

Scrutiny Covid Sitrep Updates - November 2020 (information correct at 23 October 2020)

Communities & Equalities Scrutiny (2.00pm) - Thursday 5 November

Workstream	Issues and challenges experienced	Current position: Has recovery activity closed down (been mainstreamed / returned to BAU), or is continuing? Please give detail.
Residents at risk		
	<p>Shielded Residents and the Food Response (Communities)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation for any re-instatement of shielding underway. Move to Tier 3 likely to allow those that were previously shielding to pre register for support and access priority super market slots
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers are slightly higher than previously c200 people receiving support but are still fluctuating. Small increase in numbers that are self-isolating, working to ensure that there is alignment with self-isolation grant work. • Support remains focussed on brokering a community-based food offer • Implications of Tier 3 to the food response are being worked through with other internal colleagues ensuring alignment to helpline and wider communications which will be sent to CEV next week from the DoH • Meeting with the contact centre to clarify nature of support esp. now moving into Tier 3 support 22/10, focus will remain on creating a sense of choice and independence where possible. • Scenario planning for New Smithfield Market commissioning and potential of shielding being carried out 	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further move within New Smithfield expected w/c8 November • New food team is in the process of being identified. Handover will take place over the next month, not all roles have been filled and start dates are staggered so this will pose an added pressure in the short term.
	Domestic Violence & Abuse (Communities)	DA providers being able to continue to meet demand and adapt to new restrictions as quickly as possible to ensure safety for their staff and also their service user	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providers have made progress towards ensuring their workplaces are Covid-secure and are places in which they can deliver a limited range of functions in a face to face manner as necessary, while still prioritising other means such as phone, video or other online resources. • Providers, our own in house services, and our DVA team are alive to the potential for Tier 3 measures to have an impact on behaviours and levels of demand as we move into winter. There is the adaptability, based on previous experience during the first lockdown, to be able to revert to modes of delivery utilised at that time, if it becomes necessary
	Welfare Provision (Communities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uptake of Local Welfare assistance for unpaid carers lower than expected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of £39,041 has been paid to 292 carers to date out of an identified 'carers' budget of £100k. This indicates progress continues to be made in providing assistance to carers requiring support.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crisis support to residents impacted by Covid-19 • Test and Trace Support Payments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Between 16/3 and 18/10/20 509 applications citing Covid-19 as the reason for requesting assistance have been paid to a value of £34,327 out of an identified 'Covid-19' budget of £100k. A proportion of other cases supported by Welfare Provision awards will also relate to Covid-19 but the reporting system does not offer a process of identifying these.• The government Test and Trace Support Payments scheme incorporating a core and a discretionary element paying £500 to eligible applicants launched on 12 October effective from 28 September. An AGMA wide approach has been agreed.• At 20/10/20 the team have received:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 848 applications○ Approved and paid 149 'core scheme' cases to a total value of £74,500○ Approved and paid 27 discretionary cases to a total value of £13,500○ Declined 267 cases• Key eligibility indicators for the 'core scheme' are that the resident must:• have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace on or after 28 September 2020
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	<p>Homelessness (Neighbourhoods)</p>	<p>Increase in presentations to pre-Covid levels has continued, presenting additional pressures as access to move-on and temporary accommodation remains limited. Re-start of s21 evictions not being seen as a major factor yet, but this process has only recently re-started and pent-up demand will be seen in the system again soon. Increases in domestic abuse presentations has been sustained.</p> <p>Currently in the process of identifying arrangements for winter provision for people who sleep rough. Numbers have shown a slow but consistent trend of increase. Commitment to not use night shelters wherever possible, but concern as to the availability of self-contained accommodation, its cost and the availability of adequate staffing and support services, including a food offer.</p>	<p>Working with partners to maximise access to move-on accommodation, including targeted interventions in the private rented sector. This will remain a significant challenge, particularly in light of continuing Covid-19 restrictions.</p> <p>Regular meetings with partners are considering the options for the city for winter. There is a strong view that shelters should not be used though an absolute commitment to this cannot be made, it is a shared aspiration. The scale of provision required and the additional cost will be continuing challenges, as will the availability of adequate staffing should a prolonged period of provision be required.</p>

