

**Report of Head of Democratic Services**

**Report to Scrutiny Board (Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles)**

**Date: 23 June 2020**

**Subject: Update on Coronavirus (COVID19) pandemic – Response and Recovery Plan**

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**1. Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report provides the Scrutiny Board with an update on the ongoing progress made by the council working with partners and communities in response to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic.
- 1.2 The Council's Chief Executive provided a comprehensive update report to the Executive Board during its meeting on 19 May 2020 on developments surrounding the Council's Response and Recovery Plan – which includes activity across partner organisations. This report has therefore been appended for the Scrutiny Board's attention and consideration.
- 1.3 However, due to the fast paced nature of developments of this issue, the relevant Lead Executive Board Members, the Director of Adults and Health, the Director of Public Health and representatives from across local NHS bodies have been invited to attend the meeting to provide a further verbal update on the latest position with regard to those service areas that fall within the remit of the Scrutiny Board (Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles).

**2. Background information**

- 2.1 The initial governance and delivery structure to drive the response to the coronavirus outbreak, including an initial Response and Recovery Plan, was considered by the Executive Board in March 2020. A further update report by the Chief Executive, which included an updated version of the Response and Recovery Plan, was then reported to the Executive Board during its first public remote meeting held on 22 April 2020 ([Link to Executive Board meeting agenda 22-04-20](#)).

- 2.2 During April, arrangements were also put in place for each of the Council's Scrutiny Board Chairs to receive regular briefings from their respective Lead Directors and Executive Members to review the COVID-19 response. During May, these arrangements were extended so that, on a fortnightly basis, all Scrutiny Board Members were also being engaged in those briefings (as part of remote working groups).
- 2.3 As part of its first public remote meeting, the Scrutiny Board (Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles) is continuing to focus its attention on how the Council and its partners are working collaboratively to support the broad range of patients, service users and stakeholders across the health and care system during such an unprecedented and difficult period.

### 3. Main issues

- 3.1 During the working group discussions, members of the Scrutiny Board have raised and considered a range of matters, including:
- **Access to Health and Care Services** – patient / service user access to local health and care services.
  - **Capacity of Health and Care Services** – how services have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic and overall capacity to deliver services.
  - **Care Homes and Homecare** – the levels of care and support provided under extremely difficult and changing / challenging circumstances.
  - **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** – including ongoing issues around quality; the exponential rise in costs; and establishing and maintain a sustainable supply chain across Leeds' health and care system
  - **Testing** – the importance of establishing and maintaining robust and reliable arrangements for testing health and care staff; testing patients / service users in health and care settings; alongside more general testing arrangements for the public.
  - **Health Inequalities** and the impact on deprived communities and specific populations.
  - **Collaboration and partnership working** – details of the coordinated efforts of the Council and NHS partners; alongside some of the challenges caused by a national response and how that related to / reflected local needs and priorities.
  - **Rate of infection** – the issues caused by a lack of a more localised 'R' number; and the work being done to explore the possibility of establishing an 'R' number for Leeds and/or West Yorkshire.
  - **Learning points and practices** – included some of the more positive impacts around changes in practice, flexible ways of working and the general increase and broadening out of the use of digital technology.
- 3.2 Due to the fast paced nature of developments of this issue, the Board will be briefed on the latest position with regard to those service areas that fall within the remit of the Scrutiny Board (Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles), including the areas identified above. However, it should be noted that issues in relation to health inequalities are due to be considered as part of a separate agenda item.

### 4. Corporate considerations

#### 4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 An invitation to this meeting has been extended to the Executive Board Member for Adults, Health and Active Travel; the Director of Adults and Health; the Director of Public Health; and representatives from across local NHS bodies have been invited to attend the meeting to provide a further verbal update on the latest position with regard to those service areas that fall within the remit of the Scrutiny Board (Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles).

## **4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration**

- 4.2.1 The appended report to the Executive Board references the work ongoing to specifically review inequalities in targeted communities, with equality and diversity being built into the consideration of all citizens and communities work.

## **4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan**

- 4.3.1 Within the appended report to the Executive Board, reference is made to the work being undertaken to adapt the version of the Best Council Plan that was agreed at February Full Council to ensure that the COVID context is accurately captured.

### Climate Emergency

- 4.3.2 The appended report to Executive Board also acknowledges that as the Council develops its recovery plans, these will incorporate the promotion of more sustainable and healthy movement of people; exploring new ways of working, adopting digital technology and home working; emphasising the value of green spaces and local community as well as looking to focus on green investments

## **4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money**

- 4.4.1 Given the significance of the financial implications of coronavirus, arrangements are in place for the Council's Executive Board to receive separate and more detailed reports on this matter. The Council's Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board will also be maintaining oversight of the Council's financial management strategy in accordance with its remit.

## **4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in**

- 4.5.1 This report has no specific legal implications.

## **4.6 Risk management**

- 4.6.1 The risks related to coronavirus will continue to be monitored through the Council's existing risk management processes.

## **5. Conclusions**

- 5.1 As part of its first public remote meeting, the Scrutiny Board (Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles) is continuing to focus its attention on how the Council and its partners are working collaboratively to support the broad range of patients, service users and stakeholders across the health and care system during such an unprecedented and difficult period. This report therefore introduces an update on the ongoing progress made by the council working with partners and communities in response to the

unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. However, due to the fast paced nature of developments of this issue, the relevant Lead Executive Board Member, Directors and NHS representatives have also been invited to provide a further verbal update on the latest position with regard to those service areas that fall within the remit of the Scrutiny Board (Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles).

## **6. Recommendations**

- 6.1 The Scrutiny Board is asked to consider the information presented during the meeting and determine whether there are any particular issues or areas it would like to focus on in more detail as part of its next meeting scheduled for 14 July 2020.

## **7. Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

- 7.1 None.

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.