



**CORPORATE & ENVIRONMENTAL  
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

**MEMBERS UPDATE 2020/21  
ISSUE: 3**

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**Article of: Corporate Director of Place and Community**

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**SUBJECT: WEST LANCASHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - EDGE  
HILL UNIVERSITY COVID-19 PREPARATIONS FOR START OF TERM 2020**

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Wards affected: Borough wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF ARTICLE**

1.1 To provide Members with information on the COVID-19 preparations undertaken by Edge Hill University and the wider Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

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## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

2.1 Edge Hill University (EHU) has been undertaking preparations for the start of the 2020/21 term for some time, which has involved a significant amount of effort on their part. Throughout this period, they have maintained close links with the Council and key members of the CSP. Similar to previous years, a Welcome Week action plan has been prepared and shared by all relevant CSP partners, but understandably, a significant portion of this work relates to COVID-19 controls.

2.2 EHU have also maintained close liaison with colleagues from Lancashire County Council (LCC) Public Health and also other higher education establishments in the county to ensure that their preparations are consistent and relevant. They are also following all national guidance that is currently available.

2.3 The purpose of this Update to provide Members with an overview of these preparations to provide reassurance that EHU are implementing a number of controls to ensure that the education of their students can continue to safeguard the young people's futures and the wider community.

## **3.0 WORK TO DATE**

3.1 The following list summarises existing preparations by EHU. Appendix 1 attached to this Update also outlines the CSP welcome week action plan which will operate beyond the start of the 2020/21 term.

- EHU Committee formed to review its response to COVID-19 and establish work streams.
- Building risk assessments completed for all buildings and hygiene measures implemented – including on campus accommodation.
- Full restructure of teaching and timetables, with an increased focus on blended learning. It is anticipated that this will result in a reduction of onsite student movements by two thirds.
- Significant communities plan, including setting of staff and student responsibilities, conduct and expectations. Similar communications have been provided to landlords.
- A full support process implemented for any students required to isolate on campus, including appropriate food and welfare.
- A full review of catering and related facilities.
- Structured outbreak management procedures and links to relevant agencies
- Significant changes to the welcome week process, removing all related student contact.
- Review of transport facilities.
- Reduction of on campus alcohol licensed operations.
- Independent health and safety audits completed to review controls to ensure adequacy.
- Lancashire Resilience Forum mobile testing unit to be stationed at EHU for 2 days during welcome week.
- No significant issues anticipated related to overseas students.
- Start of term first week of October with the majority of students arriving the week previous, although some PGCE students are already on site.
- Encouraging only one parent to arrive with student when they are moving into accommodation.
- Fortnightly meetings with other higher education facilities in Lancashire, including LCC Public Health, and more recently, the Council's Environmental Health Officers.

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### **Background Documents**

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

The decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

### **Exempt Information**

In all circumstances of the case of the public interest in maintaining the exemptions under Schedule 12(A) outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1: CSP Welcome Week Action Plan.