



Corporate Director Briefings Summer 2021

Thu 22nd April 18.30

Friday 23rd April 11.00



Strategic Children's Services Update

Simon James

Service Director, Education

Council Updates

1. 1 year anniversary of the new Council
2. Preparation for the ILACS Ofsted Inspection
3. Local elections on 6 May

Public Health Update

Dan Flecknoe

Public Health Consultant

Key Points

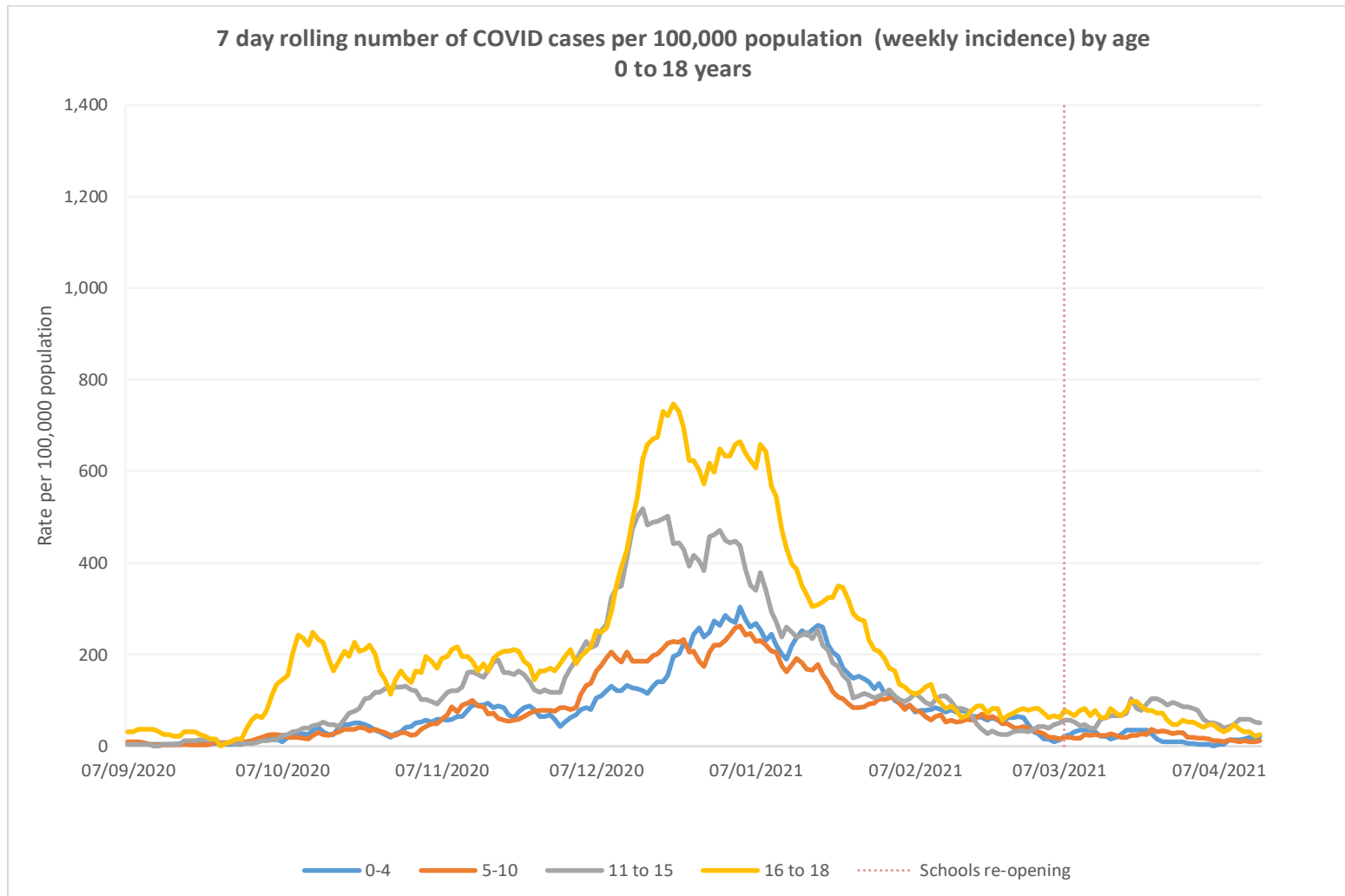
Overall

- Current new case rate is **25.9 per 100k** for Buckinghamshire (**141 cases**)
- 20.6% of cases this week were identified through asymptomatic screening (LFTs)
- 29.5% of cases this week were linked with foreign travel
- South East **R number 0.6 to 0.9**; England 0.7 to 1.0

