

16 JULY 2020

Agenda Item: 6

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES AND PLACE

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 response to the coronavirus emergency. Information is provided on the current public health situation in Nottinghamshire, the work that is ongoing to support the response to COVID-19 and the plans that are being implemented to move into the recovery and renewal stage of the emergency.

Public Health Update

3. The current numbers of COVID-19 cases in the UK and Nottinghamshire can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>. The current numbers of COVID-19 deaths in Nottinghamshire can be found on the [Office for National Statistics website](#).
4. As of 29th June 2020, there had been a total of 2,786 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among Nottinghamshire residents. This total includes positive results from Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 testing routes. This is a rate of 337.6 per 100,000 residents as opposed to 425.7 per 100,000 for England. Data from the Office for National Statistics released on the 23rd June 2020 indicated that, as of 12th June 2020, there had been 634 deaths due to COVID-19 in the Nottinghamshire population.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

5. The Local Resilience Forum Logistics Cell has been set up to plan, procure and distribute PPE across the health and social care sector. To date it has distributed hundreds of thousands of PPE items to services across Nottinghamshire. Established arrangements are in place for services with urgent PPE needs and no orders are being left unaddressed. Ordering of PPE continues to be pursued through our supply chains and in collaboration with our partners. A report on PPE was reviewed by Personnel Committee on 8 July 2020 which provides an update on the PPE activity as part of the emergency response and outlines a PPE recovery plan for the County Council.

Local Outbreak Control Plans

6. As part of the launch of the nationally delivered Test and Trace Service, upper-tier local authorities were notified that they should prepare a Local Outbreak Control Plan by the end of June. The County Council's Plan was approved by the Nottinghamshire COVID-19 Outbreak Control Engagement Board on 29 June and published on the Council's website on 30 June - <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/coronavirus/local-outbreak-plan>.
7. The Plan's purpose is to describe arrangements for controlling the rate of COVID-19 transmission in Nottinghamshire to enable a return to life as normal as is possible for as many as possible, and to do so in a way that is safe, protects our health and care systems, and supports our economy. The local Plan sets out local governance arrangements including political leadership, and plans for communications and stakeholder engagement. The Plan identifies the local arrangements for data surveillance, testing and contact tracing, and outlines plans for preventing and managing outbreaks in care homes, schools & other educational settings, and other high-risk settings, such as prisons and detention centres or leisure facilities.
8. Implementation of the preparedness and response elements will be overseen by the Director of Public Health, working closely with Public Health England's local health protection arrangements, district and borough councils, and with the Local Resilience Forum. Political leadership will be exercised through the Nottinghamshire COVID-19 Engagement Board, which met for the first time on 29 June 2020 to agree its Terms of Reference and obtain agreement between partner agencies to the Local Outbreak Control Plan before submission and sign off by the Joint Biosecurity Centre.

COVID-19 Programmes of Work

9. 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

Support for Vulnerable Adults

Recovery Planning Operational Services

10. Planning activity is well-advanced in producing a departmental recovery plan for Adult Social Care and Public Health (ASCPH). The plan focusses on what to keep, enhance and stop from the emergency models adopted in response to the pandemic and is based on consultation and a cost-benefit analysis. Along with corporate colleagues there is work taking place to assess the viability and safety of restoring services that have been subject to the most change during the pandemic, such as day services. For building-based services, a particular focus on risk assessments and reviews with providers and people who use the services is required. The recovery plan will be reviewed by the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee.

Payment of providers

11. A report to the last Policy Committee in June highlighted the considerable work that has taken place to support care providers throughout the emergency response period. This continues to be a priority area of work including meeting COVID-19 related costs through the Infection Control Grant.
12. ASCPH implemented emergency payment measures for social care providers which end on the 30th June. From July, ASCPH will be working with providers to restart contract management, payments on activity for activity driven contracts and models of service fit for meeting people needs within social distancing measures.
13. As we move into recovery, work has been taking place with providers on a phased approach to returning to payment arrangements based on activity and actual service provided. Through July the department will be resuming normal contractual arrangements and monitoring of services provided, and will support providers to implement current government guidance with regard to how people can be supported to meet their needs. The department will be prioritising reviews of people whose support and services have been affected by a changed model of operation during the pandemic, or a change to their level of support. There is evidence that some people who have received a different type or level of support during the pandemic do not want to automatically return to the service they were receiving, so the department will need to respond accordingly to ensure the best outcomes for people going forward.

