

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

Top items this week

15 JANUARY 2021



Protections for rough sleepers and renters



East Midlands All Party Parliamentary Group

Co-Chairs of East Midlands All Party Parliamentary Group, letter to the Prime Minister



EMC Fortnightly Summary of COVID-19 Guidance



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

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](#).

The update covers the following issues:-

- Further COVID Funding
- Shielding Updated Guidance
- COVID-19 workforce guidance – a reminder of the circulars dated 17th & 23rd March - the vast majority of which remain pertinent to the current circumstances
- Schools Workforce Update - a school's workforce update is attached which gathers the school workforce related issues in one place at this time
- LGA webinar: COVID-19 vaccine communications
- LG Inform COVID-19 Workforce Survey
Restart – Help to support long-term unemployed

LGA COVID-19 workforce survey research, week ending 27 November 2020 - This report is part of a series of bi-weekly surveys of all councils in England and Wales collecting key workforce data on how the sector is responding to COVID-19. This report relates to the survey sent out on 2 December 2020 and covers the week ending 27 November 2020. The overall response rate was 55 per cent and covered around a third of the total workforce [available from [here](#)].

Kickstart Scheme - The **Kickstart Scheme** provides funding to employers to create job placements for 16 to 24 year olds on Universal Credit who are at risk of long term unemployment. Funding is also available for training and support so that young people can develop their employability skills while on the placement. A Kickstart Scheme application must be for a minimum of 30 job placements. Therefore, EMC are acting as a representative gateway organisation for the Scheme and will apply for the funding on behalf of the group of Local Authorities within the East Midlands who have signed up to the Scheme.

There is still time to join the group and offer a placement to a young person! For more information, please contact Suzanne Boulton by suzanne.boulton@emcouncils.gov.uk

Leadership Development Programme - EMC has launched its new Leadership Development programme for Senior and Middle Managers. The programme 'Leading in turbulent times' is set in the context of the unique challenges posed by Covid-19 including change, complexity, ambiguity and uncertainty.

The aim of this programme is to provide senior and middle managers with the skills, knowledge and capability to lead their people through turbulent times. Delivered virtually, this programme provides a flexible approach to learning through short webinars which address key issues and provide practical tools to support managers. For more information please contact Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk or visit [here](#).

Outplacement support - EMC have been providing local authorities with tailored confidential and independent support and advice linked to their individual needs and circumstances. Examples of support have included: CVs and application forms, Psychometrics – for practice, to support self-awareness of strength areas, to help with planning for careers and alternative options, Mock Interviews, Assessment centre exercises including presentation skills. For more information contact Lisa.Butterfill@emcouncils.gov.uk

EMC News

EMC Boards Activity

EMC General Meeting - EMC's General Meeting is scheduled for 10.00am on Friday 5th February 2021 and will be held virtually via MS Teams. For further information on how to access the meeting please contact lisa.hopkins@emcouncils.gov.uk



Up coming EMC board meeting dates;

- **East Midlands Strategic Migration Board** - 3 March 21
- **East Midlands Regional Employers' Board** - 4 March 21
- **EMC Executive Board** - 19 March 21

EMC Support Activity

Virtual Recruitment Assessment Centre - This week EMC staff have supported the delivery of a virtual assessment centre for a local authority in the East Midlands. The virtual assessment centre is part of the recruitment and selection for a senior role within the local authority. For more information about the support EMC can provide for recruitment and selection, including the design and delivery of both face to face and virtual assessment centres please contact Lisa.Butterfill@emcouncils.gov.uk

Councillor Development Charter - The **Charter and Charter Plus** helps councils to support councillor development and recognises those that have built an effective approach and is based on the principles of sector-led improvement whereby councils are responsible for their own performance, are locally accountable and have a sense of collective responsibility for the performance of the sector as a whole. Recently updated in 2020 the framework and all supporting information can be found here. EMC is pleased to provide full support to Councils who wish to pursue the accreditation. Contact LB2 if any questions. For more information visit [here](#) or contact Lisa.Butterfill@emcouncils.gov.uk

EMC Councillor Events

Climate Change Workshop, Community Engagement - East Midlands Councils and the LGA, working in partnership are offering a series of virtual interactive workshops for Councillors on Climate Change, starting with a focused working exploring community engagement and behaviour change on 19 January 2021.

