

Message

From: SHARP, Warwick [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=D53D5B5FDB0B470C867D7EAC563BC98C-WSHARP]
Sent: 18/03/2020 10:36:33
To: MORRIS, Indra [indra.morris@education.gov.uk]; **Name Redacted** [redacted]@education.gov.uk; DIXON, Kate [kate.dixon@education.gov.uk]; **Name Redacted** [redacted]@education.gov.uk; LEWIS, Sarah [sarah.lewis@education.gov.uk]; WALSH, Gemmaine [gemmaine.walsh@education.gov.uk]; COX, James1 - Comms [james1.cox@education.gov.uk]; **Name Redacted** [redacted]@education.gov.uk; KING, Iain2 (Finance) [iain2.king@education.gov.uk]; PETTIFER, Mike [mike.pettifer@education.gov.uk]; BAKER, Paul [paul.baker@education.gov.uk]; **Name Redacted** [redacted]@education.gov.uk; PARLIAMENTARY, Team [team.parliamentary@education.gov.uk]; MILNER, Eileen [eileen.milner@education.gov.uk]
CC: **Name Redacted** [redacted]@education.gov.uk; PERMANENT, Secretary [permanent.secretary@education.gov.uk]; **Name Redacted** [redacted]@education.gov.uk; MCCULLY, Andrew [andrew.mccully@education.gov.uk]; TAYLOR, Innes [innes.taylor@education.gov.uk]; MANSFIELD, Iain [iain.mansfield@education.gov.uk]; PS, Advisers [advisers.ps@education.gov.uk]; GREEN, Mike [mike.green@education.gov.uk]; KETT, Paul [paul.kett@education.gov.uk]; PS, Gibb [gibb.ps@education.gov.uk]; PS, Berridge [berridge.ps@education.gov.uk]; PS, Keegan [keegan.ps@education.gov.uk]; PS, Ford [ford.ps@education.gov.uk]; PS, Universities [universities.ps@education.gov.uk]
Subject: RE: Covid-19 - URGENT
Attachments: 20-03-17 - paper on reducing school provision [official sensitive] gd v.2.docx

All,

Of course this isn't the formal readout, but at the meeting with the Prime Minister the recommendation was agreed (see attached paper with many thanks to **Name Redacted** for further detail). A few points of detail from today's meeting:

- Debate about who is a key worker and whether we should be more permissive (i.e. children of people whose livelihoods would be destroyed by not being able to go to work), ultimately agreement to focus on key workers (in line with the Cabinet Office definitions shared already) and vulnerable children
- Discussion about how we describe what schools are doing, and importantly not saying that they are closed, but rather they are open but focused on very different functions than before, and specifically core activity for a much smaller number of children
- Although SoS argued about the importance of a clear decision on exams now/asap, that decision was postponed for a later discussion (although SoS argued for moderated assessments/predicted grades)
- Recognition that there will be exceptions for some children with serious SEND and so for instance there will be some residential settings where all those children are safer in their current settings
- Key to make clear in all our messaging that schools are safe for children i.e. while there are wider transmission issues the threat to an individual child is extremely low – important to say that to reassure parents who are key workers and the teachers too
- Brief discussion of economic impact of the loss to the economy of non key workers and HMT working that through and thinking about appropriate macro interventions

In terms of timing, this will be announced this afternoon. And therefore we need:

- **NR** – SoS wants to speak to the Speaker/Leader and arrange for an oral statement this afternoon
- **Innes** to liaise with No10 about whether SoS will join the PM press conference later today
- Key outstanding decisions
 - Exams (agree holding strong holding position, decided not to consider trying to push back to secure decision for this afternoon given inevitable challenge) - **Andrew**
 - Position on how this applies to other settings apart from schools (for SoS to pitch at COBR this afternoon as this wasn't covered this morning) – **Paul/Indra**

- To confirm the following: **NR** to confirm the detail around these points with relevant teams):
 - Definitions of vulnerable children - no objections to our proposition
 - Clarifying key worker definitions - going with Cab Office list unless strong objections
 - Support for children with free school meals - assume vouchers system
- **Kate Dixon (working closely with Sarah Lewis)** – based on **Name Redacted**'s advice, we need draft oral statement and extensive Q&A (we will confirm deadlines asap)
- **Name Redacted** from a schools perspective working with **NR** to cover non schools stakeholders – can you draw up a stakeholder handling plan for SoS, i.e. which calls he needs to make inc to OGDs and DAs?
- **Gem/James** – you are considering comms advice and press notice
- **Paul/Iain/Mike** – expect you are thinking through already plans to deal with things like increased calls to the helpline and plans the DOC needs to put in place