Support for Vulnerable Children and Families including Schools

Early Years, School and College Settings

1. On May 19th, the Prime Minister outlined the government's aspiration that schools should open to more children in targeted year groups from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from 1st June with some contact for secondary aged children in Year 10 and Year 12 from 15th June. During the lockdown period, schools in Nottinghamshire have remained open for vulnerable children and the children of key workers with attendance increasing from 1,972 on Monday 30th March to 19,571 on Tuesday 30th June (figures refer to all pupils attending schools).
2. Schools have continued to be provided with an extensive amount of national Department for Education guidance, and this has continued to be supplemented by additional contextualised advice and support from Education, Human Resources, Health and Safety as well as Public Health. With additional demand for key worker places, however, it is unlikely that all of Nottinghamshire's schools will be able to accommodate all the target year groups within the government's anticipated time frame. Children who are not attending school continue to access support for home learning.
3. An update on the number of schools open to target year groups will be provided at the meeting. Since 1 June primary schools have continued to widen the offer to more children in the non-targeted year groups where they have both space and staff availability. Schools are currently awaiting detailed guidance with a view that all children in all year groups will return to school in September, pending local circumstances at the time.

4. There has been a significant increase since May half term in the transport provision both for SEND and Mainstream travellers as more children and young people have returned to attend school, college and other educational placements. The current figures are as follows:

SEND Under 16 - Pupils travelling on transport: 330 (25%) – full time and part time, contracts operating: 195

POST 16 SEND – College - Students travelling: 78 (20%), contracts operating: 36

EOTAS- 35 students travelling on 35 different contracts.

Mainstream - We have between 65-70 exclusive school buses currently operating which is about half the normal provision. We are currently serving 17 secondary schools and 8 primary schools. Transport is operating at about 5% capacity. On some days this is lower. Some pupils will be using the public network (bus and tram)

5. We have identified the following issues assuming that all pupils will be returning to school in September 2020:
- Available capacity in the transport sector both bus and taxis will limit the availability of additional transport that may be required to support distancing or school bubbles.
 - Traffic congestion around schools is already an issue especially at those schools that serve a large geographical or rural area. Particular special schools already have severe problems with accessing the school sites, increasing vehicles at these sites will be an issue.
 - Many mainstream pupils travel on the public network. The distancing operating on some on these services may limit the amount of young people who can access the services leaving them “stranded” at bus stops with no way of making their way to school.

Vulnerable Children, Young People and Families

6. All families receiving early help or social work support continue to be risk-assessed to determine the level of support required, with risk levels determining whether visits are face-to-face or via phone/videoconference. All families continue to receive at least weekly contact. There are currently no significant workforce absence challenges impacting on the service’s ability to safeguard children.
7. During the pandemic we have seen a reduction in enquiries to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub from schools and subsequent child and family assessments. As children in some year groups are starting to return to education we are seeing enquiries increase, although they are not yet at pre-pandemic levels. Work is now underway to forecast and plan for an increase in activity when schools open to all pupils in September.
8. The Adoption and Children (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 came into force on 24th April. The Regulations temporarily amend 10 sets of secondary legislation relating to children’s social care to support services in managing the coronavirus outbreak. The

changes are intended to support services to try and manage the increased pressure on children's social care and cases of staff and carer shortages arising from illness due to coronavirus. In line with the Amendment Regulations, the Department is seeking to implement one amendment relating to temporary, 'Connected Persons' foster care:

- a. Under the existing Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010, local authorities had the power to temporarily approve a child's "*relative, friend or other person connected with*" the child as a temporary foster carer for a period of up to 16 weeks (normally while a longer-term placement is sought).
 - b. The Amendment Regulations have now extended this period to 24 weeks and removed the requirement for the temporary foster carers to have an existing family or other connection to the child. Local authorities can therefore now approve anyone who meets the requirements as a temporary foster carer, rather than only those who are connected to a child.
9. This amendment is intended to support the Department to manage placement capacity over the coming months, based on the anticipated increase in children entering local authority care during, and in the aftermath of, the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department is seeking to utilise this amendment as a precautionary measure, in the event that the volume of children entering local authority care exceeds the placement options available. This proposal was approved at Children and Young People's Committee on 15 June 2020.

