

14 December 2020

Agenda Item: 5

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE AND COMMUNITIES

COVID-19: UPDATE REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Members on the impact of the Coronavirus crisis on the work of Nottinghamshire County Council, and the Council's response and recovery planning.

Information

2. This report is an update on Nottinghamshire County Council's (NCC) response to the coronavirus emergency. Five programmes of work are managing the response to the emergency both corporately and with partners county-wide. These are: -
 - Support for Vulnerable Adults
 - Support for Vulnerable Children and Families including Schools
 - Community Support and Resilience
 - Support for Business and the Local Economy
 - Corporate Resilience

This report provides an update on activity within these programmes, excluding 'Support for Business and the Local Economy' which is covered under separate items on this agenda.

Support for Vulnerable Adults

Response to second wave

3. The Adult Social Care and Health department has stepped back up its emergency response to deal with the second wave of COVID-19 and the significant number of local outbreaks, many of which have been in care home settings. In early November a quarter of the care homes in Nottinghamshire were dealing with an outbreak. Wherever an outbreak has been identified an Incident Management Team is set up to help control and reduce the impact. This has a significant impact on the capacity of the workforce across the department and other partner organisations as officers are designated to work within these teams.
4. The increasing transmission rates of COVID-19 has had an impact on the capacity of the workforce across the care sector as a whole, which has been reduced to 70-80% capacity over recent weeks. In turn this has affected the ability of the care system to support hospitals in terms of avoiding admissions and making appropriate discharge arrangements. This has been identified as a key risk area within the department and work has been taking place to redeploy officers into critical service areas, such as the Short-Term Assessment and Reablement Teams and the Quality and Market Management Team, which provides essential support to the independent social care market.

Care Home Guidance

5. On 5th November 2020 the Government published [updated guidance](#) on care home visiting. The department has built on this to develop local guidance for care home providers to support safe visiting and to provide advice as to how COVID secure visiting can be developed using the Infection Control Grant. It states care home providers, families and professionals should work together to find the right balance between the benefits of visiting on wellbeing and quality of life and the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

Adult Social Care Winter Plan

6. The Government requires the local authority to produce an Adult Social Care Winter Plan. The document puts into practice the recommendations of the [Social Care Sector COVID-19 Support Taskforce](#) with requirements for the Council to deliver alongside our social care providers and partner organisations. This has now been published on the [Council website](#) and will be reviewed at the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee in December. The national plan identified over 70 requirements for the Council and health and care providers, most of which are already being met or there are plans in place to do so. In 11 areas where further work is required, plans are in place to bring the Council up to the required standard. The departmental plan is set out under 4 key themes:
 1. Preventing and controlling the spread of infection in care settings - led by the Director of Public Health
 2. Collaboration across health and care services – led by the Service Director for Ageing Well Services
 3. Supporting people who receive social care, the workforce and carers – led by the Service Director for Living Well Services
 4. Supporting the system – led by the Corporate Director, Adult Social Care and Health.
7. The Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee has also considered reports on areas of service that require review and re-shaping in response to ongoing restrictions as a result of COVID-19. These include day opportunities, short breaks and respite care, and wider support to carers. Longer term plans to develop these areas of service will continue, but immediate interim models to ensure that people and their carers receive the support they need, within current restrictions, have been prioritised.

Support for Vulnerable Children and Families including Schools

Early Years, School and College Settings

8. Publicly funded schools in Nottinghamshire have remained open to children and young people since the start of the Autumn term. Throughout the first half term, headteachers managed an increasing number of children and adults who were required to self-isolate as a result of a relatively small number of positive COVID-19 cases. However, despite the challenges faced by headteachers at this time, attendance at school remains broadly in line or better than national attendance data as produced by the Department for Education. As of 26th November 2020, 84.8% of children on the roll in the county were attending school compared with a national average of 83.4%.
9. The management of bubbles and the need for self-isolation has been the most significant challenge for headteachers. Headteachers and school-based staff have invested significantly in preserving the fidelity of bubbles and limiting the number of adults who work across bubbles.