Warwick

From: MORRIS, Indra <Indra.MORRIS@education.gov.uk>

Sent: 18 March 2020 08:14

To: **Name Redacted** @education.gov.uk>; DIXON, Kate <Kate.DIXON@education.gov.uk>; **NR** **Name Redacted** @education.gov.uk>; LEWIS, Sarah <Sarah.LEWIS@education.gov.uk>; WALSH, Gemmaine <Gemmaine.WALSH@education.gov.uk>; COX, James1 - Comms <James1.COX@education.gov.uk>; **Name** **NR** @education.gov.uk>; KING, Iain2 (Finance) <Iain2.KING@education.gov.uk>; PETTIFER, Mike <Mike.PETTIFER@education.gov.uk>; BAKER, Paul <Paul.BAKER@education.gov.uk>; **NR** **NR** @education.gov.uk>; PARLIAMENTARY, Team <Team.PARLIAMENTARY@education.gov.uk>; SHARP, Warwick <Warwick.SHARP@education.gov.uk>; MILNER, Eileen <Eileen.MILNER@education.gov.uk>

Cc: **Name Redacted** @education.gov.uk>; PERMANENT, Secretary <PERMANENT.Secretary@education.gov.uk>; **Name Redacted** @education.gov.uk>; MCCULLY, Andrew <Andrew.McCully@education.gov.uk>; TAYLOR, Innes <Innes.TAYLOR@education.gov.uk>; MANSFIELD, Iain <Iain.MANSFIELD@education.gov.uk>; PS, Advisers <Advisers.PS@education.gov.uk>; GREEN, Mike <Mike.GREEN@education.gov.uk>; KETT, Paul <Paul.KETT@education.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Covid-19 - URGENT

On tapping into a community "workforce" Staffs Uni are trying to mobilise students to help vulnerable older people and families.

And ask some qualified staff to do refresher training so they can help in health and care settings

Staffs Uni move to remote learning from Monday

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From: MILNER, Eileen <Eileen.MILNER@education.gov.uk>

Sent: Wednesday, 18 March 2020, 07:32

To: MORRIS, Indra; **Name Redacted**; DIXON, Kate; **Name Redacted**; LEWIS, Sarah; WALSH, Gemmaine; COX, James1 - Comms; **NR**; KING, Iain2 (Finance); PETTIFER, Mike; BAKER, Paul; **NR**; PARLIAMENTARY, Team; SHARP,

Warwick

Cc: Name Redacted; PERMANENT, Secretary; Name Redacted; MCCULLY, Andrew; TAYLOR, Innes; MANSFIELD, Iain; PS, Advisers; GREEN, Mike; KETT, Paul
Subject: RE: Covid-19 - URGENT

Agree on similar intelligence from NHS – much talk about systematic testing of staff so that they don't self-isolate unnecessarily but testing kits not out in any volumes yet.

Although we speak about hubs we can't really describe what such a thing is yet or indeed be entirely certain that those that they are intended for will use them – some will, some won't I suspect.

What do we think of financial incentives to create hubs – enhanced financial support for eg to allow premium to be paid to staff?

So many questions and searching for some answers that aren't coming readily ...

Eileen

From: MORRIS, Indra <Indra.MORRIS@education.gov.uk>
Sent: 18 March 2020 06:57
To: Name Redacted <Name Redacted@education.gov.uk>; DIXON, Kate <Kate.DIXON@education.gov.uk>; Name Redacted <Name Redacted@education.gov.uk>; LEWIS, Sarah <Sarah.LEWIS@education.gov.uk>; WALSH, Gemmaine <Gemmaine.WALSH@education.gov.uk>; COX, James1 - Comms <James1.COX@education.gov.uk>; Name Redacted <NR@education.gov.uk>; KING, Iain2 (Finance) <Iain2.KING@education.gov.uk>; PETTIFER, Mike <Mike.PETTIFER@education.gov.uk>; BAKER, Paul <Paul.BAKER@education.gov.uk>; NR <NR@education.gov.uk>; PARLIAMENTARY, Team <Team.PARLIAMENTARY@education.gov.uk>; SHARP, Warwick <Warwick.SHARP@education.gov.uk>
Cc: Name Redacted <Name Redacted@education.gov.uk>; PERMANENT, Secretary <PERMANENT.Secretary@education.gov.uk>; Name Redacted <Name Redacted@education.gov.uk>; MCCULLY, Andrew <Andrew.McCully@education.gov.uk>; TAYLOR, Innes <Innes.TAYLOR@education.gov.uk>; MANSFIELD, Iain <Iain.MANSFIELD@education.gov.uk>; PS, Advisers <Advisers.PS@education.gov.uk>; MILNER, Eileen <Eileen.MILNER@education.gov.uk>; GREEN, Mike <Mike.GREEN@education.gov.uk>; KETT, Paul <Paul.KETT@education.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Covid-19 - URGENT

