

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee – 10 March 2021
Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee – 11 March 2021

Subject: Residents and Communities Recovery Situation Report Summary

Report of: Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)

Summary

This report is a summary of the Residents and Communities recovery workstream for information. The information contained in the report is up to date as of 19th February 2021 unless otherwise stated.

Recommendations

To note the report.

Wards Affected: All

Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city
Not applicable

Our Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
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

- Food Response Team supporting approximately 240 households (490 residents) per week. 38% of those households have one person who is Clinically Extremely Vulnerable. Financial hardship and self-isolation are the main reasons for referrals.
- 14,355 additional residents were added to shielding patient list from Government and received a letter advising them to shield. A local support offer letter followed. All new and already shielding residents are being asked to shield until 31st March 2021.
- Messaging is being developed through Covid Health Equity group to support residents who are shielding.

1.2 Domestic Violence and Abuse:

- Week commencing 1/3/21 -Records for domestic incidents have decreased slightly, the combined total (210) is the second lowest since early November 2020. Incidents with children present also show a slight decrease (75) than in recent weeks.
- The city's three MARACs all show marked increases in numbers when comparing q1-3 of 2020-21 with the same period in 2019-20. The IDVA service referral numbers remain higher than in 2019-20. Solutions are being sought with GMP colleagues including funding options for resources that will help to relieve pressure on the services.
- Numbers of older people requesting support through the IRIS scheme has decreased. Age Friendly Manchester Board will be working with IRIS colleagues to increase uptake.
- Refuge referral volumes remain broadly typical. The Priority Move-On Project will continue until 31st March. So far, 90 victims and 50 children have moved on to date.
- Six applications received from Domestic Violence and Abuse providers for Covid Impact monies (£50k).
- DV bill expected to be published April 2021

1.3 Poverty and Welfare Provision

- Test and Trace Support Payment scheme - applications have fallen in the last fortnight; weekly demand is unpredictable.
- The Discretionary element of the scheme is monitored and has been amended to ensure that the fund is fully utilized.
- Welfare Provision Scheme (WPS) - At 14 February:
 - Carers (Covid-19) - Of 679 applications for WPS support, 539 applications (81%) have been approved to a value of £86,588.
 - Covid-19 Support (general) - Of 3,268 applications for WPS support, 1,057 applications (32%) have been approved to a value of £67,935.

1.4 Homelessness

- Presentation into the Housing Solutions Service remain high.
- Additional funding secured (MHCLG) will benefit people sleeping rough that are accommodated through Cold Weather Provision; 87 people are currently accommodated in emergency Cold Weather Provision.
- The Protect Project continues to expand.
- Support provided to Operation Eagle.
- GMCA and partners plan to open a 9 bed Covid care accommodation scheme (short term) in Manchester (end of February), for homeless people who have tested positive for Covid and are hospital discharge ready.
- Anticipate late Spring opening for new families hostel.
- 88 people vaccinated during trial offering homeless people with complex support needs the vaccine. The vaccination programme for homeless people in accommodation schemes and day centres begins 22/2/21.
- Covid Winter Hardship Fund (£50K) targeted at projects supporting recovery of people hardest hit by the pandemic. Invites extended to advice services.

2.0 Mitigating the Impacts of Covid 19 on Communities and Adults

- Teams around the Neighbourhood (TAN) support response continues including for Operation Eagle sites.
- Updates on vaccine take up within our BAME communities will inform the TAN approach to engagement and targeted community messages.

3.0 Digital Inclusion

- Increased referrals to Telephone Digital Skills Support Service and Device Scheme.
- Developing activity from £133K investment with MHCC and Community Champion programme partners.
- Scoping a 1-year, low cost, unlimited data offer per user.
- Over 120 digital volunteers identified to support the census. Strengthening links between digital and health through MHCC investment.
- Monitoring refurbished device scheme to ensure quality and right residents are targeted.
- Library sites provided internet to over 3000 users in the third lockdown, alongside access to Citizens Advice through telephone and video access.
- £10k externally funded project started to purchase devices for digitally excluded people aimed at reducing social isolation.
- Manchester Libraries leading GM Libraries Arts Council bid to enable libraries to become digital hubs.

4.0 Mitigating the Impacts of Covid 19 on children and young people

4.1 Schools and Education

- 543 payments made to 748 children through hardship grant. FSM vouchers for half term distributed.
- Attendance continues to increase – 17.45% across City.
- Planning in place for wider return of schools and long-term education recovery.

4.2 Children's Services and Early Help:

- Covid Relief Fund providing additional one-off financial support (fuel expenses, and equipment to support home learning). To date, £100,755 spent in relation to 1,505 children. Actions in place to resolve issues regarding families with No Recourse to Public Funds and who do not have a bank account.
- Demand across Early Help Hubs has remained high, high volume of requests for parenting support. All hubs are supported by the Youth Teams.
- High volume demand for advice and guidance at Children's Centre's, one to one support, food packages and accessing ante natal support.
- Domestic abuse notifications into the Children's Advice and Guidance Service remain high.

4.3 Youth

- Following the Government announcement (4/1/2021) all open access centre based provision ceased. Targetted provision in place.
- All relevant hub leads, providers, youth and play workers have been kept up to date with Operation Eagle. Youth team are working alongside Public Health to secure weekly testing and vaccinations.
- Department for Education announced Holiday Activities and Food Programme Funding (£3.4m) for Manchester. Work progressing on the Manchester proposal to start at Easter break.

5.0 VCSE

- OMVCS and Development Fund monitoring: The latest monitoring reports have been reviewed.
- Macc: volunteering - Over 2500 people have signed up to volunteer at vaccination sites.
- The Macc Covid19 microsite continues to grow. Councillors/Partners are encouraged to promote awareness of the site.
<https://manchestercommunitycentral.org/coronavirus-advice-and-resources>

Covid Impact Fund (Mental Health & Wellbeing) - Over £1.3m worth of applications (102 applications received) made to the first round of the fund; 21 organizations to the value of £200k are being offered funding. A key fact sheet went out to Elected Members on the 19th of Feb. A final bidding round is available up to the start of March 2021.

VCSE vaccinations – nearly 200 organisations have signed up to the Macc vaccinations page. Positive feedback received from VCSE leaders.

6.0 Equalities

- Work is ongoing to assess the equality impact implications of COVID 19 on the Council's budget and savings proposals. Budget impacts of the pandemic have been estimated indicating the rising levels of savings needed from 2021/22; continuing losses are anticipated over, approximately, a five-year period.
- A plan to address the inequalities experienced due to Covid amongst the city's BAME and Disabled people's population has been developed. This work is being led by the Covid Health Equity Manchester group – a partnership approach to driving this agenda forward. The plan addresses issues such as lower vaccine coverage amongst certain communities. Working with local voluntary sector organisations is a key part of this, including the development of a small grants programme to support activity in this area.