



# Corporate Director (DCS) Briefings Autumn 2021

Weds 15<sup>th</sup> Sept 7.00pm  
Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> Sept 9.30am



# Strategic Children's Services

Richard Nash

Corporate Director (DCS), Children's Services,

# Acknowledgements

- The last 18 months have without doubt a hugely challenging period of time.
- Schools have been in the frontline and have hopefully underlined to the rest of our community how important and valuable they are.
- The work of Senior Leadership Teams, Heads, School Governors, together with their staff teams have done incredible things.
- We know this is not over by a long way and it is vital that schools are supported effectively by Buckinghamshire Council in the challenges ahead.
- Some of the challenges include:
  - Emotional Health of pupils
  - Vaccine rollout
  - Return to Ofsted judgement inspections
  - Schools funding

# Looking Forward

- It is unlikely that the pressures and changes within our communities, for our families and for their children are going to change any time soon.
- Public sector finances are also going to be challenging.
- It is vital that the partnership we currently have stays strong, that we approach problems together in the way we have been doing and we keep our approach focussed on the best interests of our children and young people.
- Of course, it is also important that we stay optimistic and there are lots of reasons why we should:
  - Resilience in the system
  - Academic achievements despite Covid-19
  - SEND outcomes improving

# Education Services

Simon James

Service Director, Education

# Our Partnership

- More face to face time
- Strengthened relationships
- Greater trust
- Renewed committed to solving problems together
- Better communication

# Achievement and Learning

- Kingsbrook View Primary Academy opened this week
- Bigger School Improvement Team
- Improved Traded Offer
- Ofsted Inspections Re-starting
- Attendance Survey

# Holiday Activities and Food Programme

## Funding opportunity for Schools

- The DfE's [HAF Programme](#) is a targeted programme for school-aged children aged 5-16 who receive benefits-based FSM.
- Funding opportunity for schools to apply for HAF grant funds to deliver free Christmas holiday activities.
- A wide range of activities could be provided and creativity is welcomed.
- At least 4 hour sessions (ideally 6 hours) over a flexible number of days of the Christmas holiday.
- Application process is open now ([weblink](#)); deadline is 9.00am on Monday 4 October 2021.
- Ask any questions or book an informal discussion: [haf@Buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:haf@Buckinghamshire.gov.uk)





# Early Help

- Family Support Link workers – you all have one!  
[familyinfo@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:familyinfo@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)
- Family Centres have now fully re-opened
- Early Help Strategy – via school focus groups and liaison groups

# Special Educational Needs

- The “**Shout Out for SEND**” conference is taking place on 13th October 2021 at Adams Park
- New Offer from Educational Psychologists of extra support inc. Headteacher sessions
- Allocated EHC Coordinator and EP for every school; these names are published on the Local Offer here, along with when / how to make contact information: [Buckinghamshire education, health and care \(EHC\) co-ordinators | Family Information Service](#)
- Delivering a co-produced annual training programme for SEND – look out for this through the weekly SEN newsletters sent to SENCos this month
- Thank you for your involvement on the SEND Sufficiency Programme

# iSEND Senior Managers



**Hero Slinn**  
Head of Integrated  
SEND Service



**Tim Jones**  
Principal Educational  
Psychologist



**Alex Potts**  
iSEND Area Manager  
Wycombe



**Christine Preston**  
iSEND Area Manager  
Aylesbury



**Hayley Nowley**  
iSEND Area Manager  
Chiltern South Bucks



Buckinghamshire Education  
School Support & Training  
(BESST)

## **BESST – Buckinghamshire Education School Support & Training**

- BESST is the traded school improvement and governor services arm of Buckinghamshire Council.
- We will provide support, training and development opportunities for school leadership and governance.
- BESST services will support school leaders to keep up to date and help the implementation of best practice.
- Starting small and focused, our services will continue to develop as our team capacity grows.

