



Corporate Director (DCS) Briefings Spring 2022

Weds 12th Jan 9am
Thurs 13th Jan 7pm



Strategic Children's Services

Richard Nash

Corporate Director (DCS), Children's Services,

4 Key Messages

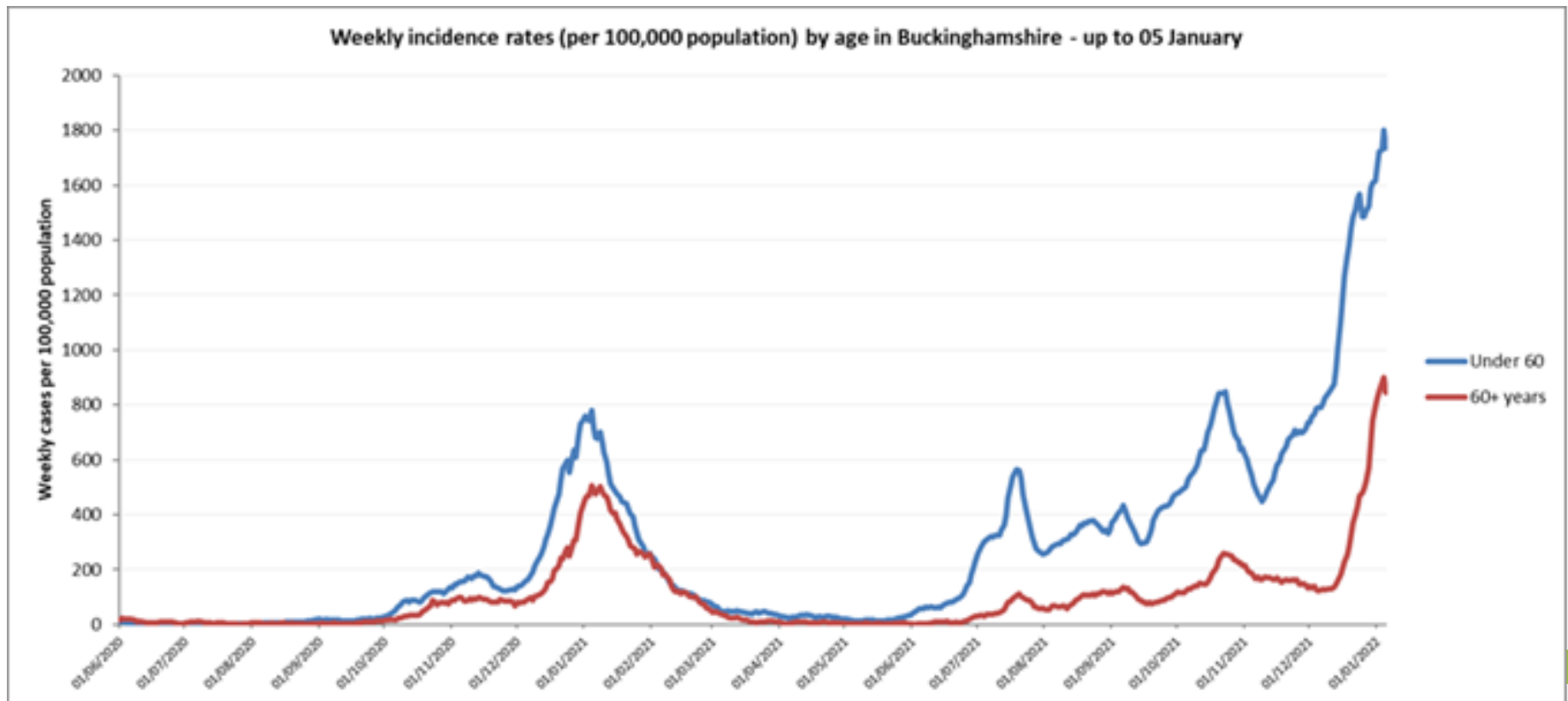
1. Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services
2. The importance of regular quality meetings with school leaders
3. Last year was exceptionally difficult – this year will also be challenging
4. Safer recruitment and importance of involving the LA in high profile appointments

Public Health

- Daniel Flecknoe
Consultant in Public Health

COVID-19 in the Spring term

- The (continued) challenge of changing guidance for schools.
- Case isolation and contact testing changes.
- New contingency framework measures and when to apply them.
- Increased vaccine eligibility for young people.