The first workshop, to be chaired by Cllr Sally Longford, Nottingham City Council, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder Energy, Environment and Democratic Services, will include a presentations from;

- **Cllr Adam Clarke, Deputy City Mayor Environment and Transportation, Leicester City Council** on Leicester's climate emergency consultation process - building a collaborative approach.
- **Mike Preston, formally Parish Councillor for Hungarton Parish Council in Leicestershire** - To speak about his role as a Parish Councillor and their Rural Community Energy Fund bid for innovative local energy project.
- **Michael Gallagher, Regional Energy Projects Manager from Midlands Energy Hub**

The programme for the event is available here and to register for one of the remain places visit [here](#).

Virtual Communication Skills for Councillors, 28 January, 14:00 - EMC is offering a one-hour virtual communication session for Councillors. This one-hour session offers an interactive introduction to online communication skills. The outcomes will include: enhanced awareness of positive virtual communications, how to improve personal communication skills, reputation and transferability of skills to the real world.

Please note that we are running two sessions, one for Councillors and one for Officers. Information on the workshop and details of how to book can be found [here](#).

Homelessness

Extra covid protections for rough sleepers and renters - Extra support to help protect rough sleepers and renters from the effects of COVID-19 has been announced by the Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick this week.

With an additional £10 million in funding, all councils in England are being asked to redouble their efforts to help accommodate all those currently sleeping rough and ensure they are swiftly registered with a GP, where they are not already.

This will ensure they can be protected from the virus and contacted to receive vaccinations in line with the priority groups outlined by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation.

Councils will also be asked to reach out again to those who have previously refused help, given rising infection rates and the colder winter months.

Renters will continue to be supported during the new national restrictions, with an extension to the ban on bailiff evictions for all but the most egregious cases for at least 6 weeks – until at least 21 February – with measures kept under review [details [here](#)].

Local Government News

Changes to local authority powers and duties Health protection and business COVID security resulting from Coronavirus Regulations 2020 - This is a LGA guide to the provisions of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Local Authority Enforcement Powers and Amendment) (England) Regulations 2020, the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (All Tiers) (England) Regulations 2020, and to new, modified or suspended local government powers and duties applicable to local authorities in England only up to 31st December 2020 [[here](#)].

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

HS2 in the East Midlands, Delivering Capacity, Connectivity and Growth - This week the Co-Chairs of the East Midlands All-Party Parliamentary Group, have written to the Prime Minister, to ask him to ensure that the Government's Integrated Rail Plan will deliver the Eastern Leg of HS2 in full, including the East Midlands Hub Station at Toton, HS2 connectivity for Chesterfield and the Staveley Infrastructure Maintenance Depot. The letter is available from [here](#).

East Midlands Rail have released their latest Covid Timetable reflecting the latest Government position on travel [available from [here](#)].

Migration

Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) visa - Information about the requirements for the new Hong Kong BN(O) visa. The visa will open for applications from 31 January 2021 [details [here](#)].

The introduction of the BN(O) visa route is in response to China passing the Nationality Security Law in Hong Kong which restricts the rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong. There will be no quota on numbers and the HO estimates 2.9 million BN(O) citizens are eligible to move to the UK with a further 2.3 million eligible dependents.

The application is open to BN(O) citizens and their close family members from 31/01/21. The visa entitles the individual to work, study including for higher education courses and use the NHS. They cannot however claim benefits. Children will be entitled to attend school and education and training for those aged 16 to 19. Should you have any questions, please contact brein.fisher@emcouncils.gov.uk

Health & Social Care

East Midlands Epidemiology - Epidemiology information for the East Midlands from Public Health England East Midlands regarding COVID cases in the East Midlands available from [here](#).

COVID-19 vaccine communications, Thursday 21 January 2021, 1.20pm - 2.50pm - comms and engagement will be crucial to this successful rollout. As more vaccines continue to be delivered, this LGA and LGComms webinar will look at how councils and their partners can effectively communicate with all residents about this. It will look at where we are now, the months ahead, and issues such as vaccine hesitancy and countering misinformation [details [here](#)].

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

Virtual Communication Skills for Officers, 28 January - EMC is offering a one-hour virtual workshop on communication. This one-hour session offers an interactive introduction to online communication skills.

The outcomes will include: enhanced awareness of positive virtual communications, how to improve personal communication skills, reputation and transferability of skills to the real world [details [here](#)].

Thursday 28 January 9:30 – 10:30

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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