Community Support and Resilience

Community Support Hub

10. As reported to Policy Committee on 13th May 2020, Nottinghamshire Coronavirus Community Support Hub went live on 23rd 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. The aim being that those with less complex needs could 'self-serve', and find their own support, without the need for further help.
11. The number of hits to the Community Support Hub website has slowed over the past few weeks to approximately 100 a day compared to in the region of 1000 at the peak. As at 6th July, 1074 requests for support had been received since launching the second phase of the Hub, with the numbers of requests per day slowing slightly in the past few weeks. There are currently 277 voluntary groups, 193 individuals, 20 online community and 229 businesses offering support which represents a reduction in previous numbers mainly driven by a reduction in the number of individuals. All volunteers that come forward are processed appropriately for the safety of those receiving support.
12. Nottinghamshire Community Support Hub and the County Council's Customer Service Centre continue to be in regular contact with clinically extremely vulnerable people registered with the Government's Shielded programme and requiring assistance. As of 6th July 2020, 36,857 had been identified from NHS data as being extremely vulnerable people and requiring shielding in the County. 19,336 had been in contact with the Government to indicate whether they require support or not, around a third of whom have

requested and received assistance from the Hub. For those who haven't registered with the Shielded programme (17,521 as of 6th July 2020), a local process has been undertaken, complementing the national effort, to make contact with anyone in this group not known to the Council or its partners. Letters have been sent to alert recipients to the support available through the Hub, and consideration with partners is being given to what further actions are appropriate.

13. A further piece of work has also been undertaken to identify those who, whilst may not be medically vulnerable to COVID-19 itself, may be in need of support at this time, for example those with dementia, or who are frail, elderly or housebound. Nearly 22,000 letters have been sent to this group, again alerting them to the support available through the Hub. A prioritised set of actions has been agreed with partners to follow-up these letters.
14. The Food Supply Group continues to ensure that those in the shielded group have access to food should there be a delay in receiving food parcels from the government. The Food Supply Group also co-ordinates access to food for those not in the shielded group but who nonetheless have difficulties accessing food at this time.
15. In response to the enormous voluntary support that has been shown by individuals, voluntary groups and businesses through the Community Support Hub, a plan to build a new relationship with these groups is being developed, overseen by the Humanitarian Assistance Group. The purpose of the plan will be to retain the social capital that has been built during this period and support and develop volunteers to continue to play this positive role within communities into the future. There has been a great level of engagement with this work from LRF partners and a genuine sense of excitement about what is possible.

Nottinghamshire Community Fund

16. Nottinghamshire Community Fund was launched on 31st 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. As of 6th July 2020, 186 awards had been made with a total value of £494,101.
17. A task group with partners around the county has been established to undertake an assessment of the financial resilience of the Community and Voluntary Sector in light of the COVID-19 emergency. The sector is a crucial partner in supporting communities through the coronavirus crisis and into the future and it the intention that this piece of work will inform the support that will be required by the sector going forward.

Support for Business and the Local Economy

18. The latest data on the impact of COVID-19 on the local economy together with the Council's approach to economic recovery is presented in a report elsewhere on this Committee's agenda.