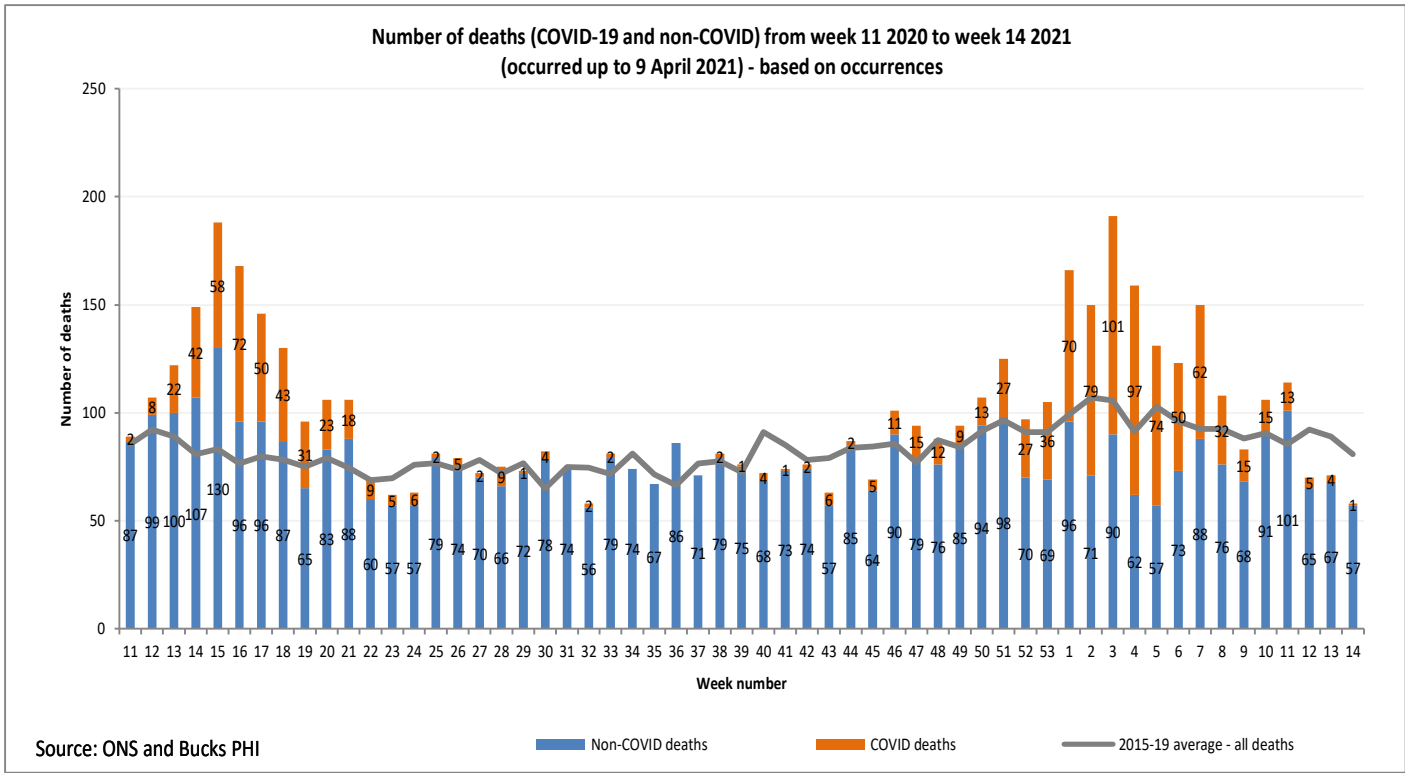
Age Groups

- Highest new case rates in Buckinghamshire for the 30-44 year age group
- Largest weekly increase for residents aged 30-44 (16.2% increase from 37 to 43 cases)
- Rates for 60+ cohort have reached a plateau with 9 cases overall for the week

Age of Buckinghamshire COVID-19 Cases



COVID-19 Related Deaths - Buckinghamshire residents



In the last reported week (up to 9 April), there was 1 death of a Buckinghamshire resident related to COVID-19.

