**
 Start End Works 11/11/2020 09/12/2020
 Reference KG027-SE-FTTH-PN080-09
 Works Type MAJOR
 L.A Ref 112280
 Traffic Management Multiway Signals - delays likely

3) A127 Major Road Works (A127 & the Bell Junction)

A127 Bell Junction - 16th Nov to 20th Nov

There will be off-peak (09:00 to 15:00) northbound lane closures on Hogleythick Lane, and westbound off-peak (09:00 to 15:00) lane closures on the A127 (at the Bell Junction), for new carriageway widening and footway works.

A127 Essential Major Maintenance - 16th Nov to 20th Nov

Carriageway stabilisation works will be undertaken during night-time (20:00 to 06:30) westbound road closures, from Kent Elms to Bellhouse Lane.

Carriageway drainage gully repairs and installation works are continuing during night-time (20:00 to 06:30) westbound lane closures, from Bellhouse Lane to the Borough Boundary.

4) List of Applications Registered
Week Ending 13th November 2020

Application Number: 20/01873/AEA
Officer: Oliver Hart
ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION AND CHANGE USE OF GROUND FLOOR TO A LIVE-WORK UNIT (SUI GENERIS) APPLICATION FOR ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVAL FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO PLANNING PERMISSION 17/00467/FUL DATED 23.06.2017
793 SOUTHCHURCH ROAD SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX

Ward: Southchurch
Date Valid: 3 November 2020

Application Number: 20/01857/FULH
Officer: Julie Ramsey
ERECT TWO STOREY REAR EXTENSION, PORCH AND FIRST FLOOR FRONT EXTENSION WITH DORMER, INSTALL JULIETTE BALCONY TO REAR, ALTER ELEVATIONS (AMENDED PROPOSAL)
218 SHOEBURY ROAD THORPE BAY ESSEX

Ward: Southchurch
Date Valid: 6 November 2020

Application Number: 20/01871/CLP
Officer: Kara Elliott
ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION AND ATTACHED OUTBUILDING TO SIDE (CERTIFICATE OF LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT - PROPOSED)
7 PLYMTREE THORPE BAY ESSEX

Ward: Southchurch
Date Valid: 6 November 2020

Application Number: 20/01858/FULH
Officer: Julie Ramsey
INSTALL VEHICLE CROSSOVER ONTO KENSINGTON ROAD
95 KENSINGTON ROAD SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX

Ward: Thorpe
Date Valid: 10 November

Application Number: 20/01852/FULH
Officer: Kara Elliott
ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION
4 BRIDGE CLOSE SHOEBURYNESSESS ESSEX

Ward: West Shoebury
Date Valid: 2 November 2020

5) List of Decisions Issued
Week Ending 15th November 2020

APPLN. NO: 20/01351/FUL
Officer: Oliver Hart
CHANGE OF USE OF FIRST FLOOR BEAUTY SALON (CLASS SUI GENERIS) TO FORM TWO SELF-CONTAINED FLATS (CLASS C3)
158 THE BROADWAY THORPE BAY ESSEX
Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

Ward. Thorpe

APPLN. NO: 20/01540/FULH

Ward. West Shoebury

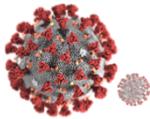
Officer: Oliver Hart

ERECT HIP TO GABLE ROOF EXTENSION, ROOFLIGHTS TO FRONT, DORMER TO REAR, SINGLE STOREY SIDE EXTENSION, ALTER ELEVATIONS (AMENDED PROPOSAL)

67 THORPEDENE GARDENS SHOEBURYNES SOUTHEND-ON-SEA

Decision: Refuse Permission

6) Coronavirus Information



NHS to gather army of retired medics and health workers to administer jabs

The NHS is reportedly bringing together an army of retired doctors, health visitors, district nurses and physiotherapists to embark on the country's biggest ever mass vaccination programme. High street chemists will also work alongside GPs in the drive to immunise 22 million vulnerable adults, followed by the rest of the population. The LGA confirmed that councils are talking to the NHS about how health visitors and district nurses can administer jabs.

Tougher COVID-19 rules expected to allow for festive gatherings

Ministers are expected to announce a tougher system of regional coronavirus rules for England next week to let families see each other at Christmas, as scientists warned that every day of festive respite would require five days of restrictions. Councils are expecting them to be tighter than the previous three-tier system, but to allow all shops to stay open.

