

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee – 14 January 2021

**Subject:** Residents and Communities Recovery Situation Report Summary

**Report of:** Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)

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**Summary**

This report is a summary of relevant sections of the Residents and Communities Recovery workstream.

**Recommendation**

The Committee is requested to note the update.

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**Wards Affected:** All

<b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b> - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city

<b>Manchester Strategy outcomes</b>	<b>Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS</b>
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	This unprecedented national and international crisis impacts on all areas of our city. The 'Our Manchester' approach has underpinned the planning and delivery of our response, working in partnership and identifying innovative ways to continue to deliver services and to establish new services as quickly as possible to support the most vulnerable in our city.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	

A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	

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**Background documents (available for public inspection):**

Not Applicable

## **1.0 Residents at risk**

### **1.1 Shielded Residents and the Food Response**

- Shielding has been reinstated under the new lockdown measures. Around 19,000 residents are currently on the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) list for Manchester. CEV residents will receive a national letter and a local letter with information on accessing support (eg shopping).
- Currently Food Response are supporting circa 250 households per week with food deliveries; 60 of those households identified as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable. Demand for food during the November lockdown remained fairly stable however, this could increase if Government advice changes or if Local Authority asked to provide Free School Meals to families.

### **1.2 Domestic Violence and Abuse**

- Reported Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) incidents increased over the Christmas period, from 193 (20/12/20), to 275 (27/12/20) and remained high at 266 (03/01/21). It is not uncommon to see an increase during this period, analysis is being undertaken to compare with previous years. Unsurprisingly but sadly, the number of DVA incidents with children present also rose significantly, from 72 (20.12.20) to 113 (27.12.20).
- Demand and capacity are monitored through frequent dialogue with our internal Independent Domestic Violence and Abuse service and our local service providers.
- The Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy Group is meeting mid-January to discuss and plan the Covid response with providers.
- Comms output is being ramped up including amplification by local partners such as GMP and national bodies such as Home Office, Respect, Hestia etc.

### **1.3 Poverty and Welfare Provision**

- Demand for Test and Trace Support Payments have been larger than initial government estimates of 12 applications a day. We have received an average of 48 applications per day in the first 14 weeks of the scheme. Demand has reduced over the past month, during the Christmas week an average of 24 applications per day were received. At 4.01.21, we have:
  - Received 3,929 eligible applications
  - Paid £542,000 to 1,084 main scheme applications
  - Paid £138,500 to 277 discretionary cases
  - Declined 2,297 applications (954 main scheme and 1,343 discretionary)
- As of 31.12.20, a total of £6,432,667 in payments have been made via Council Tax £150 Hardship payments.

### **1.4 Homelessness**

- Numbers presenting to the service have decreased in the run up to Christmas from, 180 (w/c 30.11.20) to 104 (w/c 21.12.20, 4-day week) to 81 (w/c

28.12.20, 3-day week). Given the moratorium on evictions is still in place these figures are significant.

- 1,626 families are placed in dispersed temporary accommodation (period 8). This is slightly reduced from the last period reflecting the significant work undertaken to move people onto permanent accommodation.
- 68 people were counted as sleeping rough. Although lower than this time last year (91) this shows a cohort of people who have struggled in all forms of accommodation offer. At 30.12.20 there were 141 people accessing cold weather accommodation. Analysis is being undertaken to understand this cohort.
- The Protect programme is being developed, providing intensive mental health, drug and alcohol and social services support to help support people into independence as much as possible who might have struggled in all forms of accommodation.

## **2.0 Mitigating the impact of covid-19 on communities**

- Teams Around the Neighbourhood (TAN) continue to support response work, including engagement with residents, supporting vaccination roll out.
- TANs are meeting monthly to sharing insight, plan activity and deliver their priorities.

### **2.1 Digital inclusion**

- Total of 511 residents supported with their digital skills since May 2020. Although, referrals for skills support were very low over December (12).
- 480 residents have been supported to access the internet through Device Scheme (400 devices, 80 sims with internet donated).
- Under current guidance libraries are designated an essential service by Government to provide Internet access and digital services for people who do not have it at home. During the second lockdown period there were 2500 uses of the internet.
- Libraries are leading GM Libraries digital hubs initiative to create confidential spaces for residents to engage digitally with support services within libraries

## **3.0 Mitigating the impact of covid-19 on children and young people**

### **3.1 Schools and Education**

- Schools open to key workers and vulnerable children only following government announcement on 6th January. Early years settings fully open. All other children to remain at home and access remote learning.
- Vouchers for children eligible for Free School Meals and other financially disadvantaged children were distributed during December holidays. Approximately 41,000 payments made through the Covid Winter Grant Scheme.
- 11 schools supported with contact tracing over Christmas break.
- Attendance continues to average 94%

- Elective home education new notifications 146, compared to 68 in Autumn 2019
- Permanent Exclusion numbers 29, show a reduction of 19 compared to Autumn 2019
- Guidance and information provided to schools on mass testing to commence from 4.01.21. Plan to be developed with school leaders and Public Health on 5.01.21 with key challenges identified.

### **3.2 Children's Services and Young People**

- The operating model for the service is replicating the model during March lockdown. Guidance has been issued to staff.
- Demand at the front door, requests for social care and Early Help are being monitored and will continue to be reviewed as this period of lockdown impacts.
- Key messages regarding supporting school attendance have been circulated. Vulnerable pupils are being monitored and additional attention is being made for fuel poverty.

### **3.3 Youth**

*The National Youth Agency and Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport have jointly stated that Youth Centres must only open for those with high need and close for majority of young people, aligning with the school offer.*

- All open access, centre based provision will cease. All Manchester Hubs and YM providers informed of new position
- Detached, outreach and virtual provision will be increased to ensure young people have access to youth workers and activities.
- Providers will offer 1:1 support and targeted group work to the most vulnerable young people.

### **4.0 Equality and Inclusion**

- New data, produced by Population Health, has been made available to the service highlighting the epidemic curves of daily Covid cases in Manchester by ethnic group, covering the period 3.03.20 to 2.01.21. The data show a continuation of the disparities of Covid cases affecting minority ethnic groups, with a consistent upturn in cases at the turn of the year across all ethnicities.
- GM level research conducted by BMG research (weighted for geographic representativeness) shows that Covid anxieties persist for most GM residents but are particularly affecting, in addition to the main at risk groups: young people, parents of young children, carers and ex-armed forces personnel.