

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

## Top items this week

26 FEBRUARY 2021



Climate Change, Housing and Energy Efficiency workshop for Councillors, 18 March



EMC HR Bulletin, February 2021 Edition



East Midlands Lead Members for Children's Services Group meet with Minister



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

## EMC HR Bulletin, February 2021 Edition

The latest edition of the EMC HR Bulletin is now available from [here](#). In this month's edition, Employment Law Expert Darren Newman and his regular article considers the Government's decision to revoke the public sector exit pay cap

The February Bulletin includes:-

- Regional Pay Consultation
- East Midlands Kickstart Scheme
- Career Transition/Outplacement

Learning & Development

- Supporting Leadership & Resilience
- Solution Focused Brief Coaching

Round-up of National Developments

- Gender Pay Gap Report – deadline extended
- LGA Apprenticeship Newsletters, February 2021



**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** – EMC recently submitted an application as a gateway organisation on behalf of a number of Authorities in the East Midlands region, who have committed to providing Kickstart job placements for young people (16-24 year olds who are claiming Universal Credit and at risk of long-term unemployment). The good news is that EMC's application has been successful! EMC can now move to the next steps in the process and will continue to support the Authorities in the group with the Scheme.

## EMC News

### EMC Boards Activity

Upcoming EMC Board meeting dates are;

- **East Midlands Strategic Migration Board** – 3 March 2021
- **Transport for the East Midlands** - 15 March 2021
- **EMC Executive Board** – 19 March 2021
- **Regional Employers' Board/ Regional Joint Council** – 26 March 2021

### EMC Support Activity

**East Midlands Scrutiny Network** - EMC colleagues will host the next East Midlands Scrutiny Network on Friday 19 March, 10am. This network meeting will take place virtually using MS Teams and is open to Councillors and Officers involved in Scrutiny. The meeting will focus on Scrutiny protocols. For more information on the network visit [here](#) or contact [Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk)

### EMC Councillor Events

**Climate Change, Housing and Energy Efficiency workshop for Councillors, 18 March** - EMC, the LGA and Midlands Energy Hub working in partnership are offering a series of virtual interactive workshops for Councillors on Climate Change. The second workshop in the series will explore Housing and Energy Efficiency. The workshop will take place on Thursday 18 March 2021, to be chaired by Cllr Richard Wright, Leader of North Kesteven District Council. The interactive virtual workshops will provide Councillors from across the East Midlands with the opportunity to hear from both Councillors and Officers on innovative approaches to climate change reduction plans and initiatives. Further information on the first workshop will be available shortly, to pre-register to attend please visit [here](#).

---

## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

**Reallocating road space in response to COVID-19: statutory guidance for local authorities** - Guidance for local authorities on managing their road networks in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak [details [here](#)].

---

## Migration, Asylum Support, Refugee Resettlement and Modern Slavery

**East Midlands Lead Members for Children's Services Group meet with Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Immigration Compliance and the Courts** - The East Midlands Lead Members for Children's Services Group met this week with Chris Philp MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Immigration Compliance and the Courts, to discuss the pressures on local authorities on supporting voluntary transfers of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) arriving across the Channel on small boats over recent months. The discussion considered constructive approaches to some of the key challenges facing local authorities in providing assistance, and East Midlands Councils will be taking forward further work to support this in the coming months.

**Child Trafficking session** - East Midlands Councils are hosting a 2 hour virtual Child Trafficking session on Wednesday 10th March from 2pm-4pm delivered by Barnados.

This 2 hour briefing session will give an overview of what Child Trafficking is, how to spot some of the signs and indicators and what to do next. It will also detail what the National Referral Mechanism is, how to complete one and the process that follows a referral. It will include an introduction to the Independent Child Trafficking Guardianship (ICTG) service and how they can support you. For information visit [here](#).

**EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics, December 2020** - This report provides detailed statistics on applications made to the EUSS from 28 August 2018 to 31 December 2020, and applications concluded during the same time period [details [here](#)].

---

## Health & Social Care

**East Midlands Lateral Flow Device Shared Learnings Workshop** - The East Midlands Testing Hub and EMC have this week hosted a workshop to share learnings around Lateral Flow Device testing. The virtual workshop included a range of presentations reflecting the fact that successful delivery of LFD testing is not just about Public Health colleagues. The workshop highlighted the important roles of Communications, HR, Estates, EPRR and other teams that support the projects. Chaired by Emma Alexander, Managing Executive Director from Derbyshire County Council, the workshop included colleagues from around the East Midlands who shared their learnings through the following presentations:

- Use of LFD testing in a complex/vulnerable setting with a large homelessness services provider- Helen Johnston, Specialty Registrar in Public Health, Nottingham City Council
- Communications approach and learning for community testing - Helen Sisson, Marketing and Communications Manager, Mansfield District Council
- Workforce recruitment, training and mobilisation - Dean Wallace, Director of Public Health, Derbyshire County Council & Emma Crapper, Director of Organisation Development and Policy, Derbyshire County Council
- Managing rurality and lack of digital services - David Clark, Senior Programme Officer (Public Health), Lincolnshire County Council
- Using a University site for community testing - Rhosyn Harris, Consultant in Public Health, Northamptonshire County Council
- Blended Testing - Jo Allen, Corporate Resourcing Manager, Leicester City Council

**COVID-19 Vaccinations** - This website contains information on the number of COVID-19 vaccinations provided by the NHS in England, latest data about vaccinations has been made publicly available at local authority level (district and single tier authorities) [details [here](#)].