Since the last report, headteachers have reported fewer issues securing tests locally although the delay in receiving the result continues to be a concern. As the move to wider testing of the Nottinghamshire community is planned and includes those who are asymptomatic, it is likely that the numbers of adults and children requiring to self-isolate will increase.

10. Schools continued to manage the demands placed on them by the second national lockdown. School based risk assessments have been regularly updated in the light of national and local advice and guidance. In recognition of the requirement of all secondary aged children to wear masks in public areas of the school, NCC has provided single use face masks for secondary schools as a contingency measure with NCC also funding reusable face coverings for NCC catering and cleaning staff. The cost of personal protective equipment (PPE) continues to be an issue for schools.
11. Adults who were deemed 'clinically extremely vulnerable' (CEV) during the first lockdown, were required to once again shield and wherever possible to work from home, during the second national lockdown. This is likely to result in increased costs to school budgets. National advice was that most CEV children were able to attend school during the second national lockdown, with no immediate requirement to shield. A small number of CEV children, however, were advised to shield by their clinicians and schools provided resources to support their learning at home.
12. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has also been making physical visits to publicly funded schools in Nottinghamshire. NCC's Health and Safety team has been able to secure general feedback from the HSE which has suggested that the risk assessment process in the schools was found to be "excellent and exemplary", in particular their knowledge of the guidance and implementation of controls, and the role of support pathways from the County Council in controlling the risks and infection barriers.
13. On 10 November Ofsted published its second report based on the impact of COVID-19 across schools and early years settings. The report outlined concerns that those hardest hit by the school closures had regressed in basic skills and learning. Some children had lost stamina for learning and fitness levels and there was also concern around the regression of some young children who had been potty trained and had returned to settings in nappies. A particular concern to Ofsted was vulnerable children being out of sight of schools with falling referrals to social care, raising fears that domestic violence, neglect, exploitation or abuse has been undetected. This report can be accessed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ofsted-covid-19-series>.
14. Alongside the universal Catch-up Premium for all pupils, the government has also funded a National Tutoring Programme (NTP) which can provide additional targeted support for disadvantaged children and young people who have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. 75% of the cost of the tutors is being met by government, with schools paying the remaining 25%. Schools can use their Catch-up funding to do this.
15. Schools in the most disadvantaged areas will also have access to academic mentors. These are trained graduates who can provide intensive catch-up support to pupils. The salaries of the mentors will be funded by the government. More information can be accessed at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-catch-up-premium>. Further guidance about Catch up was published on 12 November to advise that schools which access coronavirus (COVID-19) catch-up premium grant in academic year 2020 to 2021, should publish details of how it is intended that the grant will be spent and how the effect of this expenditure on the educational attainment of those pupils at the school will be assessed.

