

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

30 NOVEMBER 2020

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

A.1 HEALTH PROVISION AND COVID RESPONSE

(Report prepared by *[John Fox]*)

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The report provides information on the current position in relation to health further to the Committee's meeting on 13 January 2020 and an update in relation to Covid.

INVITEES

Two guests will attend the meeting to undertake a presentation and answer questions in respect of the topics referred from the meeting on 13 January 2020 and the current Covid situation.

Pam Green, Chief Operating Officer of North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group will update on the current health position.

Dr Mike Gogarty, Director of Public Health will provide an update on the current position in respect of Covid.

In addition Russ Cole the Council's Temporary Community Engagement Manager will provide an update in respect of the community response during the Covid pandemic.

BACKGROUND

Further to the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Meeting on 13 January 2020 an update was requested around deprivation, health measures and the proposed integrated neighbourhood team for Tendring South. Also included was funding for primary care on the Clacton Hospital site and the operation of GP services from Kennedy House.

The meeting is also to consider the Covid-19 measures to control spread and identify those most at risk and protect them and the role of community groups and volunteers.

DETAILED INFORMATION

The Committee's previous meeting on health was in January 2020 and although a number of updates were required to be brought forward at this meeting the overriding piece of work undertaken since that time, by all partners including health, has been in relation to the Covid response.

Only a limited amount of progress was made before the first wave struck and then all available resources were focussed on the appropriate Covid response and although the later Summer period allowed for some return towards more normal operation the main focus is now again on the Covid response.

The main body of work undertaken in respect of deprivation was the focus on the deprived

areas in respect of the Covid response since those in more deprived areas suffered worse health outcomes.

Work was undertaken to ensure parity of access to services and in particular the community response involved ensuring those most in need could still access essential services such as medication or food.

The outline business case for the Primary Care Hub at Clacton Hospital is proceeding with a proposed submission to NHS England/Improvement in December with approval expected to take 3 months. The Hub will provide opportunities for integrated working across multiple partners and will also provide improved accommodation elsewhere on the site. This development has been co-designed with two GP practices from the start to ensure the needs of residents and staff are met.

Building works are progressing at Kennedy House and the handover is due to take place in March 2021 and this will align with the timeline for the completion of the current Alternative Provider Medical Services (APMS) procurement.

Work has continued on the neighbourhood team model although is somewhat delayed due to Covid. On this basis the initial neighbourhood team site is being set up right now and is within central Colchester. There are six teams proposed across the North Essex footprint. Following the setting up of the initial site in the Winter of 2020/21 the other sites will be set up during 2021. A Senior Responsible Officer has now been appointed and engagement with partners is being undertaken to ensure the effective mobilisation of the neighbourhood teams and for example a wider stakeholder workshop is being undertaken on 2 December 2020 to move this forward.

Significant work has been undertaken by all partners in respect of the Covid response and the Public Health Team at Essex County Council have led the public health response. This has involved the development of an Outbreak Control Plan in respect of Covid which was effectively implemented and this has included support from district and borough councils. Weekly Health Protection Board meetings have also been undertaken to ensure the response is appropriate and targeted.

The Essex Wellbeing Service has also been developed to ensure that residents are effectively supported and particularly those most at risk.

The Team have also been integral to supporting track and trace and ensuring there is support, engagement and enforcement where necessary to assist in controlling the spread of Covid. In addition this has included supporting in investigating outbreaks and providing appropriate advice.

The work undertaken during the initial lockdown period has provided for an effective response which is being used in an ongoing way and being further developed in the light of ongoing changes.

The flu vaccination programme is nearing completion and has been effectively delivered which was successfully undertaken during the Covid period.

In terms of the community response to support those who are vulnerable the focus was on deprived areas and also the wider rural areas which were more difficult to access or where residents had more difficulty accessing on line support. The Council quickly aligned some temporary roles to support these groups providing a call and advice reception and making proactive calls.

A raft of local voluntary groups sprang up and these contacts were audited to understand their capacity and capability which was fed into a new database and App so as to match community demands to the developing volunteer base.

With 6500 Category A residents appropriate advice and support was offered by the community groups coordinated through the Community Hub with a focus on actual vulnerability of individuals to ensure resources were deployed appropriately in a flexible and tailored way considering the different needs across the district.

Volunteer groups locally were supplemented by Essex Welfare Service volunteers which numbered about one hundred and with the local share of NHS volunteers for the Tendring area there was sufficient assistance to meet requests for assistance received.

The Operation Shield helpline set up by the Council has dealt with in excess of 2500 incoming calls and made 3000 outgoing calls and there have been over 50 personal visits to ensure residents most at need have been appropriately supported.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee determines whether it has any comments or recommendations it wishes to put forward the relevant Portfolio Holder or Cabinet.