Public Health advice

- Some contingency measures which may be recommended in case of outbreaks:
 - Measures to prevent mixing (e.g. bubbles) for pupils and staff
 - Heightened scrutiny for symptoms, at home and in school
 - Encouraging 7 daily LFTs for in-school and household contacts
 - Routine LFD testing for staff and secondary pupils
 - Increased ventilation where possible
 - Increased hand and respiratory hygiene where possible
 - Re-considering open events/assemblies/performances
- 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 or 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

Children's Social Care

Palvinder Kudhail

Service Director, Children's Social Care

Post inspection/Challenges

- The improvement journey continues so that we strengthen services for children, young people and their families
- Whilst there is more to do, we are confident in our understanding and knowledge of what needs to be done
- The child population continues to increase as do the number of families facing financial hardship and deprivation
- Covid-19 has had a dramatic impact on some children, young people and their families resulting in unprecedented changes in demand and complexity of casework
- All indicators suggest these changes in demand will not reduce for the foreseeable future
- Staffing in some teams

Priorities

- The next phase of the improvement journey will include Headteachers and DSLs as you are key players in the system
- Building on positive outcome of inspection
- Service improvement, sustaining change
- Responding to the growing and unpredictable demand as a result of COVID 19
- Recruitment and retention of a permanent and experienced social care workforce
- Recruitment of in-house foster carers

Education & Early Help Services

Simon James

Service Director, Education

5 Priorities for this Term

Partnership

Vulnerable Children

Narrowing the Gap

School Inspections

Local Area SEND Inspection

Achievement and Learning: this term's priorities

Admissions & Transport

- Deliver outcomes for Secondary allocations
- Parental deadline for Primary allocations

School Commissioning

- Progressing the Kingsbrook Secondary School
- Reviewing SEN sufficiency options

Educational Entitlement

- Increasing capacity for EHE support
- Continued focus on reducing Permanent Exclusions

Virtual School

- Embedding the strategic leadership for the outcomes of children with a social worker

School Improvement

- Recruiting additional capacity to the team
- Supporting schools to ensure robust safeguarding

Early Years

- Focus on sufficiency of places for early education, out of school and holiday provision following COVID
- Supporting EY and childcare settings with increased safeguarding concerns



Buckinghamshire Education
School Support & Training
(BESST)

BESST Offer to Schools 2022/23

- Comprehensive service offer to schools for 2022/23.
- Increased team capacity to offer a comprehensive range of School Improvement support.
- Strong and developing Governance Support Offer with a Buckinghamshire focus.
- Discounted membership with the NGA and The Key; Governor Hub, The Key for School Governors & The Key for School Leaders.
- Packages and PAYG options available.
- Packages for two terms from September 2022 – leading to annual financial year packages in line with Buckinghamshire Council Traded Services from April 2023.

Supporting schools to get the best outcomes for every child





Buckinghamshire Education
School Support & Training
(BESST)

BESST Offer to Schools 2022/23



School Improvement Services



- School Improvement & Development Support
- Bespoke focused Reviews e.g. Leadership & Management, Curriculum, Middle Leadership and Behaviour & Attitudes.
- Readiness for Inspection Review
- School Self Evaluation Review
- Online Safety Review
- Safeguarding Review
- 1:1 Coaching for Headteachers
- Headteacher Performance Management
- School Improvement Conferences



Governor Support & Training



- Full Buckinghamshire-focused Governor Training Programme
- New Governor Welcome Support



Support for Schools



- Discounted membership to The Key; Governor Hub, The Key for School Governors and The Key for School Leaders
- Discounted membership to the NGA

Early Help Partnership

- Feedback from liaison group meetings highlighted that schools value guidance, advice and the direct support provided by FSS. **School link workers provide positive and effective advice** on how schools can support children and young people through delivery of support within school and also guide where external services are appropriate.
- EH covers an extensive range of support, **including that provided pastorally within schools**, and by a range of services within the public, private and voluntary sectors. Bucks Family Information Service (BFIS) Website provides information on activities, groups, services and support available across the county which schools can signpost families to and use themselves too.
- **Teachers play a vital role in supporting children at an early stage by identifying needs and seeking support within school at the earliest opportunity.**
- **FSS School link workers are a key resource to help schools to ensure children receive appropriate support at the earliest time.**
- **Early Help partnership panels** are valuable to help schools where they are providing support but would like other professionals to consider the child, their needs and give guidance/advice on support which could be offered, to compliment the support already in place. For more information or to add a child for discussion - Email ehpartnershipforum@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- Link workers can also provide guidance and advice on alternative avenues of EH support external to schools where this is appropriate, including support delivered by FSS.
- Information below will aid with signposting, seeking further information, advice and referrals (including if you need to know your FSS Link)
- BFIS Website <https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/> Email familyinfo@buckinghamshire.gov.uk Call 01296 383 293

