

LGA/NARE: COVID-19 Workforce Update

Issue 12: 20th June to 3rd July 2020

[Covid-19 Additional Financial Support for local councils announced](#)

Yesterday the Local Government Secretary, Robert Jenrick, announced a new package of financial support for local government which seeks to address councils' COVID-19 spending and compensate for some lost income. Local government will receive an additional, unringfenced £500 million in response to spending pressures in local areas. The LGA [media release](#) in response to this announcement states "The further £500 million extra funding to help councils meet extra COVID-19 costs pressures is helpful but, in the context of the funding gap councils still face, substantial additional funding will be needed and we await further details on how this money will be distributed."

[PM Announces "New Deal" for the economy to aid COVID-19 Recovery](#)

PM announced this week a 'New Deal' which puts jobs and infrastructure at the centre of the government's economic growth strategy. A total of £5bn of capital investment projects will be brought forward to aid recovery.

[Opportunity Guarantee](#)

On skills, Boris Johnson said: "For a century we have failed to invest enough in further education and give young people the practical training and further education they need.....So we will offer an Opportunity Guarantee so that every young person has the chance of apprenticeship or an in-work placement....So that they maintain the skills and confidence they need to find the job that is right for them." We expect more details in an announcement from the Chancellor next week.

[Employment & Skills Reform Needed – LGA](#)

This week the LGA published a summary of the employment and skills reforms the government needs to consider to aid economic recovery.

[NHS Test and Trace Figures Update](#)

The fourth week's figures of the new Test and Trace contact tracing service in England were released this week. The analysis shows that between 18 and 24 June, 297,427 people were tested for COVID-19 under Pillars 1 and 2. Of these, 6,183 people tested positive for Coronavirus and had their cases transferred to the tracing service, a decrease of 740 on the previous week. Of those, 4,639 people (75 per cent) provided information about their recent contacts, which meant that 23,028 people were identified as close contacts.

[COVID-19 Local Authority Workforce Data latest report](#)

Local authorities are continuing to provide key workforce data to help inform government and the local resilience forums across the UK with the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The latest headlines from the survey show that service disruption remains an issue with two thirds reporting disruption to overall services. The number of staff furloughed has increased by 7,783 to 12,395 which relates to the deadline for first furloughing of 30 June. Since 1 March almost 10,000 additional staff have been recruited, however, local authorities continue to face pressure due to staff absence, despite the rate falling by 15% over the last two weeks. 33,386 council staff were unavailable for work with nearly two-fifths (40%) of staff being unavailable through 'self-isolation'. It is positive to report that 94% of councils say they have sufficient PPE although 3%, predominantly County Councils, do not. We continue to work with government and the relevant regional agencies to resolve issues for councils. The COVID-19 Workforce Data collection will continue throughout the summer and the LGA thanks all councils for their continued support in completing the data returns.

[Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme \(CJRS\) employee eligibility](#)

The guidance for employers to check which employees they can put on furlough to use the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme was updated this week with eligibility information for claims before 01 July.

From 1 July, only employees that employers have successfully claimed a previous grant for will be eligible for further grants under the scheme. This means they must have previously been furloughed for at least 3 consecutive weeks taking place any time between 1 March 2020 and 30 June. The last day an employee could have started furlough for the first time was 10 June 2020. **This is consistent with previous guidance issued.**

[Flexible CJRS Scheme Starts 1st July](#)

The Government's 'flexible furlough scheme' started this week, which means businesses are able to bring back furloughed employees part-time. Our [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme guidance](#) and [employment law FAQs](#) have been updated to reflect this, as well as the revised [Cabinet Office guidance](#) on payments to suppliers, including those providing contingent workers.

[MHCLG Guidance on safe use of council buildings](#)

On 30th June MHCLG yesterday published guidance for those managing council buildings. It signposts relevant guidance on a range of different activities that can take place in council buildings.

[Safe use of multi-purpose community facilities Guidance](#)

MHCLG published guidance this week for those managing community centres, village halls and other community facilities on safely re-opening multi-purpose buildings. The government will allow community centres and other multi-use community facilities to open on 4 July.

[Phased return of sport and recreation](#)

The guidance for the public, providers of outdoor sport facilities, elite athletes, personal trainers and coaches on the phased return of sport and recreation has been updated to include new guidance from 4 July 2020.

