

# CONFIRMED

## LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY

### HEALTH & SAFETY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE: 15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2022

**PRESENT:** Ms S Beecroft (in the Chair), Mr M Beecroft, Dr W Bignold, Ms C Campbell, Mr A Catterall, Professor R Cousins, Mr J Ellison, Mr B Grice, Dr P Johnston, Mr J Jones, Mr D Kerry, Ms G Mair, Ms D Mann, Ms R McManniman, Dr S Mercer, Mr J Ryan, Ms S Trujillo, Mr M Wells

**Apologies:** Mr D Owen

**Secretariat:** Mr M Jones

#### **1. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Members had received unconfirmed minutes of the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021 (CHS 236). The minutes were **APPROVED** as a correct record.

#### **2. Matters Arising**

Re UCU's written questions, the Chair reported that she had responded to these.

Re transparent face coverings, the Chair reported that she had liaised with Mr Kerry re this.

The Chair reported that all other action points have been completed.

#### **3. COVID 19 Update**

The Chair informed members that as of the date of the meeting, case rates in Liverpool are 439.2 per 100k (compared to 2,382 per 100k when students returned in January). Looking at the areas in which the University has its campuses, the case rates are: Childwall - 574.6 per 100k, Aigburth - 571.5 per 100k and Everton - 510.7 per 100k.

The Chair informed members that current cases in staff and student population are staff: 4, students: 28 (11 resident). This compares to 30 staff and 59 students in early January. The Chair added that there have not been any outbreaks in halls so far this academic year. The Chair assured members that the University approach to Covid remains cautious; Plan B guidance to work from home where possible remained in place until 14th February despite this being lifted by the government on 19th January. The Chair added that all restrictions re mask wearing, one way

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systems, testing etc remain in place. The Chair informed members that the University is currently moving to gradual return to campus for all staff by the start of term three, and is continuing to monitor the data closely.

Dr Mercer requested further information re plans for return to campus. The Chair advised members that this is being dealt with by managers at a School/Department level.

Ms Trujillo asked for information re external partners coming on to campus for events. The Chair informed members that external partners coming on to campus has been limited during the pandemic unless integral to study, but this is now permitted, subject to completion of the risk assessment document.

#### **4. Health & Safety Action Plan 2021-22 Update**

Members had received the updated Health & Safety Action Plan Update (CHS 237). Ms McManniman drew members' attention to the action plan's three objectives: (i) further development of COVID protocols to support the University's return to campus, (ii) development of safety specific staff training for higher risk activities, (iii) ensure the University's fire safety risk is adequately managed in line with new and emerging fire safety and building safety legislation.

#### **5. Fire Safety Performance Report 2020-21**

Members had received the Fire Safety Performance Report (CHS 238). Ms McManniman informed members that 74 activations of the fire alarm were recorded in a University building during 2020-21. 89% of these occurred in a hall of residence. Ms McManniman added that there has been an increase in the number of activations recorded during 2020-21. Over the past two years, the pandemic enforced a reduction in the number of staff and students living and working on campus, this, along with national restrictions has influenced the University's reactive data; most notably accident and fire alarm activation data.

Ms McManniman informed members that there were three fires during the period covered by the report, two of which were cooking-related. Ms McManniman reported that all appliances have been PAT tested.

Mr Ellison informed members that the fire alarm in Josephine Butler hall has been upgraded and now activates in the security lodge. Mr Ellison suggested that the increased number of activations for the hall could be attributable to this.

Ms McManniman informed members that fire safety strategy documents are being completed for all University buildings, adding that when all documents have been returned to her she will review them with Estates.

#### **6. Draft Drinking Water Policy**

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Members had received the Draft Drinking Water Policy (CHS 239). Ms McManniman informed members that bottled water coolers have been removed due to hygiene concerns and are being replaced with plumbed-in water coolers. Professor Cousins informed Ms McManniman that there is an unused water cooler on the second floor of HCA and suggested that this could be moved to the Library. Mr Kerry undertook to look into this.

**ACTION: Mr Kerry to look into moving water cooler, as above.**

### 7. UCU Items

Members had received the UCU Staff Wellbeing Survey (CHS 240). The Chair expressed concern that some members of staff quoted in the survey could potentially be identifiable. Dr Mercer undertook to liaise with Mr Catterall to resolve this before the document was issued any further.

**ACTION: Dr Mercer to liaise with Mr Catterall, as above.**

Mr Catterall asked for clarification as to the period during which the survey had been open for responses. Dr Mercer responded that he believed the period had been September to December 2021. Mr Catterall voiced a belief that the survey had been open from September 2020 to December 2021. Dr Mercer undertook to check this.

**ACTION: Dr Mercer to check response period of survey, as above.**

The Chair suggested that discussion of the survey be deferred until the next meeting of the committee, by which time USET will have had chance to consider its contents. Members concurred with this suggestion.

### 8. Student Issues

Members had received the student mental well-being support update (CHS 242). Mr Ryan informed members that in recent months there had been a slight rise in demand for services, but nothing to cause concern. The Chair thanked Mr Ryan for the helpful report and agreed that they should discuss outside the meeting the format and timing of future reports. Dr Bignold informed members that Our Place is now open for brunch on Saturdays and Sundays in order to increase social opportunities for students.

**ACTION: The Chair to agree future reporting with Mr Ryan, as above.**

### 9. Departmental Updates

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Members discussed student compliance with the Face Coverings Policy and reported differing levels of engagement across the University.

### **10.AOB**

Dr Bignold reported that the University currently has one student abroad on exchange, in Canada. Dr Bignold added that Global Hope projects for 2022 will be conducted virtually rather than in-person.