

## E-Newsletter – 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

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### **1) Information Corner**

#### **Renewals**

Thank you to the members who have already joined. Without your support we cannot continue to do the things that we do in our area.

If you have not already renewed, please complete the form and return it with your payment to either Ron or Mike. Please see our website ([www.bera.co.uk](http://www.bera.co.uk)) for all of the details.

#### **Scams**

##### **a) Guttering, roofing etc**

We have been contacted by a resident who has been scammed into having their guttering, roof etc repaired which has cost thousands of pounds. The resident has paid out for some of this work which has not been completed and the workmen have not returned.

Please be aware of these scams. People should not be door-to-door selling as we are in a pandemic and do NOT take up these offers until you have got quotes from at least three other companies and recommendations from someone you know.

The police have been informed and they are acting on it.

##### **b) Constant scam calls**

A member has contacted us as despite registering with the TPS system, he gets regular calls each day, generally around lunchtime.

These look like UK numbers but must be from abroad as the TPS system seems to work well on UK calls.

The numbers vary every time and look like landline and/or mobiles but each have the same message.

There is usually a 3 second delay after you pick up and then you get an American female voice that tells you it is an automated call from Amazon and states that " your recent order for an I phone is being processed", or "your payment of £79 has not been actioned", or "your account is being closed as we have detected fraud", etc, etc and then she asks you to press a button, or call a number or even hold on for more information.

All of the options are designed to take money on premium lines, or get you to give over bank details. The annoying thing is that they use a different phone number every time so it's difficult to ignore the call until you pick up and hear the same voice.

If you receive any of these calls, please remember to put the phone down and do not press any buttons or give any of personal or banking information.

### **c) Illegal Traffic Warden**

We have been contacted by a member who has said that there appears to be an illegal traffic warden ticketing vehicles along the seafront. If you have received a ticket, do not pay unless you have confirmed the telephone number on the ticket is a genuine number.

### **Message from a Member – Theft from a car**

We have been contacted by a member as their car was broken into on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, early morning. Two men (or boys) came on a scooter onto their driveway and they searched their two parked cars. They stole an old laptop and a locking wheel nut from one of their cars and were captured on the members CCTV. The member has reported this to the police.

As always, please be vigilant and ensure that you have locked your car doors, windows are closed and have not left any valuables on display to tempt thieves.

### **Essex Police Fraud Alert System – HACK MY INFO? I DON'T THINK SO**

As the pandemic has forced more of us to move online for work, shopping and leisure, we need to be vigilant to protect ourselves from hackers and financial loss.

Use '**UPDATES**' to help you protect your online accounts:

**Update** regularly—make sure that your computer and also any phones and tablets you own have the most recent patches (updates) for apps, software and operating systems.

**Passwords**—ensure you have strong and unique passwords for each account—yes, that does mean a different password for each account! If you're struggling to keep track, consider using a password manager to store your passwords securely.

**Download from authorised sources only**—if you have to download or install anything yourself make sure it comes from a trusted source. If not, you could download a programme that contains things like spyware which will steal your personal data.

**'Administrator' should not be your default setting**—administrator access should only be used on your computer when installing trusted programmes. If administrator mode is your default setting and you download a malicious programme, hackers can get in and change whatever they want on your device.

**Turn it off**—in order to ensure that no one can access your device when you're not using it, turn it off when you're done. Also consider logging out of sites once you have finished using them or turning your WiFi off if not using it.

**Encrypt your data**—encrypting (scrambling) your data does not stop it being intercepted, but it does mean that it cannot be read by unauthorised users. Check that websites are secure by looking for the little padlock in the address bar before submitting sensitive information on the internet. You can also research other ways to encrypt your files.

**Store your data separately**—back up any important data on a USB or external hard drive, and store it away from your computer to keep those copies extra safe!

## **Census 2021 fast approaching**

Residents in Southend-on-Sea will soon be asked to take part in the national census 2021 survey, which will provide a snapshot of modern society in Southend-on-Sea.

The unique census survey takes place once every 10 years, giving the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. The survey has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

The census supports the local authorities and charities to put services and funding in areas that are most needed. It gives the most accurate and up to date snapshot of residents' needs in Southend-on-Sea and the possibility of extra grant funding from the Government.

The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Census day will be on March 21, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March. It will be the first census managed predominantly online, with households receiving a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones, or tablets. However, although online response is encouraged, everyone will have the option to complete a paper form if they wish.

Southend Adult Community College will be operating as a local Census Support Centre to assist residents in completing the survey. The college will be offering support from 1 March until 4 May 2021. If you or anyone you know needs assistance completing the census survey, advice is available from a trained census support advisor online or over the phone, you can also book an appointment to use a college computer. To find out more, please visit [www.southend-adult.ac.uk](http://www.southend-adult.ac.uk) or call 01702 445700.

There will also be a national contact centre, which can provide a range of different provisions from languages and accessible formats, including large print. Details for this contact centre can be found on your questionnaire pack.

Census results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

For more information visit [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk)

### **Junction improvement work at Bournemouth Park Road**

Improvement works has begun on Bournemouth Park Road and Eastern Avenue, which will convert the junction to traffic signal control.

The scheme, which is being funded externally through the Department for Transport's National Productivity Investment Fund, will include:

- A new right turn for vehicles from Bournemouth Park Road onto Eastern Avenue;
- The widening of the road on Bournemouth Park Road allowing the installation of a new traffic island;
- Two approach lanes to the junction on Bournemouth Park Road;
- Installation of new traffic signals and traffic signs, posts, and lamp columns;
- Extension of waiting restrictions;
- Resurfacing on both roads.

Lane and road closures are necessary to protect both the workforce and members of the public. All closures will be clearly signposted in the surrounding area.

The works started on Monday 25 January 2021 and are due to finish at the end of March 2021, although this may be subject to change depending on weather and Coronavirus restrictions.

### **George Street toilet block to be refurbished**

The George Street toilets at East Beach, Shoeburyness are to get a complete refurbishment that will modernise the block and create a new changing place and disabled facility.

The existing block has been earmarked for refurbishment and will be funded through the council's capital programme. Following a competitive procurement process, Alfa Electrical were selected to carry out the work. **Work is due to start on Monday 1 February and be completed by the end of March.** The East Beach foreshore toilets will be open to the public whilst these works take place.

The main improvements will see a brand-new changing facility installed, as well as new disabled access and facilities. The block is heavily used, particularly in the busy summer months, and the work forms part of continued works to improve the offer at East Beach.

## **2) Temporary Road Closures**

### **Bellhouse Crescent - 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021 for 1 week - Emergency Cable Repairs**

To facilitate emergency cable repairs; they have imposed a PROHIBITION OF ENTRY in BELLHOUSE CRESCENT LEIGH-ON-SEA

Whilst this notice is in operation, all vehicles will be prohibited from:

ENTERING BELLHOUSE LANE.

These prohibitions or restrictions came into effect on **28th January 2021**. This notice will remain in force for a period of 21 days or the duration of the works whichever is the earliest. It is anticipated that the works will last for **1 week**.

Whilst this section of Bellhouse Crescent is closed, an alternative route for traffic will be marked on site and resident's access will be maintained where possible.

### **CityFibre Schedule of Works**

Please find below a list of works scheduled in the Thorpe Ward for the coming week.

CF Permit Reference	Road Name	Scheduled start	Scheduled End Date
KG027SE-FFTH- PN038-21	Victoria Road	04/01/2021	08/02/2021
KG027SE-FTTH- PN071-06	Colbert Avenue	11/01/2021	05/02/2021
KG027SE-FTTH- PN081-02	Woodgrange Drive	18/01/2021	27/02/2021
KG027-SE-FTTH- PN080-BL1	Meadow Drive	29/01/2021	02/02/2021

## **3) A127 Major Works (A127 & the Bell Junction)**

### **A127 Bell Junction - 25th Jan to 29th Jan**

Mon-Fri, there will be a fulltime northbound lane closure on Hogleythick Lane whilst UKPN undertake emergency fault repairs on their network. Once complete, this will return to daytime off peak (09:00 to 15:00) northbound lane closures; and eastbound

and westbound off-peak (09:00 to 15:00) lane closures Mon-Fri on the A127 (at the Bell Junction), for new carriageway widening and footway works.