[Full Time Return to Education \(England\) for All](#)

The Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, announced plans for all children and young people to return to full-time education at the start of the autumn term. Guidance has been published on what all schools will need to do during the coronavirus outbreak from the start of the autumn term.

[Information for parents and carers on early years providers, schools and colleges](#)

The information for parents and carers of children at childcare providers, schools and colleges has been updated this week to include guidance on summer provision, school uniform, and the previously announced funding package worth £1billion to support pupils to catch up. The guidance on school meals and the Covid Summer Food Fund has also been updated.

[DfE Guidance for Parents & Carers of children attending out-of-school settings](#)

The Department for Education (DfE) published guidance for parents and carers of children attending community activities, holiday or after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings.

[DfE Guidance for Providers who run out of school settings](#)

DfE has also published guidance on protective measures for out-of-school settings during the coronavirus. The guidance is for providers who run community activities, holiday clubs, after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school provision for children.

[PPE portal](#)

The guidance on how to order emergency personal protective equipment has been updated to reflect new order limits.

[PPE Quality Assurance Guidelines Updated](#)

Following concerns raised by councils and local resilience forums (LRFs) about the use by dates on items of PPE passed to LRFs for local distribution, MHCLG have shared further information from the Department of Health and Social Care about the quality assurance process for PPE sent to LRFs.

[Walk Through Testing Sites](#)

Six new 'walk through' coronavirus testing sites are now offering appointments in England, widening accessibility and testing capacity further. These will be in Newcastle, Rochdale, Leeds, Brent, Newham and Slough, and will enable people without cars to get tested.

[Regulatory status of face masks](#)

The guidance on different regulations which apply to devices and equipment, including hand gels and PPE, was updated on 29 June to include an explanation on the regulations around face coverings.

[Helpful ADPH Info on Local Outbreak Plans](#)

The ADPH has developed this 'explainer' about Local Outbreak Plans to support stakeholders, the media and the public in understanding what they are and how they will work.

[LGA local leadership offer: Testing, Contact Tracing and Local Outbreak Planning](#)

The LGA has developed a checklist to support councils identify readiness to respond to a local outbreak. This is supplemented by the offer of free remote peer support to help facilitate these conversations locally.

[Local outbreak workshops](#)

Colleagues in the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has shared the Local Communications outbreak planning guides and will be setting up workshops shortly to provide information, advice and support for your work in amplifying the national Test and Trace campaign, as well as communications planning in the event of any outbreaks. Colleagues can register their interest by follow the link above. Once you have registered, DHSC will be back in touch with dates, details of the workshops and joining instructions.

[Redeployment of nurses into social care 9th July webinar](#)

Skills for Care is hosting an interactive webinar on 9th July which is also going to be recorded on the redeployment of nurses into social care. Attendees will be able to take away action points to try back in their system to support their own approaches to the deployment of nurses.

[Councillor's Workbook on Mentally Healthier Places](#)

LGA have worked with the Mental Health Foundation to develop a Councillor's workbook on mentally healthier places, which focuses on prevention to reduce the demand on services and aid recovery.

[COVID-19 Supporting council responding to the crisis – culture change](#)

This week a new national project was launched to support council's organisational development (OD) leads/teams. The LGA and North West Employers are working together to discover the organisational development (OD) and cultural change needs of local government organisations so they can develop guidance and a support offer in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic. In the context of [React, Respond, Renew](#) the project aims to work with existing OD professional across the country in collaboration with regional employers organisations to build capacity and capability of OD professionals in council. For information and how to get involved, please contact [Kash Haroon](#) at North West Employers or [Nigel Carruthers](#) at the LGA

[Sharing Practise – Council HR Response](#)

LGA has further examples of practice from local authorities across all elements of the Covid-19 response. Updates this week include examples of BAME workforce risk assessments.

LGA COVID-19 WORKFORCE ADVICE

The LGA is providing COVID-19 advice which can be accessed via our [home page](#) you will see a range of information explaining our work with government on the [COVID-19 Hub](#).

LGA workforce Team continues to provide workforce advice on COVID-19 [here](#)

Employment Advice can be accessed via the LGA Workforce Employee Relations Unit (ERU) the [latest bulletin](#) provides updates on a range of COVID-19 issues.