16. Education, Learning and Skills is leading and coordinating the 'Wellbeing for Education Return' initiative. The webinars, run over 7 sessions at district level, involved colleagues from Mental Health Support Teams, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and the Family Service, with representation from Parent and Carer Forum. The October webinars focussed on the topic 'Resilience & Recovery – Whole School Approaches & Resources', the November webinars on 'Supporting Anxiety & Low Mood' and an additional session was tailored towards colleagues working in a secondary or further education setting. Over 200 people participated in the October sessions, with representation from 155 Nottinghamshire schools (approximately 50% of all schools in the county) and 10 alternative provision settings, with many welcoming the opportunity to share learning and best practice in a supportive environment. These sessions are followed up with access to resources held on the Wellbeing for Education Return website
17. Communications to parents and carers about children returning to school continues. On 5 November, open letters from the Corporate Director of Children and Families and the Director of Public Health were sent to all parents and carers to reiterate public health advice and guidance around 'hands, face, space' and the vital importance of social distancing in the playground and around school gates when taking and collecting children from school. A separate letter was sent to the parents and carers of children attending special schools along with a further letter of thanks sent to all school-based staff and chairs of Governing Bodies.
18. During the half term break, NCC confirmed the retrospective funding of food vouchers for families eligible for Free School Meals. A Report was taken to the Chief Executive by the Service Director for Education, Learning and Skills requesting use of emergency decision-making powers to agree the use of NCC funding to pay retrospectively for food vouchers for eligible families. 22,315 eligible pupils were identified and £669,450 allocated to meet the costs. Headteachers have been key to the distribution of these vouchers with NCC allocating funding to schools to allow headteachers to purchase and distribute supermarket vouchers to eligible families.
19. Despite all Early Years settings remaining open in Nottinghamshire, take up of childcare provision remains low in some localities, particularly for 2-year olds from low income households, as some parents are anxious about a risk of infection for their child. A local campaign continues to help reassure parents and carers.
20. Early Childhood Services continue to monitor the attendance of the most vulnerable children in Early Years provision. Working closely with Early Years providers and partner agencies such as Children's Social Care and the Schools and Families Specialist Service, the service is able to identify where vulnerable children have not returned to their usual early years provider and support a risk assessment to inform the best course of action for the child and family.
21. The 2020 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment has been completed and this year has focused on the impact of COVID-19 on take up rates and sufficiency of places. The assessment confirms that despite national coverage of closures, very few early years providers have shut and currently Nottinghamshire has sufficient childcare places for eligible children.

Vulnerable Children, Young People and Families

22. Following an initial spike in enquiries to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) as previously reported, enquiries are currently broadly comparable with the enquiry rate at the same time last year. The service continues to operate an "urgents only by phone" service, due

to a need to ensure there is sufficient staffing capacity to manage the numbers of enquiries received. All non-urgent safeguarding concerns can continue to be referred to the MASH via the online referral form or through email. The Early Help Unit is receiving significantly higher referrals than would typically be anticipated, up 67% during September and October when compared to previous years. A review is to be completed in the coming weeks to explore the nature of enquiries being made, to ensure that families are accessing timely support from the most appropriate service.

23. All families receiving early help or social work support continue to be risk-assessed to determine the level of support required. In line with government guidance, all families open to children's social care are now receiving some level of face to face contact with appropriate social distancing measures in place and PPE if deemed necessary through risk assessment. Given the current national lockdown, an additional fortnightly wellbeing contact has now been introduced for all families receiving support from early help or social care. This will involve families receiving a "check in" on their wellbeing, recognising that for some families, opportunities to receive support from professionals and their extended family and friends will sometimes be limited.
24. The number of requests for Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP), requests for elective home education, exclusions, and contacts from schools regarding placements at risk, has remained higher than usual, suggesting that there continue to be concerns on the part of young people and families and educational settings about the ability of educational settings to meet need.
25. In light of the recent national lockdown, the County Council has again offered families who are unable to utilise their Short Break allocation a further opportunity to purchase equipment in lieu of the allocated hours. Depending upon the original allocation of Short Breaks these grants will vary from £54 to £450 and can be used to purchase toys and equipment such as online sensory support, outdoor play equipment, books, arts and craft materials, etc. so that they are able to continue supporting the development and stimulation of their children or young people through play and creativity. All purchases will need to be completed by 31 January 2021.
26. Teams continue to innovate and adapt working practices to meet local and national restrictions, to ensure that vulnerable children and families are supported. Twice weekly service coordination meetings have continued to take place with colleagues from other children's services and educational settings. These meetings provide an opportunity to discuss those children young people and families most at risk and establish a coordinated response.
27. The need for staff to self-isolate when contacted by track and trace has resulted in temporary challenges with staffing levels in residential children's homes. Staffing levels are likely to remain challenging throughout the winter months and this is being monitored on a daily basis with contingency measures being enacted as necessary.
28. On 8th November 2020, the government announced a package of extra targeted financial support for those in need over the winter period. Later that month the Children and Young People's Committee agreed plans for the £2.3m allocation for Nottinghamshire which includes provision of food across the Christmas and February half-term breaks, to those families where children are in receipt of free school meals or free meals in Further Education settings due to

low household income. Planning is also underway for the implementation of the expansion of the “Holiday Activities and Food” programme for eligible children from Easter 2021.