Special Educational Needs

- Jan 2019 to Jan 2022, **33% increase of EHCPs** from 4,054 to 5,395.
- Demand is continuing, particularly since return to schools following the pandemic.
 - **Over 1000 requests for EHCNAs were received in 2021 in Bucks, more than any other year.**
 - **25% more EHCNAs were progressed in 2021 compared to 2020**
 - Many of these are yet to convert to EHCPs in 2022, and new assessments commenced continue to be high currently.
- Since September, regular meetings in place with SENCOs and EHCCOs with set agenda to move forward statutory work in relation to EHCPs. **School link EHCCo** details can be found here: [Buckinghamshire education, health and care \(EHC\) co-ordinators | Family Information Service](#)
- Consistency of high quality provision across Buckinghamshire schools continues to be a high priority, focusing on the use of **ordinarily available provision** for schools to achieve this.
- **Phase 1 of the SEND Sufficiency Strategy (21-23)**, focusing primarily on the development of Inclusion Units within mainstream schools, will be published this term.
- Hero will write out later this month with an update on iSEND Service priorities for the term, including details of the 2022 **Annual Review Strategy**.

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

Governance Update

Paul Randall



SPRING TERM 2022

NGA have updated guidance on Governance priorities during the ongoing pandemic

- **Managing risk** - Governing boards should seek assurance from school leaders that risk assessments and relevant policies are up to date, effective and working as planned. Risk assessments should be treated as 'living documents' that build on previous experiences
- **Wellbeing across the school community** - Governing boards should engage with stakeholders and school leaders to understand the impact that COVID-19 continues to have on pupil and staff mental health and wellbeing. Discussions should focus on the support in place and its effectiveness.
- **Curriculum and education recovery** - Discussions with school leaders should focus on the ongoing assessment and response to the impact lockdown has had on the education and wellbeing of pupils in the school or trust.
<https://www.nga.org.uk/getmedia/4b6554dd-8deb-42d1-a061-d506f11d1793/nga-covid-monitoring-priorities-20220104.pdf>
- **Visits** - NGA advise that governing board meetings and governor/trustee visits should be conducted remotely during this period

Full discussion of Governance priorities and Spring term agendas at the BESST session 6.30pm 19th January 2022

Book here <https://commercial.buckscc.gov.uk/our-services/besst/governor-support-training/besst-governor-training/>

SPRING TERM 2022

NGA have updated summary information on current requirements keeping schools safe during the COVID-19 outbreak

This information includes:

- Summary of the control measures in place in schools
- Requirements to continue to prioritise the delivery of face-to-face, high quality education to all pupils.
- Allow for flexible delivery that utilises all available teaching and non-teaching workforce to maximise on-site education for as many pupils as possible.
- Prioritise the face-to-face education of the children of key workers and pupils considered vulnerable in the event of a partial closure.
- Maintain capacity to provide high quality remote education.
- Include a separate contingency plan which outlines how the school would operate in the event of local outbreaks, in line with the DfE COVID-19 contingency framework, and kept up to date.
- In secondary schools – take into account the space and time needed for SAIS to administer vaccinations.

SPRING TERM 2022

Governor Networking Meetings

- Aylesbury Chairs Networking Group organised by Martin Baxter on Monday 24th January 2022 at 7pm contact mbaxter@turnfurlongmiddle.bucks.sch.uk
- Chairs Network Meeting - Chesham / Amersham / Wendover / Great Missenden Area organised by Andrew Brown - Monday 14th February at 5.30pm – contact abrown1@chacademy.co.uk
- ‘Jordans’ Chairs Networking Group organised by Anne Sheddick – Saturday 5th March 2022 at 9.30am contact anne.sheddick@gmail.com



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