Partner Activity

19. The COVID-19 Update report reviewed at June's Policy Committee referenced the wider Local Resilience Forum and the Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership (D2N2 LEP) activity.
20. The Economy Cell continues to meet weekly, working collaboratively with district, city and LEP partners on the impact of COVID-19 on business and the economy, linking in with the LRF COVID-19 Data and Information Cell and the D2N2 COVID-19 Analytical Group.
21. The various government sponsored schemes referenced at June's Policy Committee remain in place, with the most recent support, the Discretionary Business Grants Scheme, being made available via the district councils. Having been promoted through an application process over June, further details as to its coverage and impact is awaited. The take-up locally of the various nationally driven schemes is being reviewed through the Economy Cell.
22. In response to the crisis, the D2N2 LEP has focused its resources on supporting partner organisations with their LRF activities, on data provision and on the support to business via the Growth Hub.
23. In summary, the D2N2 LEP:
 - has convened its Recovery Board, seeking to reposition the development of the Local Industrial Strategy as being responsive to the COVID-19 and to set out its agenda for recovery;
 - continues to liaise with local authorities to share intelligence and best practice, map out the local support being provided and receive intelligence on any local gaps requiring attention;
 - is highlighting the key impacts of COVID-19, seeking to influence national government policy and inform recovery planning. This has included roundtable discussions with Ministers and senior officials and is led by the Chair and Chief Executive.

Futures

24. Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) continues to work with Futures on their three strands of work, [Futures for Business](#), [Futures for You](#) and Futures Employment Solutions. Staff are working with individuals whose employment has been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis as well as well as with businesses offering support with recruitment, redundancies, apprenticeships and training.

The Growth Hub

25. The Growth Hub, in which the Council is a partner, continues to offer direct practical support and information for business during the current challenging economic circumstances.
26. The Growth Hub acted quickly to ensure its operations reflected the immediate needs of businesses as lockdown was announced, managing an upsurge of COVID-19 enquiries in the first weeks of lockdown. The volume of enquiries has since flattened, with businesses now looking for support on re-opening and on reviewing their future

sustainability. The Growth Hub survey, alongside those of other business support organisations such as the East Midlands Chamber is informing the business support offer and is being amended shortly to reflect the changing circumstances.

27. Wider sources of funding remain in place for companies looking to develop and grow, including the Growth Hub's Business Investment Fund and the Council's Growth Hub Business Advisers are promoting and supporting applications from Nottinghamshire businesses.
28. The Growth Hub has secured additional resources from government both directly and in collaboration with neighbouring Growth Hubs to deliver additional support to businesses, reviewing with its core partners including the County Council how best to focus these resources on business recovery. These resources will look to support further the digital interactivity of the Growth Hub with businesses; focus on sector and targeted geographical area support; on key and vulnerable sectors; on supporting targeted groups such as young people into business; on (re-)start-ups and diversification as well as an enhanced access to finance packages.
29. Most recently, the government has announced the following additional support to be delivered via Growth Hubs:
 - short term funding for advice and guidance on recovery planning
 - small scale grants for the visitor economy sector to support its re-opening
 - the establishment of business peer support networks
30. The Growth Hub events programme remains wholly on-line, with businesses reporting a positive response to their continued availability and to their digital delivery. 57 on-line sessions were delivered over April and May, with more programmed over the summer. These sessions have been complemented by the Council and district partners funding a specific webinar programme on business resilience, covering CV-19 recovery and the preparedness for leaving the EU.

Coronavirus grant funding: local authority payments to small and medium businesses

31. The distribution of the government Small Business Grants Fund (SBGF) scheme and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Grants Fund (RHLGF) has been the responsibility of district and borough Councils. As of 6th July 2020, 94.1% of those eligible to receive a grant had received payment. Out of a total £155,756,000 of Government support available for local businesses, over £135,825,000 has now been paid out by district and borough partners. Weekly updates, typically uploaded on a Tuesday are available online by visiting: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-grant-funding-local-authority-payments-to-small-and-medium-businesses>

Corporate Resilience

Workforce

32. As reported to Policy Committee in May and June, the Council's workforce has responded positively to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many have been flexible in altering their duties, working hours and where they work from to ensure the Council can continue to deliver critical services to its most vulnerable residents.