Resilient communities			
	Resilient Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call volumes to the helpline have seen a small increase this week. In part this is due to residents requesting test and trace support payments. Work continues with comms and the national test and trace centre to ensure people get to the right place first time. All calls are directed through to the right team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work continues to understand the capacity within mutual aid groups and the VCS to respond to a second wave.
	Libraries, Galleries and Culture (Communities)	<p>Extended opening hours have been postponed as a result of the move to Tier 3. Awaiting clarity and government guidance.</p> <p>Continuing to monitor staffing levels and team bubbles.</p> <p>Impact of Tier 3 local lockdown measures</p> <p>It is expected that additional local restrictions are likely to lead to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uncertainty for venues with reopening plans – especially for those planning to promote performances in the coming days. Cinemas, Theatres (adhering to stage 4 protocols), Museums and galleries can technically continue to stay open. although if 	<p>20 libraries are now open. 2 closed.</p> <p>20% of footfall is accessing digital ie PCs and Internet.</p> <p>Device donation scheme is being progressed. Donations of 400 chromebooks with 6 months of Internet access will begin in mid-October.</p> <p>Re-opening of cultural venues & libraries</p> <p>Update on cultural building reopening dates:</p> <p>Halle St Peter's (wedding venue and restaurant only) - opened in July</p> <p>Night & Day (catering only) - opened 4 July</p> <p>National Football Museum - opened on 23rd July</p>

		<p>visitor numbers drop significantly because there is a limited hospitality sector open in the city centre, or because residents are advised not to undertake non essential travel - it may not be worthwhile remaining open.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those venues that are only or mainly open to provide a hospitality offer such as Halle St Peter or have a significant hospitality offer such as Anthony Burgess Foundation and HOME will be very seriously affected. Elizabeth Gaskell's has been doing well with small weddings but if these are made more difficult that result in a further cut in their income • The impact of 'only essential travel' advice will have a negative impact of attendance at venues. <p>Local Restrictions Support Grant</p> <p>Pending further details and guidance for the authority, it is unlikely that any cultural organisations will benefit from these support grants.</p> <p>Local Restrictions Support Grants are only available for businesses that are instructed to close because of the measures not if they <u>can</u> be open but can't make it viable with covid-safe requirements to be open.</p> <p>So if the government makes it still permissible to hold performances but venues can't operate viably</p>	<p>Manchester Craft & Design Centre - open on Fridays and Saturdays in August.</p> <p>Elizabeth Gaskell's House - opened on 12th August</p> <p>Science & Industry Museum- opened on 14th August</p> <p>Manchester Central Library (in addition to the City Library open 4th July) - opened on 20th August - visitor numbers Thurs 20th 0547, Sat 22nd - 478, Mon 24th - 438</p> <p>Manchester Art Gallery - partial reopening on 20th August with reduced hours/days</p> <p>People's History Museum - opened on 1st September</p> <p>The Portico Library - opened on 1st September</p> <p>Centre of Contemporary Chinese Art - opened on 2nd September</p> <p>HOME - opened on 4th September (cinemas, bars and restaurant) & small scale stage productions in main space from 13 October</p> <p>The International Anthony Burgess Foundation - opened on 8th September</p> <p>The Whitworth - opened on 14th September</p> <p>Manchester Museum - opened on 14th September</p>
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	<p>Parks, Leisure & Events (Communities)</p>	<p>1. The no. of reported breaches of guidance/ measures relating to social distancing in community sports settings (non Council buildings) has reduced.</p> <p>2. Cancellations for planned events in the Autumn and Winter.</p> <p>3. Confusion with leisure centre's remaining open under Tier 3 and some disruption to customers as a result of demand for online bookings.</p>	<p>1. Regular comms activity remains in place to reinforce the current guidance and targeted ongoing conversations with leagues and clubs where issues are arising.</p> <p>2. A Briefing Paper with recommendations for further event cancellations or curtailment over the next period was agreed and this has now been communicated to stakeholders and the public. Decisions have also been taken voluntarily by some stadium operators to not permit spectators for recreational sport. A decision on the Lightopia will be taken this week.</p> <p>3. Increased comms went out on October 21 to reinforce the message that leisure centres remain open. Online issues now resolved and a Call Centre is now in place handling 600 calls per week.</p>