Full time left turn closure into Rochford Road for A127 eastbound traffic; for construction of new kerb lines and new pedestrian crossing island.

## **A127 Essential Major Maintenance - 25th Jan to 29th Jan**

Mon-Fri there will be night-time (20:00 to 06:30) southbound road closures on the A127 Victoria Avenue from the junction with Cuckoo Corner Roundabout to Carnarvon Road; and night-time (20:00 to 06:30) northbound lane closures on the A127 Victoria Avenue from the junction of Harcourt Avenue to Fairfax Drive.

These closures are required for carriageway stabilisation works and are also working in collaboration with UKPN's emergency fault repair at the junction of Fairfax Drive.

## **A127 Essential Major Maintenance - Priority Treatment Areas 2, 3 & 4**

Further overnight road closures will be in place from 1 February to complete the surfacing works to Treatment areas 2 (west bound from Cuckoo Corner to Tesco roundabout), Treatment area 3 (south bound from Cuckoo Corner to Carnarvon Road) and Treatment area 4 (north bound Carnarvon Road to Cuckoo Corner). The works to fill voids under the concrete in treatment areas 2, 3 and 4 is nearing completion. The next stage is to remove the carriageway surface, repair damage to concrete slabs and then lay a new carriageway surface. These works are scheduled to take place from Monday 1 February 2021 between the hours of 8pm and 6.30am for a period of approximately four weeks as follows:

**Treatment Area 2 - from Monday 1 February until approximately Friday 12 February** along stretches of the London bound carriageway from the Cuckoo Roundabout, The Bell Junction and Tesco Roundabout.

**Treatment Area 4 - from Monday 15 February until approximately Friday 19 February** along stretches of the South bound carriageway from the Cuckoo Corner Roundabout to Carnarvon Road.

**Treatment Area 3 - from Monday 22 February to approximately Friday 26 February** along stretches of the north bound carriageway from Harcourt Avenue to the Cuckoo Corner Roundabout.

Residents and businesses within the road closure will be provided access to their properties. The Public Liaison Officer will issue a letter to local businesses, residents and key stakeholders, including Southend United Football Club, buses and taxi's informing them of these works.

The letter provides the diversion routes that will be in place. Variable road message signs, local traffic management road signage and twitter will inform drivers.

## Weekly Major Works

Address	<b>AYLESBEARE</b>
Start End	05/01/2021 02/02/2021( <b>date change</b> )
Works Reference	AZ007-1000862794
L.A Ref	100371
Traffic Management	Some carriageway incursion
Address	<b>GRANGE CLOSE</b>
Start End	05/01/2021 04/02/2021 ( <b>date change</b> )
Works Reference	AZ007-1000875057
L.A Ref	101618
Traffic Management	Some carriageway incursion
Address	<b>BISHOPSTEIGTON</b>
Start End	20/01/2021 09/03/2021 ( <b>date changes</b> )
Works Reference	AZ007-1000964855
L.A Ref	109233
Traffic Management	Some carriageway incursion
Address	<b>JOHNSTONE ROAD</b>
Start End	19/01/2021 08/02/2021 ( <b>date changes</b> )
Works Reference	AZ007-1000994634
L.A Ref	111887
Traffic Management	Road closure - delays likely
Address	<b>JOHNSTONE ROAD</b>
Start End	21/01/2021 09/02/2021 ( <b>date changes</b> )
Works Reference	AZ007-1001016163
L.A Ref	113234
Traffic Management	Give and take - delays possible
Address	<b>THE BROADWAY</b>
Start End	21/01/2021 02/03/2021
Works Reference	AZ007-1001016164
L.A Ref	113235
Traffic Management	Give and take – delays possible
Address	<b>VICTORIA ROAD</b>
Start End	04/01/2021 08/02/2021 ( <b>date change</b> )
Works Reference	KG027-SE-FFTH-PN038-21
L.A Ref	112789
Traffic Management	Give and take - delays possible
Address	<b>WOODGRANGE DRIVE</b>
Start End	18/01/2021 27/02/2021 ( <b>date change</b> )
Works Reference	KG027-SE-FTTH-PN081-02
L.A Ref	112862
Traffic Management	No carriageway incursion - delays unlikely