Community Support and Resilience

Community Support Hub

29. As reported to Policy Committee on 13 May 2020, the Nottinghamshire Coronavirus Community Support Hub went live on 23 March and is accessible over the phone, via the Council website or the My Notts app. The Hub provides a real-time online database, accessible to all partners, which enables residents in need of support to input their postcode and requirements and be ‘served up’ with a list of local groups and organisations able to meet those needs.
30. The number of hits to the Hub website reduced gradually over the summer from a peak of around 1,000 a day down to as low as about 40 a day by mid-September. However, by week commencing 19 October this had increased to over 160 a day and as of w/c 9 November this had risen to 300 a day but has since reduced through November to under 100 a day.
31. As at 1 December 2020, 1,340 requests for support had been received since launching the second phase of the Hub, with the numbers of requests having reduced significantly over the summer and starting to increase again from early November. There are currently 284 voluntary groups, 120 individual volunteers, 87 charity organisations, 20 online community groups and 241 businesses offering support which represents a reduction in previous numbers mainly driven by a reduction in the number of individuals.
32. The Customer Services Centre have been a key component of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) response, and had significant volumes of activity between April and October:
 - Handled 23,219 incoming call relating to COVID-19, 6,663 of these relating directly to the Community Hub
 - Made 26,975 outgoing calls relating to emergency food support from which 2,131 support needs were identified and resolved

Second wave of Infection

33. During the second national lockdown, responsibility for meeting the food and basic support needs of clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) people, who are unable to meet their own need fully transferred to upper-tier local authorities.
34. The approach that Central Government advised was ensuring that a dependency is avoided by supporting people to support themselves. This principle was incorporated into design of the systems put in place by the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) partnership. However, measures were also put in place to ensure that, where required, interim support could be provided whilst people made their own arrangements. This arrangement came to an end with the ending of national restrictions on 2 December but could be re-instated if required.
35. A stock of frozen meals has been built up at County Enterprise Foods and arrangements were put in place for an external supplier of food parcels as a contingency at zero cost to Nottinghamshire County Council until activated. This was to be used to provide interim support while people were supported to make their own arrangements and may also be used as part of our response to flooding and/or bad winter weather over the coming months.

36. During the second national lockdown, the County Council received data on those people who had been defined CEV and matched this against records from the first wave to understand how support for those most in need could be prioritised. Central Government wrote to CEVs to confirm their CEV status and to provide details of how they could register to obtain help to put support in place.
37. Approximately 37,000 CEVs were identified within Nottinghamshire. Of these, efforts were focused on those who were previously in receipt of Government food parcels and those that were newly defined as a CEV. Starting on 9 November the County Council sent text messages to nearly 4000 people and wrote to over 8000 people to offer help with putting support arrangements in place. By the end of the second national lockdown, over 200 people had registered to seek assistance and around 100 of those required support to access food or other services.
38. The Community Hub will continue to monitor the situation and work with LRF partner organisations to plan to meet the support needs of people in their communities.

Winter Planning

39. The focus of planning has now shifted to the various scenarios that may be faced over the coming months.
40. The County Council is liaising with County Enterprise Foods, supermarkets and other organisations who deliver food across Nottinghamshire to understand the potential impact of snow or periods of extreme cold through the winter months based on their collective experience. The County Council is looking to work with LRF partners and other existing organisations to put plans in place to ensure people are still able to access food and urgent supplies. Information about vulnerable people across Nottinghamshire, stored within the Community Hub, will be used to understand the potential scale of the impact based on the parts of the County affected.
41. A similar exercise is being undertaken for the risk of flooding. Although the impact of this is expected to be more localised it could have a longer-term impact on those affected.

Nottinghamshire Community Fund

42. Nottinghamshire Community Fund was launched on 31 March 2020. The fund, managed by the Council's Communities Team, is available to local charities and community organisations that are delivering essential services to vulnerable residents impacted by COVID-19, including access to food, medicines and support with well-being. By 22 October 2020, 260 awards had been made with a total value of £695,201.
43. The fund has now been re-opened with an opening balance of £305,000 and will be open for applications through to 1 January 2021.

Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies

44. On 10 July the County Council was allocated £858,285 by the Government, in order to support people struggling to afford food and other essentials due to COVID-19. As at 16 November, 36 awards to voluntary/community organisations and district/borough council partners have

been made, with a value of £420,000. Further work to assess funding applications and distribute funding continues.

Corporate Resilience

Workforce

45. The action plan developed by the Workforce Resilience and Recovery Group continues to identify specific actions required through a number of departmentally led work streams, to ensure the Council continues to respond to the second wave of the emergency and is well placed for a continued effective response to the COVID-19 situation. The group which is chaired by the Service Director Customers, Governance and Employees, draws its membership from across the Council, and has developed the new Workforce Recovery and Resilience Strategy to replace the People Strategy. This strategy with the associated Action Plan was approved at Personnel Committee on 18th November 2020.
46. The group is looking at a range of activities including the development of a more defined package of support for home working, reward and recognition, a review of the current package of support for employee health and well-being and any additional measures to assist managers and employees continue to deliver critical services to the most vulnerable residents of Nottinghamshire.
47. The emergency deployment process has been relaunched with employees in non-critical frontline services being asked to complete a revised skills profile form which will facilitate the moving of resources into those services which require additional capacity to respond to the pandemic. Our current learning and development offer is being reviewed to meet any immediate needs of those who may be deployed to different services.
48. Information is being collected on 'clinically extremely vulnerable' members of staff to enable them to be properly protected and, if they are unable to undertake their substantive roles, to see if there are alternative duties they can complete whilst shielding.
49. Weekly meetings are again being held to facilitate regular dialogue with the recognised trade unions and have ongoing dialogue with the self- managed employee support groups to address specific workforce issues arising from the pandemic.
50. Personnel Committee approved further work on exploring the positive impact of flexible working on workforce availability. Committee agreed a revised, refreshed Employee Health and Well Being Action Plan which highlights the range of support available for employees to access including counselling, financial advice and a range of additional measures to assist people maintain their resilience whilst at work.
51. Since 2 November workforce availability is again being reported daily rather than weekly to ensure the Corporate Leadership Team have regular sight of the levels of absence across the council attributed to either sickness with COVID-related symptoms or from shielding and self-isolating, with a view to deploying resources as required to maintain essential services.
52. There are additional concerns around the impact of the winter flu season at the same time as increased COVID-19 cases. The ongoing Public Health campaign to encourage employees to get vaccinated is supported by the recognised trade unions and further publicity to encourage people to access a flu injection will be published. The various departmental and corporate

Risk Safety Emergency Management Groups and Board continue to meet to ensure the Council is well prepared for whatever the next phase of the COVID-19 outbreak brings.

- 53. A range of measures to engage with employees is being planned to include Q&A sessions with the Corporate Leadership team and further cultural enquiry research will be undertaken to better understand what people value from the current situation and what they do not like and would want to change. This will continue to shape the Workforce Resilience and Recovery Action Plan and Strategy and prepare the Council's workforce for the future of work which has fundamentally changed over the course of the pandemic.
- 54. The advice and information published on the Council's intranet is continually reviewed and updated to ensure employees and their managers are fully aware of the current restrictions and how these may impact on our working lives. The suite of Frequently Asked Questions has been reviewed and updated to maintain their currency and relevance. Employees and their managers can email any additional questions they may have to a dedicated email account and these continue to be answered and where they have a wider application, added to the existing list.
- 55. A letter sent by the Corporate Director, Adult Social Care and Health, as the Council's senior lead officer as part of the Integrated Care System, has been published on the Council's intranet, seeking volunteers to be involved in the vaccination programme when a suitable vaccine is ready to be rolled out. County Council volunteers will be there to support frontline NHS colleagues to ensure the smooth and effective rollout of the vaccination programme across Nottinghamshire.