33. Data collected on workforce availability during the COVID-19 period has been compared with workforce availability prior to the pandemic. It is noteworthy that other than the days immediately around Easter when the Council experienced the greatest impact in terms of COVID related absence, the number of people available for work is broadly similar or slightly more than prior to the pandemic. This could be a result of flexible and homeworking patterns or the increased sense of pride experienced by many employees as all staff were designated critical workers during the pandemic. A full report on this was reviewed by Personnel Committee on 8 July 2020. Further work will be undertaken to fully understand the reasons for these findings and identify the actions we need to take to use this learning to improve workforce absence rates and to effectively plan future resourcing.
34. An employee well-being survey was undertaken in late May to “check-in” and get feedback on how employees were feeling in the current emergency, the results of which were referenced in a report to Policy Committee on 11th June. The Council will ensure it makes best use of the valuable intelligence gathered as a result of this exercise with the more detailed feedback and overall responses informing the work on Recovery. It is likely further surveys will be used as a means of gathering additional information from a wide cross section of the Council’s workforce as recovery work progresses. This work is being taken forward by the Workforce workstream of the Corporate Recovery and Transformation Group and is already informing the service specific work being undertaken by departments. This workstream will also ensure that the Council’s learning and development offer continues to provide the inputs required to meet future demands and to underpin the requirement to have the right people, with the right skills in place at the right time.
35. Throughout the coronavirus outbreak, weekly discussions have taken place with the recognised trades unions. This has provided a helpful forum to raise both strategic and operational issues which impact across more than one department. The normal employment relations mechanisms were suspended at the outset of lockdown but have now been reinstated. It is proposed to continue with the corporate discussions whilst reintroducing the more department focussed forums where the more detailed conversations about service recovery and future service changes can take place. The recognised trade unions have engaged positively throughout to hold the council to account in terms of how actions impact on the workforce.
36. Discussions have also taken place with the employee self-managed groups to ensure proper note is taken of the potential impacts of the situation on colleagues with certain protected characteristics. This includes black, asian and minority ethnic employees and employees with a disability or underlying health condition. Working with these support networks has resulted in very positive and constructive engagement. This has included considering the results of the Public Health England research in relation to “Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19” for different groups which is being used to inform future risk assessments, planning and decision making in terms of supporting the Council’s workforce move forward to whatever the new normal will be.
37. Members will be grateful to learn that at the time of writing, no Council employee has died as a result of the COVID pandemic. However, we are aware that we have employees who have been bereaved due to COVID-19. We have extended our existing counselling provision to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to ensure people have access to

professional support whenever they need it. We are also exploring extending this to include trauma counselling because of the impact on some of our employees who have continued to work in frontline services.

Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Update

38. The Local Resilience Forum partnership delivers emergency planning for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, ensuring the establishment of an effective multi-agency response to COVID-19. An evolving set of LRF cells and their subgroups have been working to deal with the impacts of the coronavirus emergency. In the absence of a vaccine, the nature of the COVID-19 pandemic is such that response action is likely to be necessary over a long period. Some of early emergency response groups have now transferred directly to the LRF recovery group (see following paragraph) or are reporting to both. The main components of the LRF Emergency Response structure are:

- Strategic Coordinating Group
- Tactical Coordinating Group
- Health & Social Care TCG
- Local Outbreak Cell
- Humanitarian Assistance Group
- Logistics Cell
- Excess Deaths Cell
- Communications Cell
- Local Authorities Cell
- Data and Information Cell

39. In tandem with the response effort, the LRF is also working on recovery and renewal. The LRF is overseeing the work of partners to assess the impact of the coronavirus emergency and agree an action plan that encompasses the economic, social and community aspects of recovery. This plan will co-ordinate the efforts of partner organisations and work with communities to address needs and wherever possible to 'build back better' and enhance resilience in communities. Much of this effort will be managed under the same categories and by some of the same cells as the response effort. The main components of the LRF Recovery structure are:

- Recovery Coordinating Group
- Humanitarian Assistance Group
- Communications Cell
- Local Authorities Cell
- Data and Information Cell
- Economy Cell
- Finance Cell
- Transport & Infrastructure Cell

Corporate Response, Recovery and Transformation Structures

40. The Risk, Safety and Emergency Management Board (RSEMB) reporting into the Corporate Leadership Team continues to meet regularly to oversee the Council's response to the crisis. Work is continuing to ensure capacity within services and that all the Council's operations comply with relevant government guidance and protect services users and staff. Within each department, the Risk, Safety and Emergency Management Groups (RSEMGs) continue to meet routinely to coordinate departmental response activities.