		4.Low uptake on the return to swimming lessons.	4.The further messages scheduled to go out last week to reinforce the COVID Safe and Secure measures in place within leisure centres took place and numbers are slowly beginning to rise. Gym memberships have plateaued and current membership levels are at 70-75% of the previous year to date return for October.
	Youth (Communities)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All youth workers operating inside youth provision are now required to wear face coverings which is creating a barrier 2. Bubble size guidance for over 18's has reduced, which has caused issues for those operating a blended provision 3. Increased numbers of young people congregating outside of youth provision 4. All provision will continue in tier 3 – rating remains at Amber level. 5. Provision for October half term planned with comms strategy in place. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regular comms activity remains in place to reinforce the current guidance. 2. Youth strategy & Young Manchester held a covid briefing 20/10/2020 for the wider youth and play sector 3. Updated NYA guidance expected this week. 4. We are working with the regional unit and nya to remove the requirement for young people to wear face coverings in youth provision. 5. Detached guidance updated. 6. Regular communications with sector in place, with plans set in case of increased restrictions.
VCSE (Communities)		<p>Ongoing communication and engagement with the VCSE sector, particularly around Covid response and recovery plans.</p> <p>Impact of Covid 19 on the VCSE sector (and those that they serve)</p>	<p>No further MCC (Residents & Communities) and VCSE update sessions scheduled at present - being picked up via BAU forums and networks.</p> <p>Macc (VCSE Infrastructure) has produced the first in a series of 'No going back' reports bringing together leaders of Manchester based charities to</p>

	<p>VCSE future funding (both MCC and external) - Good range of emergency covid reponse funds made available but concerns around longer term funding of the sector e.g MCC OMVCS grant</p> <p>Covid Health Equity - communication and engagement with communities of identity</p>	<p>share their experiences of Covid 19 and their thoughts for the future - see link to report below https://manchestercommunitycentral.org/news/%E2%80%9Cinvest-crucial-sector-or-risk-losing-it%E2%80%9D-say-manchester%E2%80%99s-voluntary-sector-leaders. Will be picked up via BAU alongside work of OM Funds, Culture and Young Manchester etc</p> <p>Manchester VCSE funding partnership group set up and currently being supported by the OM Funds Team</p> <p>VCSE Covid Recovery Fund being developed by MCC, MHCC, Young and Manchester and Macc due to launch in Autumn sequenced with the Councils funding decisions for the OMVCS grant fund. This is being managed via BAU - OM Funds governance.</p> <p>A Covid Health Equity Group (CHEG) has been established with partners (including the VCSE sector) across the city to improve experiences of and outcomes for communities that suffer disproportionate adverse impacts from COVID-19. This involves reducing the risk of transmission, severe disease and death among groups of people who have been identified as most risk including. An engagement grant is being developed with VCSE partners. This will</p>
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		continue via the new Covid Health Equity workstreams (new normal)
Equalities and Inclusion (Communities)	<p>Services are beginning to plan budget reduction measures in response to Covid financial impacts in 2021-22. These will need equality analysis to avoid adverse impacts.</p> <p>Stemming from this, there will be a need to ensure all analyses ‘stack up’ and do not place unmanageable burdens of other sources of provision or lead to adverse impacts for communities or sectors.</p>	<p>Services are beginning to plan budget reduction measures in response to Covid financial impacts in 2021-22. These will need equality analysis to avoid adverse impacts.</p> <p>Stemming from this, there will be a need to ensure all analyses ‘stack up’ and do not place unmanageable burdens of other sources of provision or lead to adverse impacts for communities or sectors.</p>

** There is clear evidence that COVID-19 does not affect all population groups equally. Many analyses have shown that older age, ethnicity, male sex and geographical area, for example, are associated with the risk of getting the infection, experiencing more severe symptoms and higher rates of death (*Beyond the Data: Understanding the Impact of COVID-19 on BAME Communities, PHE, 2020*). It remains vital that those who are frequently the most disadvantaged in society do not then take a ‘double hit’ from decisions taken to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. Please include detail of the activity you are planning to undertake to ensure recovery activity considers the impact of COVID-19 on different population groups. For example, undertaking an Equality Impact Assessment to support the planning for longer term changes to service delivery.