

Overview and Scrutiny Review Matrix

Review Topic: Covid and Recovery

Timescale

Start: June 2023

Finish: TBC

Review Rationale:

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission has agreed to set up a Task and Finish Group to look at lessons learned from the local response to Covid and the subsequent recovery. This will consider the perspectives of residents, service users and businesses.

The scope of the review will include:

- Local resilience and preparedness for the pandemic
- The Council's role in delivering public health and emergency support
- The Council's role in supporting local businesses
- The Council's role in supporting the education sector
- The Council's role in supporting the care sector

Terms of Reference:

The Task and Finish Group will consider the following:

- **Part 1:** Resilience and Preparedness for the Pandemic

The Council's risk management and emergency planning, and general preparedness for a pandemic, including structures, governance, processes and protocols, as well as local stocks of personal protective equipment.

- **Part 2:** Public Health and Emergency Community Support

The Council's role in relation to:

- *Disseminating Covid-related information and advice to residents*
- *Identification and containment of local outbreaks*
- *Supporting the local vaccination programme*
- *Implementing the test and trace system*
- *Identifying vulnerable residents*
- *Delivering practical support to residents*
- *Safeguarding and providing support for victims of domestic abuse*
- *Provision of voluntary sector support*

- **Part 3:** Supporting Local Businesses

The Council's role in relation to:

- *Disseminating Covid-related information and advice to businesses*

- *Undertaking enforcement of Covid regulations*
- *Providing business rates relief*
- *Distributing grants*
- *Preventing fraud*
- *Undertaking checks / enforcement activity*
- *Advising on plans for local events*
- *Supporting economic recovery*

- **Part 4:** Supporting the Education Sector

The Council's role in relation to:

- *Disseminating Covid-related information and advice to schools*
- *Providing mental health support to staff and pupils*
- *Supporting the switch to online learning*
- *Assessing the impact on academic attainment*
- *Providing support to help pupils catch up on lost learning*

- **Part 5:** Supporting the Care Sector

The Council's role in relation to:

- *Providing infection control training*
- *Disseminating Covid-related information and advice to children's homes, care homes, and domiciliary care staff*
- *Distributing PPE*
- *Supporting hospital discharge*
- *Providing mental health support to staff and residents*
- *Providing support to help isolated residents reintegrate*

Review Membership:

5 Members (TBC)

Chairman: TBC

Vice-Chairman: TBC

Scrutiny Officer: Gordon Oliver

Information Required:

Governance arrangements
 Information flows and blockers
 Provision of advice, guidance, practical support and financial support
 Effectiveness of measures implemented
 Lessons learned and changes put in place
 Experience of residents, businesses and service users

Documents/Evidence:

Residents Surveys
 Covid Community Support Hub Evaluation Report
 Berkshire Observatory Recovery Report

Witnesses:

Chief Executive

Interim Executive Director – People
Executive Director - Resources
Acting Service Director for Communities and Wellbeing
Acting Service Director – Adult Social Care Economy Manager
Acting Head of Children and Family Services
Emergency Planning Manager
Public Protection Manager
Economy Team

Metrics:

Levels of PPE
Covid infections (vs Berkshire and England)
Number of outbreaks
Number of care home deaths
Excess deaths during the pandemic
GCSE and A-Level grades
Demand and waiting lists for CAMHS
Number of furlough scheme payments processed
Number of business support grants processed
Number of business closures / new businesses created
Town centre footfall

Desired Outcomes:

Members will collate their findings which will then form the basis of a report to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission.