

From: Charlie Stewart
Sent: 07 April 2020 22:15
Subject: Member Update 7 April

Dear Councillors

The latest update

National Picture

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) provided the following update today:

- As of 9am on 6 April 208,837 people have been tested of which 51,608 tested positive.
- As of 5pm on 5 April 2020, of those hospitalised in the UK who tested positive for coronavirus, 5,373 have died.

DHSC will publish updated data on [this page](#) on a daily basis each afternoon until further notice. Tests are now being prioritised for those who require hospital care for pneumonia or acute respiratory illness – while continuing to investigate outbreaks, ie where several cases are connected, especially in a particular setting such as a care home.

A new Coronavirus Status Checker to help the NHS coordinate its response and build up additional data on the coronavirus outbreak was launched at the weekend. People with potential coronavirus symptoms are now being asked to complete the status checker and answer a short series of questions which will tell the NHS about their experience. The survey can be accessed on the NHS website at <https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus-status-checker>

Members may find the Stay Home, Save Lives translated posters useful. They are now available on the [Campaign Resource Centre](#) (contained within the downloadable zip file). These include the following languages: Polish, Russian, Punjab, Urdu, Bengali, Gujarati, Romanian and Roma (for the Roma travelling community).

Our Services

Adults Services continue to provide a full service for safeguarding, care and support in the community which will extend over the Easter bank holiday weekend. There continue to be no delay for discharges from hospital for Harrow residents. One of our 'in-house' provision residents has been admitted to hospital with Covid 19. Thankfully, they are not critical at present. The Hot Hub testing centre at Alexander Avenue is now fully operational with increased numbers being tested every day.

Although the vast majority of **schools** remain open for key workers children, the number of children attending school has reduced this week as this would ordinarily be the Easter

Holiday period. Schools are offering to families support on mental well-being and purposeful activity for children not in school.

The government has today (07 April) announced a package of support to help schools deal with the challenges posed by coronavirus. Extra funding is to be made available for schools to cover the unique challenges and financial costs of the coronavirus outbreak. The specific costs schools can claim for are:

- Additional cleaning required due to confirmed or suspected coronavirus cases;
- Increased premises related costs needed to keep schools open during holidays; and
- Support for free school meals for eligible children who are not attending school, where those costs are not covered by the national voucher scheme. Guidance on additional funding for schools can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-financial-support-for-schools>

Children Services continue to operate a seven day service to ensure that safeguarding requirements are met. The Department for Education yesterday (6 April) has issued its guidance on managing social care during this time. All children, who are at risk of serious, significant harm are being visited and the focus is now on the risks of intra-familial abuse within households and online exploitation during lockdown. Two children became looked after over the weekend whilst their parent is treated in hospital for Covid 19.

The UK Government and NHS leaders from a range of medical and nursing royal colleges have published new guidance about personal protective equipment (**PPE**) for NHS teams who are likely to come into contact with patients with coronavirus. The guidance has been agreed by the 4 Chief Medical Officers, Chief Nursing Officers and Chief Dental Officers in the UK and is applicable in all parts of the UK. Our Director of **Public Health** [DPH] is interpreting the guidance and helping to apply it for staff activities when they are out and about in the community.

Housing services continue to operate with emergency and urgent repairs being mostly completed within target timescales. Other critical services such as gas safety checks are running. The Homelessness service is now operating on telephone and email contact only but is dealing with all approaches. Nine rough sleepers have been provided with emergency accommodation. Caretaking service continue to operate at only 50% capacity, but other housing staff are monitoring communal areas for any hazards that might constitute fire risks. We are continuing to monitor and support all sheltered housing tenants. One tenant is believed to have Covid-19 and is self-isolating. Two other suspected cases are being monitored.

As of today, 80+% of **Waste** staff were available for work. Like all staff, we should applaud their dedication during these difficult times.

The **Meals on Wheels** service continues to run to schedule with an on-going increase in demand. We will be able to allocate resources required to meet additional demand likely to happen next week. The focus for Public Protection this Easter weekend will not surprisingly be on parks and open spaces to ensure social distancing is maintained and there are no unauthorised gatherings. This work will be carried out in liaison with MPS with our officers acting as initial eyes and ears for issues. E-mails are being issued to allotment holders reminding them to stay 2m apart, not to congregate and use the pipes to wash.

Updated advice on the **Small Business** Grant Fund and the Retail Hospitality and Grant Fund has been issued. A team of 8 officers from Economic Development and Learn Harrow has now been established and trained to support Revenue and Benefits to contact

businesses and refer ineligible businesses to other support. We are still waiting on the request for a variation to Strategic Investment Pot funding agreement to enable funds can be used to focus on business survival and supporting residents into those priority jobs that are being advertised. Usefully, an exercise has been commissioned by London Councils to determine key concerns faced by businesses, provide a sectoral breakdown if possible, and identify the provision offered across London. The results will be sent to BEIS by the 9th April.

The Insolvency Service has published a page outlining the support and advice available for businesses that are in difficulty.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/getting-help-if-your-business-is-in-distress>.

There has been a big increase in the use of **Library Service's** online offer as shown below

Harrow Libraries Online usage March 2020				
	Apr 19 - Jan 20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Percentage difference
Online membership registrations Apr 19-Jan 20	19		123	547%
Online membership registrations		115	123	7%
Online visits (total)		66707	68646	3%
Online resource visits		32108	37884	18%
Library App homepage visits		1449	6363	339%
eBook issues		1280	1519	19%
eAudio issues		815	950	17%
PressReader newspapers/magazine issues		2521	3895	55%
PressReader hotspot visits		2877	5279	83%
Digital magazines * monthly average		1565	1823	16%
Britannica online		3245	5147	59%
Ziptales (children's resource)		359	1435	300%

Due to Covid--19 generated delay at the new town centre library, we have requested a further extension to the lease at Gayton Library.

Community Hub

We continue to receive a daily list from Government of residents most susceptible to the virus that have asked for essential supplies, mainly food. Today there were 68 on the list bring the total to 1380 we have been asked to check what support they may need. We continue to contact them and provide food and other support as required.

We have also started to work on the larger list of 3125 which the Government provided to us late last week. This is the total list of those highly susceptible to the virus (see last Member update). Our first action is to check these residents against our databases to see who are possible the most vulnerable that we have not yet contacted. Interestingly, only 113 residents can be directly matched to our Adult Social Care records. Perhaps not too

surprising as most people with long term health conditions (and would therefore be on the Government list) don't access social care. We are also matching households which potentially have other vulnerabilities against the list (ie those on other social care, free school meals and housing lists).

Our People

This week we will complete our review of what are critical and non-critical functions (now that we have been working in a locked-down situation for a couple of weeks). We will then be in a position to identify which non-critical staff we can re-purpose (ie move) to critical services if required. The Leadership Group will be brief on how this will be achieved this Wednesday.

We will also be rolling out to the first 50 people Bring Your Own Device 'soft tokens' which will allow them to log onto our systems from their own devices at home. In the next two weeks we will then roll-out this capability to all other staff (and Members).

As always.....

Please stay safe and look after each other (and the NHS and Social Services ...)

Where to find the latest information and guidance

- Latest information on coronavirus: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- NHS information on coronavirus: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- Q&A from Public Health England on coronavirus:
<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>
- Public Health England's guidance about coronavirus (COVID-19) for health professionals and other organisations: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>
- The latest travel advice can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Twitter:
<https://twitter.com/mhclg>

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BUILDING A **BETTER**
HARROW