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LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY

HEALTH & SAFETY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE: 20th May 2021

PRESENT: Ms S Beecroft (in the Chair), Mr A Catterall, Dr R Cousins, Mr J Ellison, Mr B Grice, Mr J Jones, Mr D Kerry, Dr J Lux, Ms G Mair, Ms D Mann, Ms R McManniman, Mr J Ryan, Mr M Wells, Ms S Wills

Apologies: Mr M Beecroft, Dr W Bignold, Prof S Davismoon, Mr D Owen

Secretariat: Mr M Jones

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Members had received unconfirmed minutes of the meeting on 16th February 2021 (CHS 221). The minutes were **APPROVED** as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising

The Chair confirmed that the majority of matters arising from the previous meeting would be reported upon later in the agenda. Re actum 3 (iii) The Chair confirmed that each risk on the Overarching Risk Assessment has now been assigned to an 'owner'. Re actum 4, Mr Catterall confirmed that he had sent the info to Dr Lux, as requested.

3. COVID 19 Update

(i) Update on latest position

The Chair informed members that as of the date of the meeting 20th May 2021) there were 9 cases per 100k in Liverpool, and that $R = 0.7-1.1$. The Chair added that case rates in Fazakerley and Prince's Park are currently higher than in the rest of the city.

(ii) Infections on and off campus

Members had received the updated Covid Data Dashboard (CHS 222). The Chair informed members that data from the University's Covid team shows one non-resident student is currently self-isolating. Mr Ellison reported that around 700 students are currently in residence across the University's campuses. The Chair informed members that, in light of the government's decision to allow face to face

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teaching in all subjects the University will be offering all undergraduate students two face to face sessions (QUERY: is this two sessions per week or two over the remainder of term?) until the end of the term.

Dr Lux requested that management share figures relating to numbers of students attending face to face sessions. The Chair undertook to share this information.

ACTION: Chair to share information, as above.

(iii) Overarching Risk Assessment

Members had received the updated Overarching Risk Assessment (CHS 223 a&b). Dr Lux queried the mention of academic 'bubbles' in the document, saying that as far as she was aware this system was no longer in place. Ms McManniman responded that this reference was intended to refer to residential 'bubbles' and undertook to amend the document accordingly.

ACTION: Ms McManniman to amend document, as above.

(iv) Student testing/vaccination centre

Ms Mair informed members that testing is available every day at Hope Park and Creative Campus from 10am to 2pm. Ms Mair added that testing is available twice per week at Aigburth. Mr Ellison informed members that the vaccination centre in Hope Park Sports has been extended to the end of July 2021. Ms Mair added that the testing centre's contract runs until the end of June 2021. Mr Jones asked when testing at Creative Campus would end. Ms Mair informed members that the contract for Creative Campus expires on 30th June 2021.

4. UCU Items

(i) Return to Campus in next academic year

Dr Lux informed members that UCU is requesting that plans are put in place for a variety of scenarios which might arise in September/October 2021, in order to allow the University to adapt quickly to any changes of circumstance. Dr Lux asked the Chair for further information as to the University's plans for the 2021/22 academic year. The Chair responded that given Liverpool Hope's mission as a community-based university, the preference would be for a full return to campus for the start of the 2021/22 academic year. The Chair assured members that the University was preparing for a range of scenarios. Dr Lux emphasised the importance of clear, timely communication for students. The Chair informed members that Learning and Teaching Day in June will be devoted to a discussion of what the University has learned during the pandemic and which elements of the adjustments made during the 2020/21 academic year ought to be retained when the pandemic is over.

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(ii) Work Related Stress Policy

Dr Lux informed members that UCU is supportive of the Work Related Stress Policy. Dr Lux suggested that the policy be amended to include a preventative approach to work related stress. Mr Catterall concurred, informing members that Ms Lewin will be undertaking a review of the policy, in consultation with UCU and UNISON.