Council Premises

- 56. The Property and Premises Recovery Group continues to meet weekly. The group includes officers from across the Council looking to guide and support the reoccupation of Council properties and their continued safe use during restrictions, both the central office estate and the operational portfolio. The group ensure that buildings are safe to use and compliant with Government guidelines with adaptations, social distancing measures and hygiene policies and regimes in place, and that a corporate approach is taken to ensure consistency. This group has overseen the response to the change to Tier Three restrictions and the second national lockdown to ensure buildings are operating in line with restrictions or close where necessary.
- 57. Council offices have remained open for staff who cannot work from home during the move to Tier Three restrictions and the second national lockdown. Managers have reviewed working arrangements with staff to ensure that wherever possible those that can work from home do so.

Disruption to Services

- 58. In order to adhere to government guidance on social distancing and release Council resources to support COVID-19 priorities, many public-facing service areas have faced disruption or closure. The current status of these services, together with the impact of the second national lockdown, is outlined in the table below.

Service	Status
Youth Services	Open access Youth Work provision ceased to operate during the second national lockdown. As our Youth Work offer is regulated, and classed as an essential service to support young people and to provide a safety net for

	<p>those most in need, the service continued to deliver youth work to young people most in need through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Youth Work and virtual 4uth offer • Outreach and Youth Work Intervention within local communities • 1:1 youth work intervention • Youth work from our Young People’s Centres to support groups of young people, in one bubble of up to 15. <p>The Youth Service delivers a Term Time Only operating pattern and will be on its fixed closure from 20th December 2020 and will return on 11th January 2021, where we will continue with this operating model for at least the first week of return.</p> <p>As a result of restrictions, the Youth Service engaged 2133 individual children and young people in positive activities from April to September 2020 compared to 8880 children and young people in the same period in 2019.</p>
Library Services	<p>All libraries opened from 2nd December providing browsing, borrowing, information and ICT services. Click and collect and home delivery services are also available. Mobile libraries are operating a pre order service on normal routes. Reduced opening hours are in place. Book loans are operating at around 65% of normal levels (above national average) and physical visits at 20% (at national average).</p> <p>During the second national lockdown, all libraries closed to the public, however the click and collect service remained available. ICT services were available in 9 sites via appointment for essential use – e.g. benefit claims / job applications as allowed in legislation. Mobile library services continued to provide request and delivery via the normal timetable.</p>
Outdoor Education Services	<p>Outdoor education residential centres are currently closed for overnight stays for schools. The DfE will be reviewing this guidance for residential provision at the end of February 2021 for an anticipated Easter opening. Hagg Farm Centre was open to single family groups over the October half term for Adventure Days.</p> <p>Since September our centres have been providing day visits to Nottinghamshire schools. Day visits continued during the second national lockdown and will do into the new tier system.</p> <p>Shadow – an annual event usually based at Sherwood Forest every October was replaced this year with Shadow Lite. Shadow Lite was based remotely at the Youth Service’s Young People’s Centres across the county, with 35 Youth Service teams and a total of 210 young people completing activities this year.</p> <p>Alongside visits to the centres SOLA Days (Schools Outdoor Learning Adventures) are being offered as an alternative outdoor learning journey based in a school grounds. Virtual School Adventures are being offered to schools. These contain short videos - featuring the team- of Robin Hood, Viking and WWII Themed days which are shared with a school, then followed up with live question and answer sessions with the school pupils via Microsoft Teams.</p>