*Supporting schools to get the best outcomes for every child*



# Public Health

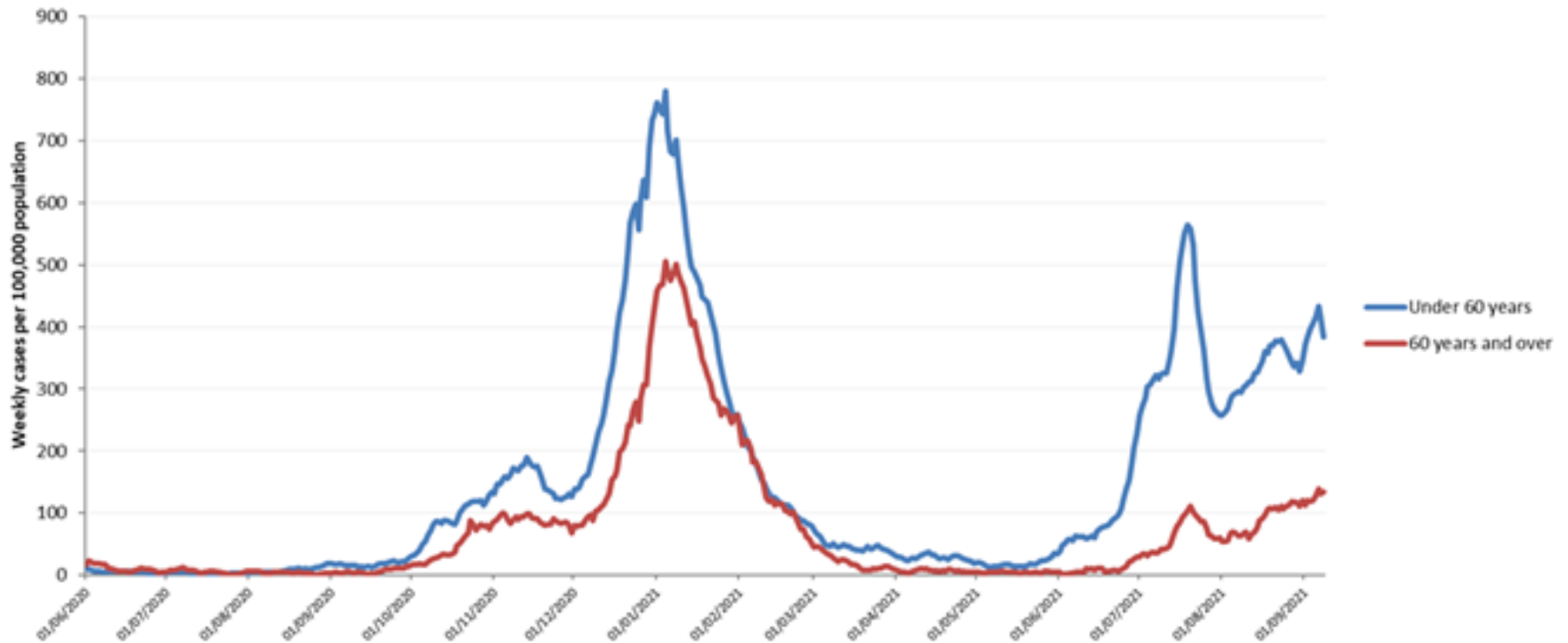
Dan Flecknoe

Public Health Consultant

# COVID-19 in the Autumn term

- The challenging effect of changing guidance on schools.
- Contact isolation requirements.
- Contingency framework measures and when to apply them.
- Universal vaccination offer for 12-15yr olds.

Weekly incidence rates (per 100,000 population) by age in Buckinghamshire - up to 08 September



# Public Health advice

- Some contingency measures which may be recommended:
  - Re-introducing measures to prevent mixing (e.g. bubbles)
  - Heightened scrutiny for symptoms, at home and in school
  - Encouraging contact PCR testing
  - Routine LFD testing for staff and secondary pupils
  - Increased ventilation where possible
  - Increased hand and respiratory hygiene where possible
  - Social distancing within bubbles where possible
  - Re-considering open events/assemblies/performances
  - In significant outbreaks, the DPH or PHE may recommend the re-introduction of face coverings or attendance restrictions
- It is sensible to start with the less disruptive measures, and then work up to the more disruptive ones if they do not work.
- A whole school approach to risk reduction must include parents.