## **4) List of Applications Registered** **Week Ending 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Application Number: 21/00081/FULH **Ward: Southchurch**  
 Officer: Kara Elliott  
 Erect single storey side extension and alter elevations  
**57 Broadclyst Gardens Thorpe Bay Essex**

Application Number: 20/02081/FULH **Ward: Thorpe**  
 Officer: Oliver Hart  
 Layout parking to front and form vehicular crossover onto Kensington Road  
**52 Kensington Road Southend-On-Sea Essex**

Application Number: 21/00044/DEM **Ward: Thorpe**  
 Officer: Robert Lilburn  
 Demolish pair of semi-detached Dwellings used for Hotel Accommodation  
 (Application for Prior Approval for Demolition)  
**8 - 10 Cliveden Road Thorpe Bay Essex**

Application Number: 21/00113/FUL **Ward: Thorpe**  
 Replace existing beach hut  
**Beach Hut 268 Thorpe Esplanade Thorpe Bay**

Application Number: 21/00120/FUL **Ward: Thorpe**  
 Officer: Oliver Hart  
 Enlarge front gable to form habitable accommodation in the roofspace, install juliette balcony to front  
**123B Eastern Esplanade Southend-On-Sea Essex**

Application Number: 21/00139/GPDE **Ward: West Shoebury**  
 Officer: Spyros Mouratidis  
 Erect single storey rear extension, projecting 4m beyond the existing rear wall of the dwelling, 3m high to eaves and with a maximum height of 4m  
**36 Yarnacott Shoeburyness Southend-On-Sea**

## **5) List of Decisions Issued** **Week Ending 24<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

APPLN. NO: 20/01955/FULH **Ward. Southchurch**  
 Officer: Julie Ramsey  
 ERECT PART SINGLE/PART TWO STOREY SIDE/REAR EXTENSION AND  
 ERECT DETACHED OUTBUILDING TO REAR  
**15 DAINES WAY THORPE BAY ESSEX**  
 Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/02008/CLP **Ward. Southchurch**  
 Officer: Spyros Mouratidis



DORMER TO REAR TO FORM HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION IN ROOFSPACE,  
ROOFLIGHT TO FRONT (LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE-PROPOSED)  
**37 VAUGHAN AVENUE SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX**  
Decision: Grant Lawful Dev Certificate (Proposed)

APPLN. NO: 20/02205/GPDE

**Ward. Southchurch**

Officer: Oliver Hart

ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION, PROJECTING 7.65M BEYOND  
THE EXISTING REAR WALL OF THE DWELLING, 2.70M HIGH TO EAVES AND  
WITH A MAXIMUM HEIGHT OF 3.0M

**99 BURLESCOOMBE ROAD THORPE BAY ESSEX**

Decision: GPD Refusal

APPLN. NO: 20/01786/FULH

**Ward. Thorpe**

Officer: Scott Davison

RAISE RIDGE HEIGHT, HIP TO GABLE ROOF EXTENSIONS, ERECT DORMERS  
TO FRONT AND REAR, INSTALL TERRACE TO FIRST FLOOR TO REAR AND  
JULIETTE BALCONY TO SECOND FLOOR TO REAR, ALTER ROOF TO  
EXISTING SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION, ALTER ELEVATIONS

