

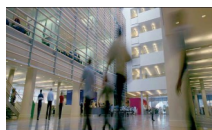
A weekly round up of local government news in the East Midlands brought to you by East Midlands Councils

Top items this week

6 NOVEMBER 2020



EMC Fortnightly Summary of COVID-19 Guidance & Information for HR Colleagues



New Technologies for Testing Webinar, 25 November



Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) Fostering Project



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

New Technologies for Testing Webinar, 25 November 2020 (12noon-2pm)

Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and East Midlands Councils have arranged a free webinar via MS Teams on New Technologies for Testing. We have secured some excellent speakers and the programme will include;

- Why introduce new technologies and why are they important? - **Alex Cooper, COVID-19 National Testing Programme, Director of Mass Testing, DHSC**
- Lateral flow testing: What is it? University and DsPH cases - **Alex Curry, Partner, Monitor Deloitte, Deloitte MCS Limited and Anne-Marie Pickup, Covid-19 Testing Programme, DHSC**
- LAMP testing: what is LAMP and how it can be used and some sensitivity and specificity data – **Dr Veronica Fowler, Seconded as Scientific Advisor to DHSC COVID-19 National Testing Validation Programme**
- LAMPPORE testing: What is it? Case examples and speeding up the process of results - **Bruce Finch, Director, Consulting, Deloitte MCS Limited**

Blending the new technologies with Pillar 2 to create a mass testing solution – **speaker tbc**

To book a place please book via our website [here](#).

EMC News

Upcoming EMC Board meeting dates

- **Regional Migration Board** – 24 November
- **Regional Employers' Board** – 25 November
- **Executive Board** – 4 December
- **Transport for the East Midlands** - 14 December



EMC Support Activity

Exit Payment Regulations 2020, Further Information from the LGA - On 1 November 2020 the LGA updated its webpage on exits following the publication of the Direction, Guidance and Equalities Impact Assessment accompanying the Exit Cap Regulations.

A link to the relevant webpage is provided [here](#). It reflects the current position as understood from the information available and in light of the commentary provided by the LGPS Advisory Board in relation to the apparent legal inconsistency between the Cap Regulations and the LGPS rules which, until MHCLG complete their consultation, are unamended.

There are a number of outstanding issues, notably around the treatment of exits in progress. MHCLG have said they will issue guidance to councils on this is still awaited.

We are also aware of four pre-action letters relating to potential judicial review of the Exit Cap Regulations being submitted to HMT but as things stand the Exit Cap Regulations will come into force on 4 November and it looks unlikely that the LGPS Regulations will be amended before the New Year.

Authorities with exits due to take place after the 4 November are strongly urged to take legal advice on how best to proceed. EMC will continue to keep you as informed and updated as quickly as possible when there are any further developments, information or advice available [details [here](#)].

EMC Councillor Events

Additional Date for 'Scrutiny Reset and Recovery' workshop - Following demand in the first date for this workshop which will take place next week, EMC has provided an additional date, 27 November [details [here](#)].

Local government has changed significantly in order to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic. Functions, finances and political management arrangements have been re-shaped since March 2020. Scrutiny has also been impacted by COVID. This virtual workshop has been designed to focus on the role of scrutiny in the 'reset and recovery' period.

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



Boost for families wishing to build their own home - A review to make it easier for people to build their own home has been announced by Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick. Councils are currently required to keep a register of those who wish to build in their local area. And by 30 October each year – ‘Right to Build’ day – councils should have granted planning permission to enough suitable plots to match the demand on their register. The review announced will examine how effectively these arrangements support self and custom building, including whether they increase land available to support these homes [details [here](#)].

New funding for accessibility as government reports progress for disabled people across transport network - Government announces extra funding to improve travel for people with disabilities [details [here](#)].

New protections for renters over duration of national restrictions - Renters will be protected during the national restrictions, with no bailiff enforcement action, the Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick has announced this week. Measures, including the pause on evictions starting in December, mean evictions will not be enforced until the 11 January 2021 at the earliest, supporting individuals and families who have found themselves in financial difficulty through no fault of their own [details [here](#)].

Migration, Asylum Support, Refugee Resettlement and Modern Slavery

Modern slavery in local government supply chains: transparency statement guidance and procedures - To accompany existing guidance on Modern Slavery transparency statements, this guide is aimed to give you practical advice on how to draft your first statement; what to include; where to publish it and how to avoid some of the common pitfalls as well as offer some practical procedural suggestions when carrying out supply chain due diligence [details [here](#)].

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) Fostering Project - The Regional UASC Fostering Project went live on 1st October 2020. At the end of the 5th week, the project has seen 83 enquiries. 35 of these enquiries came through the facebook page and 31 came directly from the website. Already 20 enquiries have passed over to complete their initial assessment and 2 have begun the full application process. Over the next month, the project team are working on producing myth busting sessions to be shown on the project’s website and social media page on the some of the frequently asked questions from enquirers that has arose over the last few weeks.

Homelessness

Jenrick launches 'Protect Programme': the next step in winter rough sleeping plan - A new scheme to help protect some of the most vulnerable people in our communities from COVID-19 has been announced this week.