Meanwhile, the Government has recorded another 19,609 coronavirus cases in the UK and 529 more deaths within 28 days of a positive test.

Coronavirus vaccine fraud is 'emerging threat' to UK, National Crime Agency says

British authorities are working to prevent the sale of fake coronavirus vaccines by fraudsters, it has emerged. Speaking at a webinar held by the Resilience First group, the director general of the National Crime Agency's National Economic Crime Centre, said that while the early stages of the pandemic saw criminal groups use PPE scams to target businesses, vaccine fraud was the "emerging threat". Meanwhile, Labour is calling for emergency laws to be introduced to remove "dangerous" anti-vaccine content online.

Vitamin D guidance request on treating and preventing virus

Vitamin D could potentially be used to prevent and treat coronavirus after the Health and Social Care Secretary asked government health advisers to produce new guidelines on its use. Matt Hancock told the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence and Public Health England to create guidelines for the use of the “sunshine” nutrient two weeks ago, before it was reported that the Government was planning to give four months’ worth of vitamin D supplements to more than two million vulnerable and elderly people.

Tests for all care homes pledge and new national guidelines to allow visits

Relatives of people in care homes can look forward to seeing them again in time for Christmas, after Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock said coronavirus testing would be extended to visitors nationwide within weeks. Under the testing drive, loved ones will be free to hold hands and hug as long as visitors have a negative result for coronavirus and are wearing PPE. The Mail is also calling for an end to the ‘postcode lottery’ which means visiting rules vary in different council areas.

Pandemic could be fuelling increase in number of children out of school

The coronavirus pandemic could be fuelling an increase in the number of children moving out of full-time schooling, with some areas seeing huge rises in registrations for elective home education. It comes after separate LGA analysis for 2018/19 suggested between 250,000 and a million children in England were out of full-time school, with a lack of oversight on how and why pupils leave, and where they end up, making it difficult to track them.

UK orders five million doses of new Moderna jab by spring next year

Five million doses of the Moderna coronavirus vaccine have been ordered by the UK Government, Matt Hancock has announced. The Health and Social Care Secretary said preliminary trials showed it to be 94.5 per cent effective and that, if it proves safe, the jabs can start to be rolled out across the country by spring 2021.

Students to be told in advance which topics will appear on 2021 exams

Students are to be told in advance which topics will appear on GCSE and A-level exam papers next year, so that teachers can prepare pupils to answer particular questions rather than covering the whole curriculum, under plans reportedly being considered by the regulator Ofqual. The proposal aims to compensate for disruption that pupils have faced due to the pandemic which could put them at a disadvantage when it comes to exams.

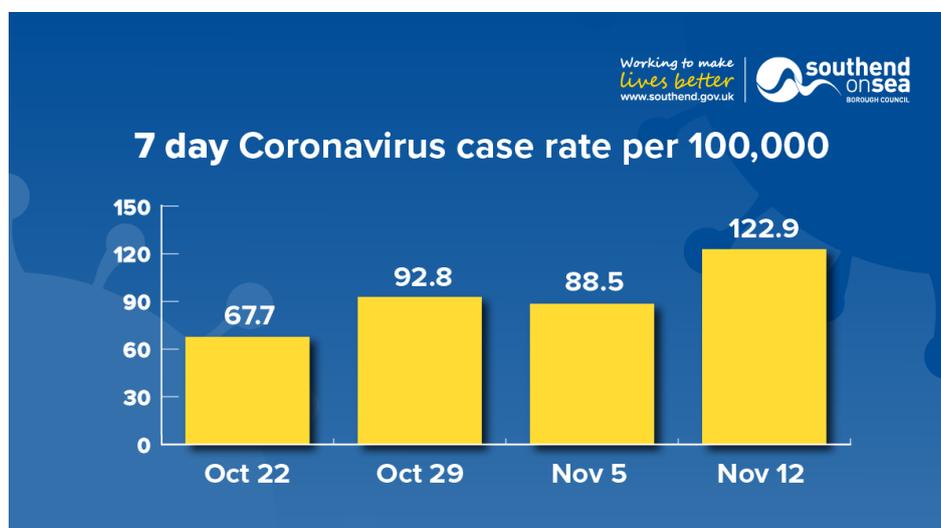
**Weekly Briefing on Local Decisions & Actions re Coronavirus outbreak
13th November 2020**

Key updates/actions

- **National restrictions** – Came in to effect on Thursday 5 November 2020. Please see full details of the restrictions on GOV.UK
- **Coronavirus case data:** This is published on our website and now also includes the daily 7 day rate of positive cases per 100,000.