**95 THE BROADWAY THORPE BAY ESSEX**

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/01842/FULH

**Ward. Thorpe**

Officer: Kara Elliott

ERECT SINGLE STOREY SIDE AND REAR EXTENSION

**131 PARKANAUR AVENUE THORPE BAY ESSEX**

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/02009/FUL

**Ward. Thorpe**

Officer: Janine Rowley

DEMOLISH EXISTING BEACH HUT AND ERECT REPLACEMENT BEACH HUT

**BEACH HUT 167 THORPE ESPLANADE THORPE BAY**

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/01852/FULH

**Ward. West Shoebury**

Officer: Kara Elliott

ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION

**4 BRIDGE CLOSE SHOEBURYNESS ESSEX**

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/01995/AD

**Ward. West Shoebury**

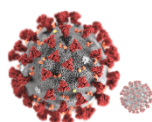
Officer: Robert Lilburn

APPROVAL OF DETAILS PURSUANT TO CONDITION 19 (WATER  
INFRASTRUCTURE AND DRAINAGE STRATEGY) OF PLANNING APPLICATION  
17/01245/FUL DATED 01.02.2018

**14 LODWICK SHOEBURYNESS SOUTHEND-ON-SEA**

Decision: Grant Permission

## **6) Coronavirus Information**



### **UK COVID-19 variant ‘more deadly’**

The Prime Minister said early evidence suggests the variant of coronavirus that emerged in the UK may be more deadly. It is now the most common form of the virus in England and Northern Ireland, and has spread to more than 50 other countries.

### **UK coronavirus death toll passes 100,000**

The official number of coronavirus deaths in the UK has passed 100,000. The Church of England’s archbishops have urged the public to reflect on the “enormity” of the pandemic while the Prime Minister said he was “deeply sorry for every life lost”. A further 1,631 coronavirus deaths were recorded on Tuesday, taking the total number of people who have died within 28 days of a positive test to 100,162.

### **5m vaccinated**

More than five million people had been given a first dose of the vaccine by 21 January, and about half a million had received their second dose. However, up to half of those in some areas with a high ethnic minority population are reportedly refusing the coronavirus jab amid fears over the vaccine.

### **Vaccine supply**

Up to half a million fewer doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine will be supplied to the NHS next week as government sources admitted the target of vaccinating priority groups by mid-February was increasingly “tight”.

### **New vaccine 89.3 per cent effective**

The Novavax vaccine has been shown to be almost 90 per cent effective in large-scale UK trials and is the first to show it is effective against the new UK variant of the virus. Sixty million doses of the jab have been secured by the UK Government and are expected to be delivered in the second half of this year if approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency.

### **Care homeowners in vaccine refusal warning**

The National Care Association has raised concerns about the number of carers taking up the COVID-9 vaccine. Some care homeowners say more than half of their staff have refused a jab.

## **Lockdown powers extended**

The Government has extended lockdown laws to give councils the power to close pubs, restaurants, shops and public spaces until July 17 this year. The changes to the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No.3) Regulations 2020 were made as part of a review of the third lockdown by Matt Hancock.

## **Hotel quarantine system to target travellers from high-risk areas**

The Home Secretary Priti Patel is to announce a hotel quarantine system targeted at arrivals from high-risk countries. The measures will apply to British residents arriving from most of South America, southern Africa and Portugal, amid concern over new variants of the virus.

## **Schools in low infection areas may open sooner, parents told**

The Prime Minister has said schools would reopen only “cautiously” as parents were promised news within days about the prospect of children going back after the half-term holiday. Boris Johnson suggested schools could reopen first in English regions with a lower infection rate.

## **Teacher absences**

The proportion of teachers absent from school due to a positive coronavirus test was six times higher than that of students in primary schools last term, new analysis by the Education Policy Institute shows.