**Office for National Statistics provides, information related to COVID-19** - The Office for National Statistics provides a rich source of information relating to Covid-19. A salutary reminder of the profound impact of the virus is reflected in the latest data for deaths registered weekly in England and Wales (provisional: week ending 12 February 2021), including deaths involving the coronavirus (Covid-19), by age, sex and region, in the latest weeks for which data are available.

While the data does fluctuate, there has nevertheless been a 'stickiness' in the relatively high rates of infections across the East Midlands compared to elsewhere across England and Wales – and this, perhaps unsurprisingly, is reflected in the current disproportionately high number of deaths registered in the region [access [here](#)].

See section 4, Table 1: The number of deaths registered was above the five-year average in all English regions and Wales, Number of deaths in Wales and regions in England, registered in week ending 12 February 2021.

---

## Homelessness

**Housing First Pilot: national evaluation reports** - The National Evaluation of Housing First includes a process study, a quantitative assessment of client outcomes and cost benefit analysis and will generate a number of reports over its course [details [here](#)].

---

---

## Homelessness

**Mobilising Housing First toolkit** - The government has also published a [Mobilising Housing First toolkit](#) as part of an evaluation process of the ongoing £28 million funded Housing First pilots helping rough sleepers in Greater Manchester (GMCA), the West Midlands (WMCA), and the Liverpool City Region (LCRA). This will help to identify best practice in implementing Housing First at scale.

Mr Jenrick has also announced an additional £6.4 million for voluntary organisations to provide accommodation and referral services for rough sleepers. This includes funding for covid-safe emergency accommodation, longer term accommodation, a national helpline and training and support to professionals working to end homelessness [\[here\]](#).

---

## Local Government News

**Lawyers in Local Government (LLG) and Association of Democratic Service Officers (ADSO) Serve Pre-Action Letter on Secretary of State** - The Association of Democratic Services Officers (ADSO) and Lawyers in Local Government (LLG) have been lobbying the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to change primary legislation to enable local authority remote meetings to take place beyond the current statutory deadline of 6 May 2021. In the event of this not being successful, and to support the Secretary of State in his wish to find a solution, ADSO, LLG and Hertfordshire County Council have instructed counsel to issue proceedings in the High Court to seek a declaratory judgement to enable such meetings to take place within existing legislation.

A pre-action letter has been served on the Secretary of State giving him the opportunity to respond to the proposals. Once this notice period expires, if there is no material change to the present circumstances, LLG and ADSO will submit their claim to the Court. LLG and ADSO are not yet in a position to provide a timeline as to when the case might be heard. They will apply to expediate any proceedings, but it is a matter for the court as to when the case will be listed. They will advise all interested parties when they know more. In the meantime, LLG and ADSO are asking local authorities (if not submitted already) to provide them with quantifiable evidence to show the benefits of remote meetings and why they should continue. For further information visit ADSO website [here](#) and LLG website [here](#).

**The scrutiny perspective on the Government's health and care White Paper, from the Centre for Scrutiny and Governance (CfGS)** - This CfGS is a paper primarily intended for local government scrutiny practitioners, to set out some of the principal components of the Health and Care White Paper, to highlight particular issues with respect to the health scrutiny function, and to set out how they suggest Government's proposals be amended [details [here](#)].

**New measures to allow proxy voting in local elections for those self-isolating with coronavirus** - Individuals who need to self-isolate because of coronavirus will still be able to vote in the local elections through new emergency proxy voting measures [details [here](#)].

---

## EMC Events

**Solution Focused Brief Coaching, 24 March 2021** - East Midlands Councils will host a virtual workshop on 24 March exploring Solution Focused Brief Coaching. The session will introduce coaches to solution focused brief coaching and provide an opportunity for coaches to have a go at using the approach in a safe environment. Solution Focused Brief Coaching is an evidenced-based approach where the coach helps the client to build their own solutions by helping them:

- Identify clearly what they want
- Focus on what is working already
- Identify the strengths, qualities and resources they already have
- Recognise those small changes that can lead to larger changes at a pace they can handle.

Solution Focused Brief Coaching can often deliver results quicker than conventional approaches because it builds upon what is already working and recognises the limitations of traditional problem solving in resolving complex client issues and avoids it.

**Date and time** - 24 March 2021, 9:30 - 12:30. For more information and to book a place please visit [here](#).

---

## 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

---

## East Midlands Councils

First Floor Offices, South Annexe

Pera Business Park

Nottingham Road

Melton Mowbray

Leicestershire

LE13 0PB

Click on our [Twitter](#) & [YouTube](#) accounts for further information.