- **7-day rate** of positive cases as of **12 November** was **122.9 per 100,000** (up from 88.5 per 100,000 on 5 November). The rate in the **60 and over age bracket** as of **12 November** was **83.5 per 100,000** (up from 55 per 100,000 on 5 November).



- **ONS death data:** Southend-on-Sea residents' deaths registered inside and outside of Southend-on-Sea with any mention of COVID-19 on the death certificate that occurred up to 23 October 2020 but were registered up to 31 October 2020: **215 (+1)**
- **Support grants available for Southend businesses forced to close in second lockdown:** Businesses which have been ordered to close for four weeks due to the national COVID-19 restrictions may be eligible for a Government grant of up to £3,000. Read more in our media release and on our business support pages.

- **EPUT COVID vaccine recruitment:** Essex Partnership University Trust (EPUT) are looking for healthcare professionals, administrators and volunteers from across Essex to help them gear up in the next few weeks to be ready to deliver a COVID-19 vaccination programme. Please share the following to your networks: <https://eput.nhs.uk/about-us/working-at-eput/vaccine-recruitment/>
- **Health and wellbeing get together:** SAVS are holding a 'Get Together' event for local people to meet other residents and share their experiences, thoughts and ideas on how we can all stay well during this challenging time. This is to be an informal chat /workshop style event. It will be a very relaxed space to get to know each other and see how COVID has impacted on our health and wellbeing.
- **Remembrance 2020:** Remembrance services have taken place this week and are available to view on our YouTube channel.
- **School gates:** Last week parents were urged again to wear face coverings on the school run to protect others. This week, year three pupils at Milton Hall School have produced a video with the same message. This can be viewed on their YouTube channel.
- **Household Waste Recycling Centres and waste collections:** There are currently no changes to the waste service. Household waste and recycling centres remain open.
- **Car parking:** There are currently no changes to parking. Car parks are open and enforcement continues as normal.
- **Unemployment stats for October:** Please see below:

October 2020 The Coronavirus pandemic continues to have a negative impact on the economy - unemployment figures for Southend-on-Sea for October 2020 show 8,615 people claiming out of work benefits (7.7% of our working age population compared to 5.4% East of England and 6.3% UK). This is a slight improvement from August 2020 when unemployment in Southend-on-Sea was at its highest point in over 20 years when 8,980 people were claiming out of work benefits (8% of our working age population compared to 5.6% East of England and 6.5% UK).

While the reduction in the unemployment rate is positive it is clear that Southend-on-Sea continues to face a larger unemployment issue than our close neighbours in Basildon (6.8%) and Thurrock (7%). The figure across the county is 5.6%. Unemployment for men is higher than women – the male unemployment rate is 9.3% compared to 6.2% in the East of England and 7.5% in the UK, and female unemployment is 6.2% compared to 4.5% in the East of England and 5.1% in the UK.

Unemployment rates for 18-24 year olds show 1,710 young people claiming out of work benefits (13.4% of all 18-24 year olds compared to 8.7% in the East of England and 9.2% in the UK). This is a slight

improvement from July 2020 when unemployment for this group was at its highest point with 1,765 young people claiming out of work benefits (13.8% of all 18-24 year olds compared to 8.9% in the East of England and 9.3% in the UK). Youth unemployment is higher in Southend when compared to our close neighbours (Basildon and Thurrock 11.3% and Essex 9.3%).

In October there were a small number of 16 and 17 year-olds claiming out of work benefits (15 in total or 0.4% of 16/17 year olds compared to 0.3% in the East of England and 0.4% in the UK), this is down from May 2020 when it was at its highest level of 25 / 0.7%, compared to 0.4% East of England and 0.6% UK).

The council and partners are continuing to support unemployed residents, and those facing redundancy or considering a change of career due to Covid-19. Information about the range of support available to residents and businesses has been pulled together by Southend's cross partnership Redundancy Taskforce and can be found on the Business-on-Sea website. The council with its partners delivers a range of support to residents looking for work including, but not limited to the South Essex Construction Training Academy (SECTA) and Care focused Work Based Academies which support people of all ages with training and access to jobs in two key employment sectors in the borough. Through Southend Adult Community College a wide range of information, advice and guidance and training is available to help residents into work through apprenticeships, long and short term training. We have also approached the Department of Work & Pensions (DWP) to fund new initiatives and amongst other things the council hopes to lead two Kickstart projects creating 80 job placements for 18-24 year-olds in the council and in businesses across south Essex.

- **National and local data:** A link to the national NHS Digital information shows information by time intervals (for example, 3-days, 7-days, 30-days, etc), as well as the total numbers and requests or referrals to NHS 111.

Other

- Members of the public who need to self-isolate, but are stuck and have no local support from friends and family can call the helpline on 01702 212497. A full list of support contact numbers is available on the corporate website

Out of hours:

Urgent issues arising out of hours should be reported to the out of hours service in accordance with standard practice. The phone number is 01702 215000.

The out of hours service will then contact the relevant Council officer who is on-call or the relevant contractor such as Veolia. They also have access to the town link radio and CCTV.

Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 13th November 2020

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

- In an announcement today (13th), small businesses in England will receive £2.2bn to help them through current national restrictions.
 - o Businesses will benefit from two grant schemes: one for businesses that have had to close, and another scheme for further business support as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.
 - o The funding is being transferred to councils today (13th) and businesses can expect to receive money covering the four-week period of national restrictions in the coming days.

Department of Health and Social Care

- Shielding guidance is updated to include links to reference-only versions of letters from the Government to people who are clinically extremely vulnerable.
- On 9 November, the Government updated guidance on how to get state healthcare when you're on holiday or travelling to a country in the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland. Some people can get a new UK-issued European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) which will remain valid for visits that begin from 1 January 2021.

DfE

- Guidance on safe working with children is updated to include guidance on aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) in education and children's social care settings.
- HE building and campus reopening guidance is updated to include a section for International students.
- Guidance on apprenticeships is updated for apprentices, employers, training providers and assessment organisations in response to national restrictions.

HM Revenue and Customs

- Guidance to claim for wages through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is updated to clarify information relating to claim period deadlines.
- Guidance on furloughing employees is updated to include clarity that claim periods starting on or after 1 December 2020 cannot claim for days on or after 1 December 2020 during which the furloughed employee was serving a contractual or statutory notice period. Also, corrections to the section on maternity allowance have been made.

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

- In a press release, the Coronavirus Community Support Fund (CCSF) has been fully allocated. More than 8,000 small and medium charities across England have been awarded a share of £200m to help continue their vital work with vulnerable people.

Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 13th - 16th November 2020

DHSC has published:

New guidance stating that named family and friends may soon be able to regularly visit loved ones in care homes as a new testing pilot is launched.

New guidance on the response to coronavirus and provided an update on testing capacity and vaccines.

New public consultation on plans to minimise the risk of coronavirus infections by making residential and nursing care home providers restrict the movement of care staff. DHSC welcome views on the plans by midday on 23 November.

Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has published:

New significant grant funding for businesses to be delivered via local authorities across England

DfE has published:

Updated guidance for councils and their partners to help support and protect vulnerable children in line with national restrictions.

MHCLG has published:

Updated guidance for people moving into homes in England, whether as owner-occupiers or as private or social renters, in line with national restrictions.

Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport has published:

New guidance for people who run volunteer-involving organisations or groups, or manage volunteers, to help organisations understand how to safely and effectively involve volunteers during the coronavirus outbreak.

Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 17th November 2020

Department for Transport

- Guidance is updated on jobs that qualify for exemptions from self-isolation or passenger locator form requirements to include seasonal poultry workers.
- Full guidance is also published on coming to England for seasonal poultry work on farms and processing sites.

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

- Guidance is updated for the safe use of multi-purpose community facilities to reflect the current restrictions effective from 5 November.

Ministry of Defence

- Guidance on the MOD's COVID Support Force is updated every 4 days, to reflect continued contributions to the COVID response. As of 17 November:
 - o There were 2,342 military personnel committed to assist with 42 open MACA (military aid to civilian authority) requests.
 - o There are an additional 12,500 personnel on standby as part of the Winter Preparedness Package who can be called upon for COVID-19 tasks - an increase from 7,500 previously at readiness.