## **Weekly Briefing on Local Decisions & Actions re Coronavirus outbreak 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021**

### **Key updates/actions**

#### **Vaccination:**

With the vaccination roll-out underway, regular information is being updated on the EPUT website. Figures are now also being reported by the national programme on a STP/ICS footprint – the latest weekly figures were published yesterday (21 January) and can be found at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/>

The key messages from the NHS on the vaccine are as follows:

- Please don't contact the NHS to seek a vaccine, they will contact you;
- When they do contact you, please attend your booked appointments on time – please avoid arriving early as the NHS want to avoid queues;
- Please continue to follow all the guidance to control the virus and save lives

## **COVID-19 testing:**

A new local testing site opened this week at Elm Road car park, Leigh-on-Sea. This site is for those with symptoms and needs to be booked on the national system or by calling 119.

Three rapid testing LFD sites are also still available across the Borough.

- Shoebury youth centre site opened on Tuesday 19th January from 3.30-7pm and from 8am to 7pm from Wednesday (20<sup>th</sup>) onwards. People need to book an appointment via [www.southend.gov.uk/shoebury-lfd-booking](http://www.southend.gov.uk/shoebury-lfd-booking)
- University Square site in central Southend is open from 7am to 3pm, seven days a week. People need to book an appointment via [www.southend.gov.uk/university-square-lfd-booking](http://www.southend.gov.uk/university-square-lfd-booking)
- St Aidan's Church site in Leigh-on-Sea is open from 7am to 6pm, seven days a week. People need to book an appointment via [www.southend.gov.uk/st-aidans-lfd-booking](http://www.southend.gov.uk/st-aidans-lfd-booking)

Full details of all the booking options are available at [www.southend.gov.uk/gettested](http://www.southend.gov.uk/gettested)

A media release was also issued on why it is important to still get tested, even during national lockdown.

**Don't Visit Southend:** Messaging to deter visitors has been stepped up. See new social media assets on our Flickr account.

**Business grants:** Southend-based businesses which have been significantly affected as a result of coronavirus restrictions may be eligible for further government grant funding. There are now several different local restriction support grant (LRSG) schemes and it can be confusing to know which one to apply for. The Council has therefore created a single application form, which has been designed to cover all schemes without the applicant needing to understand which they may be eligible for. The form is on our business support pages.

**Stay at Home resources:** New national social media assets for the stay at home message have been published on the PHE Coronavirus resources website.

**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 22 January 2021 is 623.1 per 100,000 (down from 910.3 per 100,000 on 15 January). The rate in the 60 and over age bracket is 611.1/100,000, down from 800.2 per 100,000 on 15 January.

**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 1 January 2021 but were registered up to 9 January 2021: 384 (+54).

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021**

### **Prime Ministers Statement on COVID**

Some evidence suggests the new variant may be associated with higher mortality, (early evidence suggests UK variant of virus may be up to 50% more deadly)

38,000 more people (37%) in hospital compared to first wave

UK R rate is reducing, it is estimated between 0.8-1

### **Dept Health and Social Care**

Updated Guidance for length of time that staff or residents who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 should not be included in testing until after 90 days of either their initial onset of symptoms or their positive test result.

Report published by Imperial College London and Ipsos MORI, study examining prevalence, initial findings show infections increased by 50% from early December.

Updated guidance for those providing personal care to people living in their own homes, providers in supported living and care homes

### **Public Health England**

Weekly Flu update suggests national COVID-19 cases have declined with indication that hospital and ICU admissions began to stabilise between 11 and 17 January

New social media communication material on vaccinations released including information on:

### **MOD**

Announced Armed Forces are now working in hospitals, vaccine centres and testing across UK to support testing, vaccine and clinical support for NHS

## HMRC

Updated guidance on Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS – third grant) which will run until end of April. The Fourth SEISS grant will cover February to April 2021.

## Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### Ministry of Justice has published:

New information that secure video calls rolled out in all prisons in just over 6 months to maintain vital family contact.

New guidance stating the action taken since the beginning of the pandemic has helped to limit the spread of the virus in prisons.

### DfE has published:

New information that Edenred site opens for schools to purchase eGift cards for eligible families to use at their choice of supermarkets.

### Department of Health and Social Care has published:

Updated funding to protect and support staff and residents in care homes and those receiving help in their own homes. Adding an indicative grant allocations table for local authorities.