Hi

Thanks

Feedback from my NHS contacts rather than education/care but relevant:

- north west hospital chief saying lots of talk about how to support vulnerable families WHEN local schools close (not if). Obv haven't tested hubs with them. But suggests hubs could be welcome
- but hospital chief execs also saying the 14 day rule is decimating their staff. So hubs for key workers may help some but may not be the key factor here. Worth sos being aware. Reinforces my point yesterday: Workforce more critical than settings. Needs to be a focus for x cutting govt effort not just departmental silos
- they are also working through the guidance they got yesterday and expecting more today. I think the front line is struggling to keep up with guidance. Partly of course changing so fast. But also reminder to need to keep any from us clear (incl on how it fits with previous guidance) and pithy.

- Those outside london are watching London. Eg Cornwall says they think london 2 weeks ahead of where they are

Thx
Indra

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From: SHARP, Warwick <Warwick.SHARP@education.gov.uk>

Sent: Tuesday, 17 March 2020, 22:38

To: **Name Redacted**; DIXON, Kate; **Name Redacted**; LEWIS, Sarah; WALSH, Gemmaine; COX, James1 - Comms; **NR**
NR KING, Iain2 (Finance); PETTIFER, Mike; BAKER, Paul; **NR** PARLIAMENTARY, Team

Cc: **Name Redacted**; PERMANENT, Secretary; **Name Redacted**; MCCULLY, Andrew; TAYLOR, Innes; MANSFIELD, Iain; PS, Advisers; MILNER, Eileen; GREEN, Mike; MORRIS, Indra; KETT, Paul

Subject: Re: Covid-19 - URGENT

Now copying to the rest of the DG team too but please don't fwd further unless strictly necessary

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From: SHARP, Warwick <Warwick.SHARP@education.gov.uk>

Sent: Tuesday, 17 March 2020, 22:10

To: **Name Redacted**; DIXON, Kate; **Name Redacted**; LEWIS, Sarah; WALSH, Gemmaine; COX, James1 - Comms; **NR**
NR KING, Iain2 (Finance); PETTIFER, Mike; BAKER, Paul; **NR** PARLIAMENTARY, Team

Cc: **Name Redacted**; PERMANENT, Secretary; **Name Redacted**; SHARP, Warwick; MCCULLY, Andrew; TAYLOR, Innes; MANSFIELD, Iain; PS, Advisers

Subject: Covid-19 - URGENT

All,

Deliberately keeping this on a very tight copy list and can you please only forward on if absolutely necessary

Following a shift in the scientific advice as well as the position of key stakeholders across the schools system and the DAs, we are moving quickly towards a *recommended* position where only vulnerable children and children of key workers attend school, and that position will apply to other education settings (potentially with some exceptions to be worked through tomorrow)

To be clear, this will be discussed with the Prime Minister tomorrow morning at 9.15am so is not yet the agreed Govt position. But even in that context it is possible this will be announced later tomorrow. Realistically, we will only manage a high level announcement with the commitment to work up the detail, but to do that credibly we need enough of the substance worked up and a plan from a parliamentary, stakeholder handling and a comms perspective to then facilitate the further work in a way which allows development/iteration but secures enough confidence early on.

the following are the crucial elements, and at this stage just making sure we are lining up the right people...

- **NR** is leading the drafting of a paper setting out the key proposal for Cabinet Office, drawing on excellent work by colleagues across the Department already for 7.30am tomorrow and that will form the basis of other materials

- **Kate Dixon (working closely with Sarah Lewis)** – Andrew suggested you are best placed to draft an oral statement if we need one (SoS is keen) and Q&A. Can **NR** and team help advise from a parliamentary handling perspective
- **NR** from a schools perspective working with **NR** to cover non schools stakeholders – can you draw up a stakeholder handling plan for SoS, i.e. which calls he needs to make inc to OGDs and DAs?
- **Gem/James** – let's please discuss what is needed from a media handling perspective, inc press notice, and advice on bids etc
- **Paul/Iain/Mike** – expect you are thinking through already plans to deal with things like increased calls to the helpline and plans the DOC needs to put in place

Details to follow tomorrow inc specific timings but wanted to get the right framework in place now

Warwick