A further £15 million has been allocated to support the ongoing efforts to provide accommodation for rough sleepers during the pandemic. This scheme – called the ‘Protect Programme’ – will help areas that need additional support most during the restrictions and throughout winter.

Areas with high numbers of rough sleepers will receive extra targeted support to provide accommodation for those currently sleeping rough, working with councils to prioritise those who are clinically vulnerable – this will continue throughout the winter until March 2021 [details [here](#)].

Action to help prevent vulnerable young people from becoming homeless - New guidance for councils to help ensure care leavers have the stable homes they need, and prevent them from becoming homeless has been published by Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing [details [here](#)].

To help ensure this vulnerable group get the support they need new guidance published sets out how council housing departments and children’s services can work effectively together to support care leavers into settled accommodation and prevent them from becoming homeless.

The [good practice guidance](#) recommends how council housing departments and children’s services should produce a joint protocol that sets out how they will work together to ensure:

- each care leaver has a tailored support plan as they transition to independent living
- those at risk of homelessness are identified early and action is taken to prevent it
- a quick, safe and joined up response for care leavers who go on to become homeless

Funding allocated for 3,300 new homes for rough sleepers - More than 3,300 new long-term homes for rough sleepers and other vulnerable people have been approved, the Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick MP has announced.

Backed by government investment of more than £150 million the new homes will be made available in every region of England. This will enable people who sleep rough, or at risk of sleeping rough, to be rehoused in secure, long-term accommodation, providing some of the most vulnerable in society with a permanent place to live and help to rebuild their lives. These will be available by the end of March 2021 and are part of the government’s investment of £433 million to deliver 6,000 new homes for rough sleepers by the end of this Parliament [details [here](#)].

Employers' Information



EMC Fortnightly Summary of COVID-19 Guidance & Information for HR Colleagues - EMC continues to provide a weekly summary to HR colleagues in the East Midlands updating developments relating to COVID-19, along with information on the frequently asked questions we have received and responded, this information can be found [here](#).

Kickstart Scheme - The Kickstart Scheme provides funding to create new job placements for 16 to 24 year olds on Universal Credit who are at risk of long term unemployment. Employers of all sizes can apply for funding which covers:

- 100% of the [National Minimum Wage](#) (or the [National Living Wage](#) depending on the age of the participant) for 25 hours per week for a total of 6 months
- associated [employer National Insurance contributions](#)
- employer minimum automatic enrolment contributions

A Kickstart Scheme application must be for a minimum of 30 job placements. If a single employer cannot provide this many job placements, they can find a Kickstart gateway, such as a local authority, charity or trade body for help applying. Further funding is available for training and support so that young people on the scheme can get a job in the future [details [here](#)].

EMC has been co-ordinating interest and job placement offerings on behalf of Authorities in the East Midlands to become a representative gateway organisation of the Scheme. We have been collecting expressions of interest from any Authority that would like to participate in the Scheme and become part of this group so that the 30 placements can be provided through our collective offer [details [here](#)]. EMC have achieved the 30-placement threshold to access funded placements, however, there is still time for Authorities to express an interest in offering a 6-month job placement and become part of the group [details [here](#)].

Update of the national (and regionally adopted) Councillor Development Charter Framework - the latest version of the Councillor Development Charter update has been launched by the LGA. The updated framework is attached and on our webpage [Regional Councillor Development Charter](#) you can find further information about the support EMC can provide whether you are already a Charter authority or considering becoming one.

Local Government News

Learning for Life: the role of adult community education in developing thriving local communities, a handbook for councillors - A LGA produced guide available from [here](#).

Free online commercial training for officers - the LGA has developed five new free two-hour Zoom masterclasses to support officers as their local authorities refocus commercial activity impacted by COVID-19 and changes to investment guidance by CIPFA and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. For more information visit [here](#).

Climate Smart Parking Policies, Thursday 12 November 2020 - This LGA webinar will focus on parking management, a crucial part of local authorities' policy toolbox. It can make walking, cycling and public transport more attractive, and it can deliver a shift away from individual car ownership.

EMC Events

Report Writing - EMC is hosting two 3 hour virtual workshops on report writing. These virtual workshops will be highly interactive [full details [here](#)]. The course will explore;

- **What are the expectations with regards written reports in your role?**
- **What should we think about before writing the report?** Exploring: the audience and their expectations, language, tone, length.

The virtual workshop will use both plenary and breakout time to ensure maximum delegate participation, making the session interactive for those taking part. During the breakout sessions delegates will be grouped to work with people writing similar types of reports.

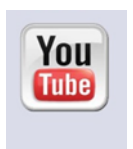
Dates; Tuesday 19 January 9:30 – 12:3; Thursday 28 January 13:30 – 16:30

EMC Leadership

Chair: Cllr Martin Hill OBE
Vice Chair: Cllr David Mellen
Vice Chair: Cllr Jonathan Morgan
Conservative Group: Cllr Roger Blaney
Labour Group: Cllr Alan Rhodes
Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE
Independent Group: Cllr Jason Zadrozny
Executive Director: Stuart Young

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