	Due to the restrictions 2374 children and young people accessed activities through the Outdoor Education service between April and September 2020 compared to 17,235 children and young people in the same period in 2019.																				
School Swimming	All pools reopened on 2 December. The recommencement of bridging clubs and babies sessions will be reviewed in the new year. During the second national lock down, 8 pools remained open, with 60 schools out of 83 schools wishing to continue.																				
Day Services	Day Services did not close during the second national lockdown and continue to offer a transitional service which is a blend of building based services, outreach services and virtual support. This service is providing vital respite for carers and opportunities for adults to engage in activity outside the home.																				
Country Parks and green spaces	Country Parks, including Rufford Abbey and Holme Pierrepont Country Park for the National Water Sports Centre all remain open. This includes car parks, play areas (numbers are restricted), limited take-out refreshments and toilet facilities. In line with national Tier Three restrictions indoor venues at County Parks are closed, with the exception of Holme Pierrepont's Fitness Gym. Estimated visitor numbers at Country Parks have been considerably higher during the period August to November 2020 compared with the same period in 2019, as shown by the estimated percentage change in the table below: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>August</th> <th>September</th> <th>October</th> <th>November</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bestwood</td> <td>+22%</td> <td>+13%</td> <td>+13%</td> <td>+43%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rufford</td> <td>+24%</td> <td>+63%</td> <td>+53%</td> <td>+134%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sherwood</td> <td>-48%*</td> <td>+33%</td> <td>+37%</td> <td>+54%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> *The Robin Hood Festival would ordinarily draw approximately 40,000 visitors; this year it was cancelled due to COVID-19. Visits to the green spaces at Holmepierre Pont Country Park are also estimated to have more than doubled during this period since 2019. While these increases have helped income generation somewhat due to increased car parking revenue, it should be noted that income from events, organised activities, catering and retail has been reduced to marginal levels.		August	September	October	November	Bestwood	+22%	+13%	+13%	+43%	Rufford	+24%	+63%	+53%	+134%	Sherwood	-48%*	+33%	+37%	+54%
	August	September	October	November																	
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Children's Centres	All 17 main Children's Centre sites remained open during lock down with additional satellite buildings reopening following building adaptations and infection control measures being implemented. The centres provide family support on site and continue to host midwifery clinics. Face to face group sessions are currently on hold except for work with very small groups of parents and non-mobile babies. This includes a suspension of volunteer led stay and play sessions which parents are requesting. Other targeted Children's Centre services continue to be provided on the phone, virtually, in family homes or outdoors.																				
Recycling Centres	All 12 recycling centres in the county have reopened and remained open during the second national lockdown, with social distancing measures in place. A booking system continues to operate at West Bridgford Recycling Centre.																				

Registration Services	<p>Under the revised Tier Three restrictions, registrations of still births and deaths continue by telephone only, marriage and civil partnership ceremonies are permitted with a limited number of participants, and in-person registration of births continue by appointment only under COVID-safe conditions.</p> <p>During the second national lockdown, registrations of still births and deaths were able to continue by telephone only. Marriage and civil partnerships (other than those involving terminal illness) were not permitted. The government did allow in-person registration of births by appointment under COVID-safe conditions.</p>
Music Teaching	Physical services have been resumed in line with government guidance to schools and in liaison with individual schools. A virtual offer is still available. 65% of schools are taking the service.
Inspire learning study programmes	Young people continue to be supported to complete vocational courses on site and remotely.
Inspire learning adult education programme	<p>A range of online programmes are currently being provided. Some limited face to face teaching resumed in September following government guidance.</p> <p>Face to face teaching was suspended during the second lock down.</p>
Archives	Since 2 December appointment for physical visits and expanded online services are available. There have been increased levels of online enquires and orders, but a low number of physical visits. Appointments for physical visits were suspended during second lockdown but online enquiry, research and reprographic services remained available.

Other Options Considered

59. The nature of the Coronavirus emergency is such that the Council has reviewed its priorities and use of resources to address the most critical needs of Nottinghamshire's residents. The Council must also comply with relevant Government guidance and meet its statutory duties as required during the emergency.