# Help is available

- Buckinghamshire Council public health and school improvement teams are available to advise on prevention and management of suspected cases/outbreaks as well as non-COVID matters – [sis@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:sis@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) or [publichealth@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:publichealth@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)
- If case numbers exceed stated thresholds (>5 linked cases within 10 days, or >2 for SEN/boarded schools) then the health protection team should also be contacted at [ICC.TVPHEC@phe.gov.uk](mailto:ICC.TVPHEC@phe.gov.uk)



# Children's Social Care

Palvinder Kudhail

Service Director, Children's Social Care

# Demand pressures

- Marked changes in the demand for statutory social work interventions - 63% increase in child protection enquiries, 22% increase in volume overall when compared pre-Covid-19 levels
- Consistent increases each calendar month since September 2020
- Increase in volume measured by contacts and referrals - 20% increase in the number of contacts in this financial year
- Since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, Assessment Teams are dealing with, on average, 230 additional pieces of work every month
- Changes in the seriousness of the circumstances children and young people find themselves - significant increases in strategy meetings and section 47 enquiries
- Between April and August 2020, average number of strategy meetings across the service stood at 221 per month. September 2020 to February 2021 increase to 324, from March to June 2021 it was 391 per month
- This indicates a new 'normal' for the service in terms of demand levels and what can be expected

# Priorities

- Practice improvement – management oversight
- Looked after children permanency tracking arrangements with senior manager oversight
- Quality assurance arrangements, assessing practice from different lenses
- Multi-agency threshold audits in the MASH commence in September 2021
- Learning and continuous improvement – check and challenge
- Recruitment and retention – Grow your own programme, international social workers, agency conversions, social media advertising
- Recruitment of inhouse foster carers – maintaining local links, family connections, local schools, cost effective

# Information sharing - Link leads during school holidays

- Partner Practice Standards agreed at the MASH Operations Group clarifying expectations for all agencies about timely and full information for strategy discussions
- <https://www.buckssafeguarding.org.uk/childrenpartnership/>
- Education Safeguarding Officers have access to One System – limited information
- Issue in school holidays – helpful to have a named link for each school for information sharing and attendance at strategy discussions
- Important to contribute to safety planning

# Governance Update

Paul Randall

Buckinghamshire Association of School Governors



Paul Randall

Chair of Buckinghamshire Association of School Governors

[Bucks Association of School Governors \(bucksgovernors.org\)](http://bucksgovernors.org)

## AUTUMN TERM 2021

### **Buckinghamshire Council are offering Governance support**

- NGA Membership & Learning Link for all Maintained School Governors and Clerks – no need to register for this membership.
- Upgrades to Gold Package of £159 for Maintained School's – these need to be done by 30.09.21
- Discounted rates of membership for Academies of £94. NGA recommend Academies have the Gold Package, which is also discounted at £253 – these need to be purchased by 30.09.21
- Learning Link for Academies can be purchased by the 30.09.2021 To confirm purchase of your annual membership and the package required please visit the [BESST web page](#). (Bursar log in required).

*NGA are a charity who work directly with DfE, specialist Education Lawyers and Teaching Unions to make sure Governing Boards and Trusts receive definitive accurate and up to date advice and support.*

- BESST Governor development sessions – [BESST Governor Training | Buckinghamshire \(buckscc.gov.uk\)](#)

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## **NGA – Suggested Priorities for Board during this term are**

Making wellbeing a priority

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The Recovery Curriculum

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Support for disadvantaged pupils

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Collaboration with parents, carers, and the wider community

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## **Useful links**

Making sure you remain strategic - [NGA-ASCL-NAHT-Guide-to-Being-Strategic-\(Oct2020\).pdf](#)

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Safeguarding – [The governance of safeguarding \(nga.org.uk\)](#)

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Ofsted - [Ofsted and inspection in 2021 and beyond – Recent NGA Webinar – YouTube](#)

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So much is being said about data [Understanding your data: a guide for school governors and academy trustees - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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**NGA webinar – 23 September 2021 from 4.30-5pm**

**CEO and Headteacher performance management [Register now](#)**

*Join NGA's Director of Professional Development, Emma Balchin, in exploring how CEO and Headteacher performance management links to overall vision and strategy and fits within the core functions of governance.*

*The webinar will touch on;*

- *The performance management process and how this links to the overall performance of the school or trust (including the differences between school and trust processes)*
- *Some key challenges and ideas about how to overcome them*
- *Using the process to set meaningful objectives and support wellbeing*
- *Ways to monitor and evaluate effectiveness*

**BEP Chairs Strategic Briefing via webinar on Friday 12 November 2021 9.30am to 11.30am – Topics this term are**

- Pupil/Recovery Premium
- SEND
- Cybercrime

*Open to all Chairs or their representatives regardless of whether their school currently subscribe to BEP*

**[Bucks Association of School Governors \(bucks.governors.org\)](http://bucks.governors.org)**