

Report of the Chief Executive**COVID 19: COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPACT AND COMMUNITY RESPONSE**1. Purpose of report

The report informs Councillors of the steps the council has taken to respond to the community health and wellbeing aspects of the covid 19 pandemic and proposes some actions to support the community in recovering from the health and wellbeing impacts of the virus.

2. Detail

Appendix 1 of this report is an LGInform analysis of the number of cases of Covid 19 in Broxtowe and the pattern of confirmed cases from the start of the outbreak until 15 May 2020.

Appendix 2 shows ONS data on the number of covid 19 deaths in Broxtowe from 1 March to 17 April and ratio of covid to non covid deaths 14 March until 8 May.

Appendix 3 summarises the responses made by the council to the community health and wellbeing aspects of covid 19.

Appendix 5 sets out ten recommendations for action to maintain an effective community recovery from the impacts of the virus. If approved they can feed into this committee's work programme.

Reports to the Jobs and Economy Committee on the economic impact of the virus and recovery proposals, to the Finance Committee on the impact on the council's finances, and to the Policy committee, on the Council services impacts of the virus will be considered. The Policy Committee will also oversee the development of the council's recovery strategy within which the different strands of work undertaken by each of the other committees will sit. The Environment Committee already has a strong green futures programme and will be looking to capitalise on the gains and behavioural changes made during the lockdown period to advance the programme.

3. Financial implications

The Council has spent £64,000 on grants to voluntary and mutual aid organisations, and raised over £10,000 through a community appeal, all of the proceeds of which will be passed on to groups assisting with the relief effort. The details are set out in appendix 4. Work to commission a voluntary sector mapping exercise will cost about £2,000

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that the recommendations in appendix 5 be approved.

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX 2

ONS DATA: Covid 19 deaths by Nottinghamshire district

Between 14th March and the 8th May			
Ashfield	For every 100 non-COVID deaths there were	65	COVID-19 Deaths
Bassetlaw		21	COVID-19 Deaths
Broxtowe		45	COVID-19 Deaths
Gedling		52	COVID-19 Deaths
Mansfield		36	COVID-19 Deaths
Newark and Sherwood		30	COVID-19 Deaths
Nottingham		58	COVID-19 Deaths
Rushcliffe		38	COVID-19 Deaths

Deaths occurring between 1 March 2020 and 17 April 2020 and registered by 18 April 2020 where Coronavirus (COVID-19) was the underlying cause or was mentioned on the death certificate as a contributory factor

ONS MSOA area	Deaths
Toton	1
Bramcote	5
Beeston Town	7
Beeston Rylands	3
Stapleford North	1
Kimberley Trowell and Awsworth	6
Kimberley North and Watnall	2
Eastwood East	3
Eastwood Town	4
Eastwood Hall and Brinsley	4

Based on cause of death as recorded on death certificates, to the end of 15th May 2020:

- There had been 196 deaths recorded as due to COVID-19 in Nottingham City
- There had been 532 deaths recorded as due to COVID-19 in Nottinghamshire County

APPENDIX 3

Throughout the pandemic the Council has worked with the county Council to help establish the community support hub.

We have dealt with just over 200 support requests which have come through the County Council Hub. These are from Vulnerable Persons and the requests are various and include things like food availability, medicine delivery, unable to walk dogs, debt concerns. Officers of Broxtowe BC then ring these people and signpost them appropriately.

In terms of the Extremely Vulnerable Persons (EVPs), there are just short of 2,800 registered in Broxtowe. Of these, 516 have stated they are unable to access food supplies during the shielding process and so are receiving government food parcels on a weekly basis. Broxtowe have delivered 56 emergency food parcels to EVPs where there has been a missed delivery of the government parcel, or other reasons. These are delivered by our officers within 24 hours of receipt of the request from County Council.

These referrals have been followed up with phone calls to ensure that the resident concerned remains supported. Another tranche of people (who could number approximately 2,000 in the Broxtowe area) have been identified via NHS sources, as potentially needing future support. These do not fall within the definition of "extremely vulnerable", but nevertheless through their age or circumstances are considered potentially in need of support. Broxtowe's officers will be required to contact these individuals to ascertain whether they have any needs.

Personal contact has been key to support some of the most vulnerable in the community. As part of the response, the Housing department used the data held within the housing management system to identify households who may require additional support. Over 600 calls were made to tenants living in general needs housing who were either over 70 or were known to require additional support. The purpose of these calls was to ensure that tenants were provided with advice and assistance. Repeat calls have been made to those individuals needing support. Independent Living Co-ordinators continued to have regular contact with over 1,400 tenants from Independent Living schemes via telephone.