41. A Corporate Recovery and Transformation Group (CRTG) chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive and with senior representatives from Service Departments and central corporate functions has been established to ensure that the approach to the recovery process is cross cutting and integrated, both within the authority and in collaboration with the Local Resilience Forum. The purpose of the CRTG is to generate and monitor a

forward-facing corporate recovery and transformation plan, oversee the safe reopening of services and premises and ensure that current and emerging government guidance is followed. The work of this group is to be overseen by the Committee. The CRTG currently has five subgroups:

- Property and Premises – Corporate Group
- Workforce – Corporate Group
- Finance Recovery Group – Corporate Group
- PPE and Logistics – Corporate Group Linked to LRF
- Economic Renewal – Corporate Group linked to LRF

Council Premises

42. The Property and Premises Recovery subgroup of the CRTG is meeting weekly. The group includes officers from across the Council looking to guide and support the reoccupation of Council properties, both the central office estate and the operational portfolio. The group will 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.
43. In accordance with Government guidance the Council's position remains that all staff should remain in their current working arrangements which for most office staff means remaining working from home. However, as lock down guidance relaxes the Council has been looking at the access and social distancing requirements of providing office space for our high priority staff to provide a safe environment for some limited return. An exercise has been simultaneously undertaken with staff to identify the key services and individual employees who will need to be prioritised once reoccupation can commence. This is likely to be in the form of the services which have difficulty in operating using current arrangements and those individuals who for a variety of health and well-being or service led reasons require early return. It does remain likely that a high proportion of employees will be required to continue working from home for some time to come.
44. For the varied operational estate, services have been provided with guidance around the key principles to be followed to plan and implement reoccupation in accordance with Government guidelines and in a manner to ensure corporate consistency. Support is being provided from Property, Health and Safety, HR and IT. Already some limited reoccupation of Registry offices has occurred with some libraries following in early July.

Reopening of Services

45. 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. Plans are being made for many of these services to reopen in step with national government guidance and with social distancing and safety measures in place. Services are considering the adaptations that need to be made to the way they operate and the facilities that they use in order to maintain the safety of staff and service users. The current status of these services is outlined in the table below.

Service	Status
Youth Services	The Youth Service is supporting young people within Children's Social Care settings, including residential homes and in supporting placement stability. Youth work with the most vulnerable young people will be prioritised but plans are being developed to reopen universal provision when possible and in line with government guidelines. In addition, the Youth Service has also started to deliver Youth Work Intervention and Outreach sessions within the communities they would normally operate.
Library Services	Planning is underway for a gradual reopening of libraries and archives from 6 July 2020. Libraries will be operating with a reduced service and buildings will have limited capacity to ensure customer and staff safety.
Outdoor Education Services	Outdoor education centres are currently closed, and plans are being developed to reopen these services when possible and in line with government guidelines. During this interim period the service is supporting young people within Children's Social Care settings by offering young people adventurous activities and outdoor learning experiences. In addition, during June and July the service is offering Year 6 pupils a number of <i>WoW Days</i> providing schools with onsite outdoor activities, which includes the mobile climbing wall, archery, and mountain bike skills.
Day Services	Premises continue to be a valuable resource from which the outreach service has been operating throughout the pandemic. Services are presently engaged in premises recovery planning, and it is hoped to be in a position to offer a socially distanced service with appropriate risk assessments and in line with government guidelines by the end of July, subject to enough staff returning from redeployed positions in residential and start services. The outreach service will also continue to enable us to maximise support to those who most need it at the present time.
Country Parks and green spaces	Car parks have reopened at all country parks. Visitor facilities remain closed at all sites. Sites will open in line with government guidelines and once all safety measures can be put in place.
Children's Centres	Services continue to offer targeted support for vulnerable children and further face to face work at centres is under review and will recommence in line with government guidance and risk assessments of the premises.
Recycling Centres	All 12 recycling centres in the county have reopened, but sites are operating reduced hours and strict restrictions are in place.
Registration Services	Prior to the beginning of June, all registration services were suspended except for the registration of still births and deaths (which could be completed by telephone). From 1 June, the government permitted the registration of births and appointments for notices of marriage. The resumption of civil marriages at registration offices and Approved Premises was approved from 4 July.