Reason for Recommendations

60. To update members on the Council's ongoing response to the Coronavirus emergency.

Statutory and Policy Implications

61. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

62. All Local Authorities are required by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government to report their forecast financial impact of the COVID-19 emergency on a monthly basis. The most recent DELTA 7 submission from Nottinghamshire County Council identified

a total forecast financial impact of £72m (gross of additional specific grants set out below) in the current financial year.

63. The additional pressures on the 2020/21 budget are offset by the main £42.1m COVID-19 grant allocation received from Central Government, however it should be noted that there is likely to be ongoing pressure on NCC budgets as a result of COVID-19, including anticipated reductions in Council Tax and Business Rate income in future years. As such any COVID-19 funding not required in 2020/21 will be used to set up a provision for future year costs / lost income directly attributable to the pandemic.

64. In addition to the main COVID-19 grant, the Authority has also been allocated the following COVID-19 related grant funding from Central Government:

- £3.8m Test and Trace Service Support Grant. This grant provides support to Local Authorities in England towards mitigation and management costs against local outbreaks of COVID-19.
- £11.5m Adult Social Care Infection Control Grant. 75% of this grant provides support to adult social care providers to help reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission in and between care homes and was given directly to care homes. The remaining 25% of grant is being used to support wider workforce resilience to deliver infection control. The grant must be used to cover eligible expenditure incurred between 13 May 2020 and 23 September 2020.
- £9.6m Adult Social Care Infection Control Grant Round 2. 80% of this grant must be passed to care homes within the local authority's geographical area on a 'per beds' basis and CQC-regulated community care providers (domiciliary care, extra care and supported living) within the local authority's geographical area on a 'per user' basis. The other 20% of the funding must be used to support care providers to take additional steps to tackle the risk of COVID-19 infections but can be allocated at the local authority's discretion.
- £0.6m Additional Dedicated Home to School Transport Grant. This grant has been made available to ensure that there is sufficient transport capacity so that children can get to school safely and on time.
- £0.9m Emergency Assistance Grant. This discretionary grant is provided to be used from July onwards to meet immediate need and help those who are struggling to afford food and essentials due to COVID-19.
- £6.6m Contract Tracing & Enforcement. Support for proactive containment and intervention measures.
- £2.3m COVID Winter Grant Scheme. Ring fenced funding to help vulnerable families and individuals.

All of the above are reflected in the forecast financial position reported to Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee on a monthly basis.

65. The Government have also announced a scheme that will help those Local Authorities that have lost income during the pandemic. The first claim has been completed and NCC has identified circa £1.2m which has been confirmed by Government that it is eligible for reimbursement. A further claim will be submitted in January 2021.

66. As noted above, the pro-forma submitted to the Government does not include other potentially significant future costs including falls in collection rates for Council Tax and Business Rates (£10m) as well as impacts upon the realisation of capital receipts (£4m).

67. All of the above additional costs, lost income and grant funding, together with ongoing pressures and savings options, have been incorporated into an updated Medium-Term

Financial Strategy (MTFS) which was presented to Finance & Major Contracts Management Committee on 30 November 2020 as part of a Budget Update Report.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

68. The safeguarding of vulnerable children and adults is at the centre of decision making around operating models and reopening of services in Children's and Adults services and services continue to operate with the same standards of care.

Implications for Service Users

69. While there continue to be some disruptions to services through the Council's response to COVID-19, the aim has been to maintain the welfare and safety of all services users at all times.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That Members approve and endorse the continuing efforts of services to ensure effective service provision during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2) That Members consider whether they require any further actions in relation to the issues contained within the report.
- 3) That Members agree to receive further updates at subsequent meetings.

Derek Higton
Service Director, Place and Communities

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Derek Higton, Service Director, Place and Communities, T: 0115 9773498

Constitutional Comments (AK 30/11/2020)

70. This report falls within the remit of Resilience, Recovery and Renewal Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (KRP 2/12/2020)

71. The financial implications are as set out in the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All