Data from the Office for National Statistics.

Education and Early Help Update

Simon James

Service Director, Education

Early Help

- School-Linked Family Support Workers are available to discuss emerging concerns and partnership responses, hold professional meetings regarding next steps for families of concern or prior to submission of a MARF where threshold discussions would be helpful.
- New Continuum of Need incorporating threshold guidance has been published by the Safeguarding Partnership:
<https://www.buckssafeguarding.org.uk/childrenpartnership/professionals/continuum-of-need/>
- BFIS and local offer have been refreshed and re-written to improve accessibility and quality of information provided:
<https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/send/>
- Family Centres are re-opening after the Easter break – drop-in sessions and group activities will be available with a developing programme of events and activities at all Family Centre sites. FSS are keen to work with schools and local community groups to ensure the offer reflects local needs and priorities. Contact your Community Coordinator via BFIS.

Achievement and Learning

- Buckinghamshire Challenge – we continue to deliver conferences and workshops for schools which are very well attended with positive feedback from all participants
- Secondary School Transition – Working party of primary and secondary schools will deliver agreed revised protocols for summer 2021 by the end of April
- Kingsbrook school: Insignis is agreed as sponsor and work is on track for September 22 opening
- Secondary allocations: Second round has ensured that every child has a place

Ofsted Updates – Summer 2021

- Monitoring inspections will resume for schools that are graded 'Inadequate' and those graded 'Requires Improvement' at their last two consecutive full inspections.
- Section 8 inspections for 'good' schools that have not had an inspection within 5 years will recommence this term.
- 'Outstanding' schools will be able to request an inspection.
- These arrangements commence on May 4th for primary schools and after half term for secondary schools .
- Ofsted is undertaking a review into safeguarding policies and practices relating to sexual abuse in schools this half term. This is linked to anonymous testimonials of abuse published on the website 'Everyone's Invited'.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

- 96% of schools named for children with EHCPs going through phase transfer (starting school for the first time, infant to junior, primary to secondary) by the statutory deadline of 15th February.
- Annual review training delivered to all schools by area, as well as one special school specific session, in March 21, launching new paperwork which has a greater focus on progress towards outcomes as a core element of annual reviews.
- New schoolsweb pages launched for SEN as a one-stop shop for accessing advice, support and guidance: [SEND and Inclusion | SchoolsWeb \(buckscc.gov.uk\)](https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/schoolsweb/SEN-and-Inclusion)
- Portal pilot launched in spring term with a few schools, trialling the EHC needs assessment process through this system.
- Speechlink joint commissioning arrangement to support 5-7 year olds in infant and primary schools has been extended until August 2022 to facilitate embedding of the programme, and greater impact on children.

Children's Social Care

Palvinder Kudhail

Interim Assistant Director, Quality Assurance

Ofsted unannounced visit – social care – February 2021

- Strong partnership arrangements have ensured the provision of support to the most vulnerable children in Buckinghamshire throughout the pandemic.
- Leaders have an accurate understanding of the service and have maintained a firm focus on doing the best for children and families.
- The senior leadership team has focused relentlessly on the well-being of the workforce. Staff value the exceptional support that they have received from leaders and managers and talked positively about working for Buckinghamshire.
- The recruitment and retention of a stable workforce rightly remain the top priority in the local authority's improvement plan.
- The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) provides a proportionate response to initial concerns about children.
- Threshold decisions about the provision of early help are proportionate, and transfers between early help and children's social care are managed well.

Ofsted unannounced visit – social care – February 2021

- Leaders have developed clear expectations about visiting children during the pandemic, including returning to face-to-face visiting where possible. Most children are visited in accordance with their needs; however, despite improving practice in this area, visiting is not always timely for some children.
- The local authority and schools have worked together well since the start of the pandemic.
- The pre-proceedings phase of the Public Law Outline is used effectively to safeguard children; however, some practice shortfalls lead to some delays that are not purposeful.
- Children in care have continued to make some progress despite the challenges presented by the pandemic. Most live in stable homes that meet their needs, with carers who are committed to them.
- Care leavers benefit when they have established relationships with personal advisers, but this is not always possible given changes in the workforce. For some, this negatively affects the progression of their plans.

