

Report of Head of Democratic Services

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

Date: 23 June 2020

Subject: Coronavirus (COVID19) pandemic – Health Inequalities

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 specific information associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and the specific and emerging health inequalities issues now arising.
- 1.2 The relevant Lead Executive Board Member and the Director of Public Health have been invited to attend the meeting to provide a further verbal update on the latest position and address any specific questions identified by members 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 General consideration of these matters will be given under a separate item elsewhere on the agenda. The specific purpose of this report is to help the Scrutiny Board (Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles) give specific consideration to the emerging health inequalities issues now arising as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.3 To assist the Scrutiny Board, a report from the Director of Public Health providing analysis of Leeds and national data for COVID-19 cases and mortality, using comparisons of available information is presented at Appendix 1 for consideration.

3.4 To further assist the Scrutiny Board, a report from Public Health England that presents the outcome of a descriptive review of data on disparities in the risk and outcomes from COVID-19 is presented at Appendix 2 for consideration.

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 and the Director of Public Health, to help the Scrutiny Board (Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles) consider the issues raised in more detail.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 The appended reports focus on data analysis around health inequalities and disparities in the risk and outcomes from COVID-19 for specific consideration.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 The appended reports focus on data analysis around health inequalities and disparities in the risk and outcomes from COVID-19 for specific consideration, which may impact on specific Council policies and the Best Council Plan in short, medium and longer term.

Climate Emergency

- 4.3.2 There are no specific climate emergency issues highlighted in this report and appendices at this time.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

- 4.4.1 There are no specific resources, procurement or value for money issues highlighted in this report and appendices at this time.

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 General consideration of City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic are considered elsewhere on the agenda. The specific purpose of this report is to help the Scrutiny Board (Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles) give specific consideration to the emerging health inequalities issues now arising as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 The Scrutiny Board is asked to consider the information presented during the meeting and determine any specific scrutiny actions and/or activity.

7. Background documents¹

- 7.1 None.

¹ 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.