PHE

- In updated guidance, on the geographical allocation of positive COVID-19 cases, Dr Yvonne Doyle, Medical Director at PHE, said:
'We have updated the way we record the location of people who test positive for coronavirus to prioritise addresses given at point of testing, rather than details registered on the NHS database. This better reflects the distribution of positive cases in recent weeks and months, particularly among younger people of university age who may not have yet registered with a GP at their term-time addresses'.

Department of Health and Social Care

- Guidance on lateral flow test roll-outs to local authorities has been updated to add the following local authorities to the list: Barnsley, Cheshire East, Cheshire West, Croydon, Derbyshire, Ealing, Havering, Hounslow, Leicester, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Medway, Northamptonshire, Rotherham, Sheffield and Thurrock.

DfE

- Guidance is updated for Education and childcare settings on out-of-school activities and wraparound childcare, clinically extremely vulnerable children and staff, and extra-curricular activities in schools, and added clarification on when face coverings should be worn.

- o Schools and colleges should continue to offer out-of-school activities and clubs.
- o More evidence has emerged that shows there is a very low risk of children becoming very unwell from coronavirus, even for children with existing health conditions.
- o Most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow original shielding advice. Parents of these children will have received a letter confirming this advice.
- o Where distancing is difficult, settings have the discretion to recommend the use of face coverings for adults, including visitors whilst acknowledging some individuals may be exempt.
- In updated school meals guidance, information is added on support for clinically extremely vulnerable pupils eligible for free school meals, the Covid Winter Grant Scheme and the expansion of the Holiday Activities and Food programme.

Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 18th November 2020

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

- Guidance is updated for the private and social rented sectors in the context of coronavirus. This includes information to reflect new legislation to prevent enforcement of evictions during the national restrictions and over Christmas.
- Yesterday (17th) the social housing white paper – ‘The Charter for Social Housing Residents’ was published. It sets out actions to ensure residents in social housing are safe, listened to, live in good quality homes, and have access to redress when things go wrong. It includes a new Charter setting out what every social housing resident should expect from their landlord.
- A consultation on mandating smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in all rental homes was also announced.

PHE

- In an announcement, negotiations are concluded with Moderna to secure access to 5m doses of its coronavirus vaccine. If approved by the medicines regulator, the vaccine could be delivered to the UK from Spring 2021.

10 Downing St

- In an announcement today (18th), the Prime Minister set out a ten-point plan for climate action, covering clean energy, transport, nature and innovative technologies.

The plan mobilises £12bn of Government investment to create and support highly-skilled green jobs. Investment includes:

- o £200m to create two carbon capture clusters by the mid-2020s, with another two by 2030.
- o Up to £500m, for trialling homes using hydrogen for heating and cooking, starting with a Hydrogen Neighbourhood in 2023, a Hydrogen Village by 2025, a Hydrogen Town by 2030.
- o Nuclear: £525m to develop nuclear plants and modular reactors.

Department of Health and Social Care

- In a press release, a new campaign is launched to highlight how letting fresh air into indoor spaces can reduce the risk of infection from coronavirus by over 70%. The campaign sees the release of a new short film which illustrates how coronavirus lingers in the air in spaces with no fresh air, increasing the risk of people breathing in infected particles, and how the risk can be reduced significantly by regularly ventilating enclosed areas.
- In a press release yesterday (17th), Royal Mail is introducing a weekend extension for some priority postboxes from 21 November. The majority of regional test centre and care provider tests move through Royal Mail for some or all of their delivery. This change means collections will now be made from over 15,000 priority postboxes on a Sunday.
- Guidance is updated for people who buy care and support through a direct payment, including councils, CCGs and those who provide care and support, in line with national restrictions.

DfT

- Guidance is published for the taxi and private hire vehicle sector to encourage drivers and passengers to travel safely.

Home Office

- A new campaign is announced to protect children, following evidence which suggests that young people faced a greater risk of sexual abuse, criminal exploitation and domestic abuse due to the impact of coronavirus. The Home Office has joined the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), Barnardo's and The Children's Society to launch a new campaign to protect victims of child abuse. The month-long campaign, 'Something's Not Right', encourages young people to recognise different forms of abuse, report it and get help.

- END -