Ofsted unannounced visit – social care – February 2021

- Leaders have strengthened commissioning arrangements. This is beginning to deliver results, with greater scrutiny of unregulated provision and the vast majority of care leavers now living in suitable accommodation.
- Although management oversight is now routinely evident on children's files, actions arising are not consistently followed up, leading to delays in some children's plans being progressed.
- Audit and quality assurance activity needs to be embedded and completed alongside practitioners to drive quality of practice.
- The full report is published and can be found here: <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50161896>



Paul Randall

Chair of Buckinghamshire Association of School Governors

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

SUMMER TERM 2021

- **Governing and Trusts Boards Meetings and Visits into Schools**
- **Summer Term Agenda**
- **Contact Details for Chairs and Clerks**
- **Governors Role for Ofsted Inspections**
- **SEND Governor Role**
- **Wellbeing**
- **Disadvantaged – NGA & local information - [Covid Impact on disadvantaged pupils \(nga.org.uk\)](https://www.nga.org.uk/covid-19-impact)**
- **Safeguarding https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iYsHm_Mqsg0**
- **Training – Free Governor Training for this term**

FREE GOVERNOR
TRAINING FOR
THIS TERM

<u>Internet Safety</u>	27th Apr	18.30 - 19.30	Tue	Alison Watts
<u>Monitoring the Single Central Record</u>	5 th May	18.30 – 19.30	Wed	Pat Stappard
<u>Prevent Duty - Guidance for Governors</u>	13th May	18.30 - 19.30	Thu	Alison Watts
<u>Embedding Equality and Diversity in Your School</u>	26th May	18.30 - 19.30	Wed	Yvette Thomas
<u>Educational Visits and Outdoor Learning</u>	9th June	18.30 - 19.30	Wed	Mike Harwin
<u>Preparing for the Ofsted Visit Primary</u>	15th June	18.30 - 19.30	Tue	Ralph Batten
<u>Exclusions - Guidance for Governors</u>	23rd June	18.30 - 20.30	Wed	Bernadette Little & Rose Lindsay
<u>Health & Safety</u>	29th June	18.30 - 19.30	Tue	Caron Owens
<u>Preparing for the Ofsted Visit Secondary</u>	6th July	18.30 - 19.30	Tue	Georgina Masefield
<u>The Role of the PSHE Governor</u>	14th July	18.30 - 19.30	Wed	Carol Stottor

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NGA's latest webinar – Tuesday 27 April 4.30-5.00pm

Why pupil wellbeing should be top of your agenda

Join Emma Balchin, NGA's Director of Professional Development, to explore how you can prioritise, promote and monitor pupil wellbeing in your role. The webinar will cover:

- The current situation – what data is telling us
 - Promoting a whole school wellbeing culture
 - Monitoring data on pupil wellbeing
 - Questions for boards to ask [Book Here](#)
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- **Aylesbury Governors Networking Group 4th May 2021 at 7pm**
 - **Chesham, Amersham, Wendover and Great Missenden Networking Group 24 May 2021 at 7pm**
 - **Jordans Chairs & Vice Chairs Networking Group 12th June 2021 at 10am**

**Bucks Education Partnership Governor Conference:
Developing Despite Disruption 18th June 2021 at 9.30am**

Jo Goodman from The Education Endowment Fund will be heading the line-up at the BEP conference this summer.

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BASG EVENT
GOVERNANCE
FOR SEND &
INCLUSION

Thursday 27th May 2021 at 5pm

Keynote speaker Professor Adam Boddison – Chief executive of NASEN

This session will focus on how Governors and Trustees can develop effective strategic practice to ensure there is an inclusive culture for SEND and Inclusion in all schools as well as review of SEND in schools.

This will build on the processes set out in Adam's new book – "The Governance Handbook for SEND and Inclusion"

Adam's session will build on the governor training offered by the LA with our Head of Integrated SEND Service Hero Slinn.

Governors, Senior leaders and SENDCO's can build on this to work in partnership with LA to put in place best practice for inclusion and support in their schools and particular settings.

[Book your free tickets here](#)

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