New national campaign featuring hospital staff and patients to remind the public of the extreme pressures still facing the NHS.

Updated information for adult social care providers guidance and support. Under 'What care homes and other social care settings must do during an outbreak' and 'Repeat testing', updated the length of time that staff or residents who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 should not be included in testing – to 90 days after either their initial onset of symptoms or their positive test result (if they were asymptomatic when tested)."

New guidance on how to get tested when you do not have symptoms.

New information that dozens of public and private sector employers are now offering rapid testing to those without symptoms.

### DfT has published:

Updated information that transport operators must ensure is provided to passengers and how to provide it. Providing information on pre-departure testing, self-isolation and Test to Release.

### Ministry of Defence:

New information that Armed Forces now working in hospitals, vaccine centres, and testing across all four nations of the UK

## **MHCLG has published:**

New funding of over £23m allocated to 60 councils (including some London Boroughs) and voluntary groups across England to expand work to support those most at risk and boost vaccine take up.

## **Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

In a press conference this evening the Prime Minister reported that deaths recorded from COVID in the UK has now surpassed 100,000.

The Prime Minister also pledged a national commemoration to remember and honour those lives lost and of those who were on the front line.

### **Health**

The LGA held a vaccine hesitancy webinar recently. The presentation has been published.

### **Education**

DfE will be hosting a webinar on 27 January at 4pm to provide support to school leaders in delivery remote education. The event will last two hours and is free to attend.

Guidance has been updated on the financial support for education, early years and children's social care, and:

removes outdated sector specific guidance for early years providers

reflects detail on public and private income from school-based nursery provision for mainstream state-funded schools

reflects the extension of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme to 30 April 2021

## **Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

### **House of Commons**

- The PM made a statement to the House of Commons today:
  - o 6.8m have been immunised in the UK.
  - o Over 80% of those aged 80+, and over 50% of those 75-79, and 75% of elderly care home residents have received first doses.
  - o UK-bound travellers from 22 countries must go into hotel quarantine
  - o Schools are to remain closed for most pupils beyond mid-February.
  - o A further £300m will go to schools for tutoring, specific initiatives for summer schools and a Covid Premium to support catch up.

## 10 Downing Street

- The Prime Minister also gave a statement at the 5pm press conference:
  - o He hopes schools can reopen on 8 March.
  - o On 22 February, a roadmap will outline how schools, the economy, and society will reopen.
  - o ONS data indicates 1m infected in England, one in 55 people.

## DfT

- In a press release, further action is announced to minimise travel across international borders:
  - o For those wishing to travel out of the UK:
    - o Declare reason for travel: or be directed to return home and face a fine. The reason for travel will be checked.
    - o Increased police enforcement: at ports and airports, fining those in breach of the stay at home regulations. Anyone without valid reason for travel will be directed to return home and may face a fine.
    - o Reviewing travel exemptions: list will be urgently reviewed so only the most important and exceptional reasons are included.
  - o For those seeking to enter the UK
    - o Managed isolation in hotels: for those arriving from countries with international travel bans and who cannot be refused entry. They will be required to isolate for ten days without exception.
    - o Police checks: more physical checks at addresses to make sure people are self-isolating.

## HMRC

- Guidance is updated to calculate how much you can claim using the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme regarding contacting HMRC.

## Cabinet Office

- Resources are published for raising awareness about vaccine fraud and what to look for to protect against scams.

## **Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

In addition to the announcement yesterday on schools, the Government has confirmed:

At least two weeks' notice will be given to prepare for a return to face-to-face education



Early years provision should continue to remain open

A catch-up programme including a further £300m funding will be made available, including initiatives for summer schools

Free school meal provision will continue and include the February half term.

**The guidance for managing playgrounds and outdoor gyms has been updated, and confirms:**

During the lockdown, playgrounds are primarily open for use by children who do not have access to private outdoor space, like their own garden. Although parents, guardians or carers can take children to a playground for exercise, they must not socialise with other people while there.