Through these initial calls officers could identify who required additional support, and could signpost to other agencies or ensure that the tenant received regular calls from the department.

All activities at schemes have stopped during the pandemic. However, the Activities Co-ordinators have continued to support tenants. They contacted tenants who usually attended their activities or those who were referred by other Officers. They gave advice, support and company to them. A lot of the tenants they continued to work with live alone and have been self-isolating for a long time so are feeling the effects of the pandemic, emotionally and physically. The Activities Co-ordinators have shared information with them about at home exercises, online resources such as eBooks and at home activities ideas.

The approach was repeated to check in on vulnerable people in the wider community, with those registered on the Council's assisted bin collection list also contacted to ensure they were safe and well and to signpost them to any support should they need it.

More widely, the Council devised a programme of scheduled updates to help prevent information overload and ensure key messages reached residents and stakeholders which was supported by a set of comprehensive webpages at www.broxtowe.gov.uk/coronavirus as a central source of information including support for residents, support for businesses, bereavement support and a list of businesses who were operating to help residents get essential supplies. The schedule included twice daily social media and website updates which were clearly dated and timed so it was immediately clear to residents that information was current, as well as three email bulletins a week focusing on all subscribers to the Council's email me service to provide essential Covid-19 advice and updates on Council services, as well as an email to tenants and one to businesses.

This schedule has been reviewed on a regular basis to ensure it adapted to the situation as it progressed.

A COVID-19 special of the Council's resident's newsletter was delivered to every home and business in the Borough, highlighting where support could be accessed, as well as providing community leadership and thanking residents for their support for the Stay home Protect the NHS Save lives policy during the pandemic. This ensured that those who aren't online were still able to get vital information.

Direct engagement has also taken place with stakeholder groups to ensure they have the correct messages to share in their networks and that the Council can highlight the vital work they are doing in their communities.

The Council's communications team have produced stories of local heroes raising money to support the humanitarian response, and in particular stories of the excellent work done by the mutual aid and voluntary groups responding to the needs within the community.

APPENDIX 4

Covid-19 Grants to Community Support Groups

Group Name	Grant (£)
Eastwood Volunteer Bureau	10000.00
Eastwood Age Concern	10000.00
Middle Street Resource Centre	10000.00
Hope Centre	10000.00
Beeston Rylands Community Association	2000.00
Stapleford Community Group	2000.00
Eastwood Memory Café	2000.00
Brinsley Parish Council	2000.00
Nuthall Parish Council	2000.00
Pulp Friction	2000.00
East Midlands Free Wheelers	2000.00
Kimberley and District Mutual Aid Group**	2000.00
*Stapleford and Surrounding Area Mutual Aid Group**	2000.00
Beeston and Chilwell Mutual Aid Group**	2000.00
Nuthall Parish Council	2000.00
Beeston Rylands Community Association	2000.00
Total	64000.00

Enquiries received from:

Awsworth Parish Council
Eastwood Town Council

APPENDIX 5

- (a) Map the voluntary sector in Broxtowe to identify gaps and weaknesses. This will help the targeting of work to strengthen social capital where it is currently weaker. Commissioning this work will cost around £2,000.
- (b) Refresh the operation, membership and remit of the Broxtowe Partnership to repurpose its efforts on community recovery.
- (c) Develop a new Voluntary sector strategy. The volunteer centre in Beeston has ceased operation. The operation of the voluntary sector in the light of the groundswell of covid 19 volunteers needs to be reconsidered. Effective leadership for the Voluntary sector and good co-ordination of voluntary effort is crucial to community recovery.
- (d) Develop a Food Poverty Strategy. This will lead to the strengthening of food banks and consideration of other key means of social support.
- (e) Develop a Fuel Poverty Strategy. In the lead up to Winter this will help promote warm homes and support people struggling to pay their heating bills.
- (f) Develop more initiatives to support mental health- both internally (employees) and externally (in the community).
- (g) Recommend the environment committee to undertake a review of community centres. These are resources for the community and they need to be fit for purpose, accessible and used by all sections of the community
- (h) Review the operation of Community Action teams (CATS). It is possible that a wider range of resident participants may join if virtual meetings can be encouraged.
- (i) Recommend the Finance and Resources Committee to review the operation of the grants budget in order to ensure the excellent work undertaken by voluntary and mutual aid groups during the pandemic is nurtured and encouraged.
- (j) Participate in County level discussions to link in with adult social care to ensure the effective support of older and vulnerable people in our area.