

## **MSDC and WSCC Report to CPC May 2020**

### **MSDC**

#### **Overview**

The District Council has managed to get all staff home working and so can continue to offer full Officer support. A skeleton staff man Oaklands, particularly to deal with housing and benefit enquiries from walk in clients.

All MSDC Members are being trained on the use of Zoom for public meetings and the first meeting is likely to be planning in June. Managing a large meeting is a little more complex than most of the uses we have all got used to. The public will be able to access these meetings via Facebook and You Tube

#### **Economy**

As you can imagine there has been a massive hit to Council revenues due to the current pandemic situation. The District Councils income (rents etc) are usually taken quarterly and so whilst Aprils figures look ok, July will see the impact of rental deferrals etc. Currently the overspend is about £600k per month over budget. Government grant will cover April and May but the year end turnout for the Council is likely to require some very innovative thinking in trying to protect services. As you know much work has gone into protecting waste services in particular which has been a success. A short period of cancelling green waste collections was necessary to ensure hazardous clinical waste and basic waste and recycling continued but the green waste was restarted as soon as resources allowed.

#### **Health situation.**

As of last week there were 277 cases of Covid 19 in Mid Sussex. This equates to 185 cases per 100,000 head of population. Horsham as a comparison has 198 cases (139 per 100K). Whilst the comparison does not look good it has to be recognised that Horsham has no hospital and Mid Sussex has two, plus the Kleinwort Centre which is currently holding some Covid patients. There are also a significant number of Care Homes in Mid Sussex which will have an impact.

#### **Social resilience**

The shielded cohort stands at 2869 and the Community Hub is on contact with all of them. Currently 1086 are receiving Gov provided food parcels. There have been a number of requests to cancel these by those who are on the "shielded" list but have adequate local supplies. The only way to do this is to go onto the gov website and re-register and tick the "adequate food supplies? box. Seems it is easier to set up this kind of service than it is to withdraw from it!

Figures for all of Sussex 19030 shielded. 10,200 food parcels delivered each week.

#### **Economic support for small business**

Recognising that some businesses 'fell through the cracks' in the first round of grants, MSDC has been given a further 5% which equates to £1.2M. A significant sum but broken down into 10k or 25k grants you can see it is not going to meet all aspirations.

The applications for grants to the self employed has opened and should you be asked, details are available on the MSDC and Gov websites.

### **Housing and development.**

The DPD consultation will now be delayed. The Planning Inspectorate are not taking cases so there is nobody available to assess the consultation and even if the consultation went ahead and the hearing was 'virtual, the complexities of that could leave some feeling they had not had the full opportunity to represent their position. Advice is to defer.

The Northern Arc is still on track albeit with a slight t slippage as they overcame the immediate problems of managing transition to home working.

### **General**

We have been in contact with a number of residents over the past few weeks and most seem to have adequate support. The main issue was 'social distancing' at the Coop in Whiteman's Green where although queuing is working outside, once in the shop a number of shoppers are disregarding the guidance and some folk reported feeling 'threatened' by the behaviour of others.

### **WSCC**

#### **Staff**

Most staff are working from home with only absolutely essential working in County Hall.

#### **Recorded Cases**

There are 1230 recorded cases in West Sussex according to the latest data from Public Health England.

#### **Testing**

The government this week have launched a new on-line Care Home Testing Portal. Care homes managers or the local Director of Public Health can request test kits for all residents and working staff with or without COVID 19 Symptoms.

West Sussex County Council (WSSC) social care staff can apply for testing if they are asymptomatic through the [National Online Portal](#). They will be either be invited to attend a test at one of the regional testing sites or sent a kit to self-swab which will be picked up by a courier service and taken for testing. This portal is also for use by all key workers ([full list here](#)) with COVID 19 symptoms and has now increased eligibility to all over 65 year olds with COVID symptoms and anyone who cannot work from home who has COVID 19 symptoms.

This week WSSC Public Health have supported the testing programme by negotiating the use of Chichester College car park to increase the testing capacity within West Sussex for two days by a Military Mobile Testing Unit, Testing is by appointment only.

Testing for WSSC essential staff that are self-isolating continues to be available and managed through an internal HR process.

## **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

### Educational settings

Government has issued updated [guidance](#) for educational settings. The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including

- students whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs and should continue to receive their care in the same way
- A student becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home

PPE to be sourced directly by schools from their own supply chain, or via SRF for emergency supply.

### WSSC PPE Stocks

WSSC continues to maintain its own PPE Stocks for its own needs and is receiving regular deliveries from suppliers. WSSC has, **at the current level of use**, enough stocks of basic items to meet demand throughout May. However, if these stocks are required to support the wider care sector they may deplete much sooner.

### DHSC PPE Plan Stocks:

WSSC continues to support the SRF by receiving at Horley Fire Station (WSFRS) the National PPE deliveries; from where they are distributed to ESCC and BHCC. These National stocks are very limited and some items such as IIR Masks, go in and out of stock. This role under the DHSC PPE Plan is a considerable role for WSSC and its duration is being extended as the start date for the NHS Clipper PPE System keeps being pushed back.

## **Household Waste Recycling Sites**

Household Waste Recycling Sites across West Sussex reopened Monday 11<sup>th</sup> with relatively light use, which was repeated Tuesday and Wednesday. This contrasts with Hampshire where usage has been much heavier. In West Sussex only garden waste and general household waste is currently being accepted and cars are the only vehicles allowed on site.

Communication has stressed that residents should consider whether their journey is essential, as they should only visit a site if their waste is not suitable to be picked up in their kerbside collection and presents a risk of injury or harm to health. Surrey took a similar line to West Sussex and also experienced moderate use. Sites in East Sussex and Brighton and Hove are due to reopen Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May. A review of the situation in West Sussex is planned at the end of the May.

### **Hospital discharge and capacity – residential and domiciliary care**

Work is now underway to find a sustainable solution to embedding the new best practice introduced by the integrated hospital discharge hubs, beyond the Covid-19 emergency.

We continue to have adequate acute hospital capacity in West Sussex, with occupancy levels below 60%, against a usual position of 99-100%. This equates to 3-4 large wards of acute beds. Our local system continues to have a significant amount of empty community bed capacity ready for a rise in demand. There is currently no delay in patients requiring a transfer of care and we are able to offer temporary assistance to neighbouring systems such as Surrey.

Hospital discharge hubs continue to work in partnership with local NHS organisations working hard to ensure patients are discharged safely with minimal delay. Our local NHS partners have asked us to keep a focus on mental health discharges and our teams are making sure these can continue in a safe and supported way, in the context of a reduced workforce.

Our work on capacity modelling to support the number of people leaving hospital is progressing. We continue to work with the CCG to secure more domiciliary care, care home and nursing home beds, and voluntary services.

We have agreed an additional Covid-19 3-month uplift to the residential and nursing home market to alleviate some of the financial impact on the market and a 3-month uplift proposal with our domiciliary care providers.

### **Libraries**

Libraries remain closed for the present. However online borrowing of ebooks remains open and there has been a substantial increase in the number of borrowers.

### **Penlands Farm Roundabout Works**

We are continuing to work with Redrow with the support of Mims Davies MP to find a solution that would enable work to commence. Both MSDC and WSCC are supportive of finding a solution and are working to support and expedite the work.