**Imperial College London and Ipsos MORI has published results from the latest study into coronavirus infections in England. The report finds:**

Infections remained very high between 6 and 22 January with one in 64 people infected.

Infections in England have flattened but are at the highest level recorded by REACT.

**COVID-19 Business Update 28/01/2021**

**Essential Workers**

To reduce COVID-19 transmissions it is important that people who can work from home are enabled and encouraged to do so. It is important that all businesses undertake regular risk and business continuity reviews that consider whether staff can work from home.

**Get tested**

We actively encourage employees who must leave home for work to have a regular weekly test for COVID-19 at one of the Southend Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing sites in Southend. People testing positive following a LDF are now legally required to self-isolate – a positive LDF test will trigger contact-tracing mechanisms as well as relevant isolation payments. A confirmatory PCR test is no longer required following a positive LDF test.

The sites are based at St Aiden's Church Hall in Leigh/Eastwood; Shoebury Youth Centre in Shoebury and Southend University Square in central Southend. Booking is via:

[www.southend.gov.uk/university-square-lfd-booking](http://www.southend.gov.uk/university-square-lfd-booking)

[www.southend.gov.uk/st-aidans-lfd-booking](http://www.southend.gov.uk/st-aidans-lfd-booking)

[www.southend.gov.uk/shoebury-lfd-booking](http://www.southend.gov.uk/shoebury-lfd-booking)

FAQ's available at [www.southend.gov.uk/gettested](http://www.southend.gov.uk/gettested)

## **Workplace Testing**

The council also has a stock of COVID-19 tests available to be deployed in the workplace. If a member of your staff informs you they have tested positive for COVID-19 you should report this to Southend Borough Council in line with the national guidance from Public Health England (PHE). You can do this by calling 01702 212497 or by email. By reporting cases you may also be eligible to access COVID-19 tests to screen your staff on site to help limit infections in your workplace and support with business continuity. The council can also provide you with help and support that could keep your business trading safely throughout the pandemic.

Alternatively, NHS Test and Trace is working with government departments, institutions and employers across both public and private sectors to support delivery of asymptomatic testing (LFD testing) to large organisations, including those providing critical services. Delivery will be through on-site testing in the workplace. If you have public or private institutions in your area interested in establishing workplace testing then please direct them to [p-and-psector@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:p-and-psector@dhsc.gov.uk). More information will be shared in due course.

## **Don't get caught out by fraudsters**

The pandemic has given criminals new ways to trick people. People can be conned into giving away money or personal information. Criminals may contact people by phone, email, text message, or by visiting their homes. Criminals may impersonate trusted organisations to try to get your money.

Phishing scams continue to circulate, many now claiming to offer 'VIP' vaccination tickets that will allegedly put people at the head of the vaccination queue, for a price. Similar to the scams that have been seen throughout the pandemic, they will often ask you to click on a link or provide personal/banking details to pay for the ticket.

If you think a person who has been in touch may not be genuine, please get help.

Essex Police - Please call 101 if you or someone you know is vulnerable and a victim of fraud

Take Five to Stop Fraud - Take Five offers advice to help protect your money from fraud. This includes from email, phone scams and online fraud.

Action Fraud - Report fraud or attempted fraud on 0300 123 2040.

## **Can you help a local school?**

Following the announcement from the Prime Minister regarding a new national lockdown and subsequent school closures, children have been expected to learn and (where possible) attend lessons, online from their homes.

One of the trickiest aspects of this home learning approach is that some parents may feel restricted by a lack of technology in the home. The Department of Education has advised that deliveries of laptops will be coming for schools around the country in the near future which can be distributed to those most in need.

In the interim, a teacher from a local primary school has started an appeal for any out of use laptops or tablets to be donated to the school, Earls Hall Primary. The school will then reset these computers, clear them and then disperse them to those who need them, including other schools in the local area (depending on the amount donated).

If this is something you can help with, please visit this website: <https://technology4kids.net/>. Alternatively, if you use Facebook, you can send a message to the Facebook group which has been set up for the project, which can be found here.

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