(iii) Safety Co-Ordinators for 2021-22

Dr Lux informed members that a number of academic colleagues have volunteered for the Safety Co-Ordinator roles and asked for details of training. Ms McManniman informed members that training for Safety Co-Ordinators will take place at the start of the next academic year.

(iv) Staff Health & Wellbeing Survey

Dr Lux requested an update on the Staff Health & Wellbeing Survey mentioned in the minutes of the May 2019 meeting. Mr Catterall informed members that the intention is to conduct a number of small 'temperature' surveys rather than one overarching survey.

(v) Online Safeguarding Protocol

Dr Lux asked for an update on the Online Safeguarding Protocol. The Chair informed members that Dr Bennett has been looking into this and will disseminate information, adding that the issue will be addressed at Learning & Teaching Day in June.

5. Animals on Campus Policy

Members had received the updated draft Animals on Campus Policy (CHS 224). Ms McManniman informed members that the draft policy has been updated to make a distinction between guide dogs and emotional support animals. Ms McManniman informed members that Heads of School and Department have discretion over animals coming on campus as part of learning-related activity. Ms McManniman informed members that she would be updating the draft policy to list potential hazards of which colleagues need to be aware when completing a risk assessment prior to such activity.

Mr Catterall noted that a number of colleagues have been bringing dogs onto campus in contravention of University policy.

6. Fire Safety Update

Members had received the Fire Safety Update (CHS 225). Ms McManniman informed members that 64 staff have attended a remote fire awareness training

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session since September 2020 (40 new staff completed Fire Awareness training and 24 staff based at Creative Campus have been enrolled on online Fire Awareness Refresher training). Ms McManniman informed members that there are 43 Fire Marshals based at Hope Park and seven at Creative Campus. Creative Campus Marshals have received refresher training during May. Following a wider return to campus, the Marshal coverage within each building at Hope Park will be reviewed following office moves and considering any rotas in place in shared offices to aid social distancing. Refresher training will be planned by building to take place from June 2021 onwards.

Re fire drills in halls of residence, Mr McManniman informed members that given the increased occupancy since the last round of fire drills, a repeat fire drill for all Halls of Residence and University buildings will be planned prior to June 2021.

Ms McManniman informed members that the number of remedial actions outstanding from fire risk assessments is currently 548, with 268 completed and 280 outstanding. Ms McManninan added that the majority of 'high priority' actions relate to halls of residence and that work on these would start in June.

7. Legal Update

Members had received the Legal Update (CHS 226). Ms McManniman drew members' attention to the draft Building Safety Bill, in which the government is bringing forward fundamental changes that will improve building and fire safety following the Grenfell Tower fire. Re chemical safety regulations, Ms McManniman informed members that UK REACH has taken the place of the EU REACH Regulation from 1 January 2021. There will be some impact on suppliers and importers but for end users the effect will be to replicate the key principles of EU REACH Regulation. Ms McManniman also drew members' attention to a recent case in which a metal supplier was fined after an employee suffered multiple fractures to the hand and wrist when he was polishing a metal bar with a manual metalworking lathe.

8. Student Safety Issues

The Chair shared with members an update from Dr Bignold, informing them that SRTs have continued to do flat visits this term, socially distanced and with PPE. The Chair added that mental health continues to be an issue for resident students, with a number of suicide attempts and self harming incidents. The Chair informed members that a resident student recently took their own life.

Mr Ryan informed members that weekly meetings take place between Student Support & Wellbeing and the Residential Life team. Mr Ryan reported a spike in the number of students accessing mental health support in March and April (110 in March and April 2021 as against 40 in the same period the previous year). Mr Ryan informed members that the University has expanded support in this area by engaging staff from a mental health temp agency. The Chair asked whether the

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spike in students accessing mental health services during March and April is reflected across the sector. Mr Ryan undertook to look into this.

ACTION: Mr Ryan to look into sector-wide data, as above.

9. Departmental Updates

Mr Ryan informed members that Student Support & Wellbeing staff are currently returning to campus and are contactable by telephone.

10.AOB

Mr Catterall voiced his thanks to members of the committee and both trades unions for their work during the academic year.