Music Teaching	A virtual offer is now available, including digital teaching. Physical services will be resumed in line with government guidance to schools and in liaison with individual schools.
Education Library Service	The service is now operating and has resumed service delivery to schools.
Inspire learning study programmes	Young people continue to be supported to complete vocational courses on site and remotely.
Inspire learning adult education programme	A range of online programmes are currently being provided. Planning is underway for the service to resume face to face teaching in September following government guidance.
Council operated Local Bus services	The majority of services continue to cooperate as demand responsive transport (DRT) whereby the public book transport the day before. A limited number of peak time journeys are operating Monday to Saturday for commuters. Appropriate safety measures are in place, in line with government guidelines on reducing the spread of coronavirus. Passenger numbers continue to be around 5% of pre-lockdown levels. A resource plan and review process are in place to bring services back to pre-lockdown levels in line with demand.
Council Bus Stations	<p>The recovery plan for reopening the bus stations has been implemented and all bus station buildings are now open. Mansfield bus station is the only bus station operating on reduced hours, with it closing at 8pm Monday to Sunday-evening services are accommodated on the Out of Hours bay.</p> <p>Robust control measures are in place to help limit the spread of coronavirus. These include an enhanced cleaning regime, social distancing markings, reduced seating capacity and audio and visual messages that reinforce current government guidelines. The team continue to closely monitor patronage levels at the bus stations to ensure that passengers can maintain a social distance and will implement further control measures if and when required.</p>
Highway Maintenance (Revenue)	There are a number of services which NCC and Via EM Ltd. have continued to deliver either fully or partially throughout the current public health emergency. Where services have previously been suspended these have now been restarted, and all reactive and preventative works are now being delivered, albeit with some alternative working arrangements and the continued support of social distancing rules necessitating the deployment of teams in different ways and additional vehicles to reduce shared transport.
Highway Maintenance (Capital)	The capital programme recommenced, albeit with some alternative working arrangements and the continued support of social distancing rules necessitating the deployment of teams in different ways and additional vehicles to reduce shared transport. A highways capital programme update report was presented to Communities and Place Committee on the 2 nd of July. The construction of the Gedling Access Road has

	continued throughout, principal contractor Balfour Beatty has taken steps to ensure social distancing guidelines are followed on the site.
School Crossing Patrols	School crossing patrols will recommence in line with the reopening of schools. We continue to work closely with schools to establish their requirements, there are currently 39 School Crossing Patrols operating safely across the county. Four of these sites have two patrols to be able to facilitate social distancing and some are working slightly longer than usual to accommodate the school's staggered opening and closing hours.
School Bus Services	Approximately half (60) of pre-lockdown school buses are now in operation, with appropriate safety measures in place, in line with government guidelines on reducing the spread of coronavirus. Discussions are ongoing with all partners about plans for the new school year in Sept.

Other Options Considered

46. 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

47. To update members on the Council's ongoing response to the Coronavirus emergency and recovery and renewal plans.

Statutory and Policy Implications

48. 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

49. A COVID-19 Update Report was submitted to Policy Committee in June 2020 which outlined the latest financial implications of the COVID-19 emergency. A Financial Resilience Group has been established to assess the continuing impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the Medium Term Financial Strategy of Nottinghamshire County Council. This Group will review all aspects of the financial impact and will report regularly to Corporate Leadership Team and to Members and Committees. The Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee will review a report on the update to the MTFs on 20 July 2020.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

50. 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

51. While there continue to be many 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 consider whether they require any further actions in relation to the issues contained within the report.
- 2) That members agree to receive further updates at subsequent meetings.

Derek Higton
Service Director, Communities and Place

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (HD 06/07/2020)

52. The recommendations fall within the Committee terms of reference

Financial Comments (GB 06/07/2020)

53. The financial implications of the COVID-19 crisis was reported to Policy Committee in June 2020. The Financial Resilience Group will continue to assess the financial impact and report regularly to the Corporate Leadership Team, Members and Committees.

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